

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

Pastor: Reverend Mary E. Zupansic

pastormaryzup@gmail.com

Parish Administrator: Debra Kluetz

Email:

Debra@firstenglishwausau.onmicrosoft.com

Minister of Music: Daniel Larson

Pianist: Hal Osborn

Custodians: Shawn & Jenny Blaschka

Sunday School Superintendent: VerJean Detert

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 Foundation of Faith for Everything We Do

For Lutherans, worship stands at the center of our life of faith. Through God's word, water, bread and prayer we are nurtured in faith and sent out into the world.

Connected with and central to everything we do, worship unites us in celebration, engages us in thoughtful dialogue and helps us grow in faith. It grounds us in our Christian and Lutheran roots, while demonstrating practical relevance for today's world.

While some of the approaches to worship may differ from one ELCA congregation to another, we hold certain things in common. Central to our worship life is the presence of God through word and sacrament. The word proclaimed and the sacraments — both Holy Baptism and Holy Communion — are called the means of grace. We believe that Jesus Christ is present in these means through the power of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes we describe worship as a *"gathering around the means of grace."*

There is also a basic pattern for worship among Lutherans.

We *gather*. We encounter

God's *word*. We share

a *meal* at the Lord's table. And we are *sent* into the world. But we do not think about worship so much in terms of what we do. Worship is fundamentally about what God is doing and our response to God's action. Worship is an encounter with God, who saves us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.



First English Mission Statement

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





8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
(closed for lunch: Noon – 1:00 p.m.)

Deadlines:

Bulletin: Wednesday afternoon
Lantern: 20th of each month

October Worship Schedule...

October 5: 17th Sunday after Pentecost
Worship at 9:00 a.m.

October 12: 18th Sunday after Pentecost
Worship at 9:00 a.m.

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

October 26: Reformation Sunday
Worship at 9:00 a.m.
Color of the Day: Red

Thursday Night Worship:

October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
in the sanctuary – 6:00 p.m.

REFORMATION SUNDAY:

Rooted in the Word

On October 26, we'll mark Reformation Sunday focusing on our heritage of faith and God's enduring Word. Come celebrate the truth that still sets us free: salvation by grace, through faith, in Christ alone.



To all members who
serve on a
committee:
Mark your calendars

as we begin a new season of ministry together.
**Our next committee night will be Tuesday,
October 7, 6:30 p.m. We'll gather in
Fellowship Hal.**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE FELC
YOUTH**



Youth Greenery Sale

Wait... WHAT???

Christmas now?

The youth are selling
“greens” for the holidays.
You will be able to place
your order **until October
12th**. The order sheet will
be in the narthex.

Payment will be due upon
pickup. Pick-up will be mid-November. Thank
you for your continued support of FELC Youth!

AFTER WORSHIP COFFEE HOURS

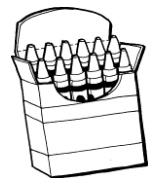
Check out the new sign-up
sheet in the narthex if you
would like to provide after-
worship treats on Sundays.
We extend our worship



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!

A COLORFUL LESSON

We could learn a lot from crayons:
Some are sharp, some are pretty,
some are dull, some have weird
names, and all are different colors ... but they all
exist very nicely together in the same box.



— Robert Fulghum

Welcome to the TABLE!



A First Communion workshop is planned for Saturday, October 25, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Parents and their children/youth who have not yet

received preparation to receive Holy Communion are invited to a morning of learning. Pastor Mary will lead us through a series of activities and videos aimed at helping both parents and their children gain a deeper understanding of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Please call the church office to register. If you have questions, feel free to call or text Pastor Mary at 920-671-4338.

TREASURE SALE NEWS...

October 1 is just around the corner. We are excited to start collecting treasures for our sale.

We are especially in need for Christmas items you no longer want or need.

A special Christmas Treasure Sale will be held on November 7 and 8 in our Fellowship Hall.

Watch for times.

Again...we are taking clean clothes in good condition, housewares,

collectibles, books, DVDs, CDs and more.

We are NOT taking electronics, mattresses, high chairs and infant car seats.

We will take small appliances in working condition.

Your donations can be brought downstairs in the hallway by the Sunday School rooms.

Thank you for your donations!



THANK YOU

"Dear Church Council and

Scholarship Committee:

I am humbled to receive one of the church scholarships this year. I continue to pursue a Chemistry degree with minors in German, and Gender & Women's Studies at the University of WI-Madison. My sophomore year was successful, and I am hoping that my junior year will be the same. I worked full-time for Mitchell Metal Products this summer. It was nice to see many of you at the Fair Stand this summer while volunteering there for two evenings with my parents. I miss the bell choir at church and the special time my mom and I had, but I am helping to lead the Badger shopper's Acapella Group on campus this year to continue to explore my love of music.

My best to the entire church community. I truly appreciate your continuing support.

Sincerely,
Clarissa Krueger

CHURCH IN SOCIETY

This committee encourages First English members to be involved in service to our community. For example, on Sunday, Sept. 14, we joined with members of 7 other ELCA congregations and organizers of the Marty Bus to provide a bountiful picnic lunch for the unhoused. Through a grant from Thrivent, we were able to purchase and prepare fresh fruit and coleslaw as well as to provide ice to chill beverages for over 150 people.

Our guests enjoyed live music and an opportunity to get much needed clothing and shoes. If you are a confirmed youth or an adult of any age who is interested in outreach opportunities like this, contact Lynne Santangelo or Angela Greenfield... or just show up on Committee Night, the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.



PARISH RECORDS...September 2025

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

September 24: William "Bill" Wachholz

A GIFT RECEIVED

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wausau has brought its ministry to a close and has sold its building. In thanksgiving to God for the many blessings bestowed on Immanuel and its members, they have given First English a generous and thoughtful monetary gift of \$5,000.00. We accept this gift with gratitude, and we send our wishes for a continuing blessed spiritual journey as the congregation joins St John Lutheran Church, Village of Maine in Wausau.



THE MITTEN TREE

will be up in the narthex beginning **Sunday, October 5** to receive your gifts of scarves, mittens and hats for needy children and adults in the Wausau area.

Whether you knit, crochet, or simply purchase them, your gifts will bring warmth to someone who needs it this winter. All sizes are needed: children's and adult men/women. Simply bring them to the church and hang them on the tree. Donations will be distributed right after Thanksgiving. Thank you for your gifts of love!



DAILY DEVOTION BOOKS...

for October – December are available in the narthex and church office.

PARKING REMINDER

This is a reminder for parking on Cedar St. at the south end of our building.

Beginning November 1, there will be no parking on the north side of Cedar St. This is a City of Wausau ordinance. For our Tuesday morning activities, the parking lot door will be open from 8:00 a.m. – Noon. Thanks for your cooperation!



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

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...

- **Ila Barttelt** 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

FALL HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

There will be Fall highway clean-up on Saturday, October 18. We will meet at the intersection of Decatur Drive and Highway K.

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for those interested. Any questions, contact Matt Schumitsch.



FAIR STAND DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS...

The Fair Stand distribution of funds meeting will be held on **Sunday, October 12th after the church service in the Fireside Room.** If anyone has requests for funds please contact Scott Kufahl, Jerome Dahlke, Russ Michalski or myself. Meeting is open to anyone interested in attending. -- Lori Heyne



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!



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SHARE YOUR PICTURES FOR OUR FELC FACEBOOK PAGE

We love to share news and photos on our social media channels of our members doing God's work together and having fun. Here are a few ways you can share, too:

- Take a picture of First English members or groups doing things together.
 - Email the photo and a sentence or two about the picture to Sue Juedes at sue.juedes@gmail.com or Kalynn Pempek at kmpempek@gmail.com and ask to have them posted on Facebook.
 - Follow our First English Lutheran Church – Wausau page on Facebook, and share our posts and YouTube videos to your personal pages to spread the good news of our church.
 - “Like” and comment on FELC posts.
-

Make a Difference Day... Saturday, October 25

Make a Difference Day is one of the largest national days of community service. Celebrated on the fourth Saturday of October each year, thousands of volunteers unite in a common mission to improve the lives of others. If you are able, reach out to someone in need and offer your help to a neighbor or someone in the community.

God's work. Our hands.



ELCA WOMEN

Charity Circle...

will meet on

Tuesday, October 14, 9:00 a.m. in the Bethany Room.

Shalom Circle...

will meet on Thursday, **October 16, 6:45 p.m.** in the Fireside Room.



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

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:

October 5: Pat Seivert
October 12: Lynne Santangelo
October 19: Nicholas Schumacher
October 26: Connie Vaningan

November 2: Pat Seivert
November 9: Lynne Santangelo
November 16: Nicholas Schumacher
November 23: Connie Vaningan
November 30: Pat Seivert

ALTAR GUILD:

October: Marla Zumann
November: Deb Kluetz

ACOLYTES:

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

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

LECTORS:

October 5: Sue Juedes
October 12: Sharon Hunter
October 19: Dawn Kramer
October 26: Barry Levine

November 2: Bobbie Levine
November 9: Russ Michalski
November 16: Karen Otto
November 23: Kalynn Pempek
November 30: Ella Radke

LECTORS: (Thursday Evening Worship)

October 2: Maralee Moellendorf
October 9: Cheri Breneman
October 16: Bobbie Levine
October 23: Barry Levine
October 30: Maralee

November 2: Cheri
November 9: Bobbie
November 16: Barry
November 23: Maralee
November 30: Cheri

GREETERS:

October 5: Lonnie & LeAnn Lewis
October 12: Ben & Mia Lodahl
October 19: John & Karen Otto
October 26: Erin and Spencer Radke

November 2: Lynne Santangelo / Lois Stasko
November 9: Gene & Lynn Schulz
November 16: Matt & Dawn Schumitsch
November 23: Mike & Connie Vaningan
November 30: Amy Abitz, Eli Akey, Steve Wendorf

COMMUNION SET-UP:

October 5: Deb
October 12: Dawn
October 19: Marla
October 26: VerJean

November 2: Deb Kluetz
November 9: Dawn Kramer
November 16: Marla Zumann
November 23: VerJean Detert
November 30: Deb Kluetz

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

October 5: Lynne Santangelo
October 12: Emma Schumitsch
October 19: Sherri Bagby
October 26: Jenny Blaschka

November 2: Lette Becker
November 9: Sharon Hunter
November 16: Joan Heahlke
November 23: Dawn Kramer
November 30: Deb Kufahl

COMMUNIONWARE WASHERS:

October 5: Bob & Pat Seivert
October 12: Lynne Santangelo
October 19: Neil & Sue Juedes
October 26: Lonnie & LeAnn Lewis

November 2: Deb kluetz / Dawn Kramer
November 9: Bob & Pat Seivert
November 16: Lynne Santangelo
November 23: Neil & Sue Juedes
November 30: Lonnie & LeAnn Lewis

USHERS:

October 5: Earl Zabel/Duane Chapman/Bob Lampe
October 12: Neil & Sue Juedes / Jenny Blaschka
October 19: Scott & Deb Kufahl /Deb Kluetz
October 26: 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



GREETING CARDS

First English Lutheran has its own supply of hand drawn cards for sale. They are made by Gary Pagel of FE and sell for \$1.00 each. There are many to choose from...Scripture verse, Martin Luther quotes, and many more. The cards are blank inside so you are able to send your own thoughts and greetings.



They are located in the narthex coatroom with a container for your donations. Gary does not receive any monetary compensation for these cards. It is his gift to FE and per his request, the proceeds are given to First English. Many of our shut-ins enjoy getting "snail mail."

Our Thanks...

to these members who have designated First English as a recipient of their Thrivent Choice Dollars in the month of September...

- Lois Stasko



**FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2025, 6:00 P.M.**

Members Present: Carla Baumgardt, Karen Czechowicz, Cindy Hermel, Neil Juedes, Michael Klapperich, Sherry Larson, Russ Michalski, Kalynn Pempek, Dina Santangelo, Nicholas Schumacher, Mike Vaningan, Marla Zumann, Scott Kufahl (guest)

Members Absent: Jenny Blaschka, Angela Greenfield, Lois Stasko, Pastor Mary Zupansic

Michael Klapperich led the opening devotions.

Reports:

Pastor's Report: Pastor Mary Zupansic provided a written pastor's report, which was sent to members and read by Cindy Hermel.

June Meeting Minutes: The June Council minutes were reviewed and approved via email.

Financial Reports: May and June Financial Reports were sent out via e-mail. Sherry Larson moved and Dina Santangelo seconded a motion to accept the financial reports. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

- **Parish Ed** – The first day of Sunday school will be September 7th. Pre-School, three- and four-year-olds will meet twice a month on the second and fourth Sunday of the month. They will be taught by Gracin Dittmar (fourth week) and Mia Lodahl (second week). Primary five-year-old through fifth grade will be taught by Dilynn Koehler and Jenny Blaschka. Confirmation will be taught by Pastor. Mary, Amy Abitz and Nina Dittmar.
- **Worship & Music** – Nothing to report.
- **Stewardship** – The Committee met to work on the fall stewardship project. Pastor Mary shared some ideas for a theme that would be included in the service for four weeks. This would include a theme hymn, some connections in the sermon, and possible temple talks. They discussed possible changes to the stewardship materials and schedule. They will finalize their plans at the September 2 meeting. Materials would be mailed out at the end of September and members would be asked to

return them by October 26, Reformation Sunday.

- **Church & Society** – Nothing to report.
- **Property** – Scott Kufahl provided an elevator cylinder replacement fund report outlining the total expenditure and balance due for the project. He reported that the elevator project went very well and we don't anticipate any cost overages. The elevator is fully operational and passed inspection by the state. Since the approved amount to repair the elevator exceeded the expense, the Property Committee will discuss appropriating fund for other repairs needed on the church property such as replacing the fans, gutter system, flooring in the classrooms and fixing the water issues in window wells. The Cedar Street doors were supposed to be installed today but there was a mistake on the frame, which will cause a three-week delay. A Cedar Street Projects report was provided to Council outlining the total expenditure and balance due for the project.
- **Youth** – Nothing to report.
- **Wage & Policy** – Nothing to report.
- **Fair Stand** – Initial fair stand numbers show we grossed about \$40,000. There are still expenses to be paid before we have a better understanding of final numbers. Fish fries went well and we are looking to expand in 2026. Will be discussing pricing and also training on portion sizes.
- **Treasure Sale** – Nothing to report.

Old Business:

- **Food Pantry Transition Task Force Update** – We have discontinued our traditional food pantry and started bags of food for walk-ins. We have developed a relationship with The Neighbors' Place to support their food pantry. We will pursue a mini food pantry outside the building and support other food partners in the community with the youth projects. We issued our first \$200 check to The Neighbors' Place and will make monthly donations. Cindy Hermel will be checking with area high schools to see if any Tech Ed classes would be willing to construct a mini food pantry if we pay for the material, which also aligns with their community service goal.

- **First English Tee Shirts** – Tabled until next month.
- **Retain Current & Attract New Members Goal Data Update** – The Committee got together to discuss a welcome gift for visitors attending our services. They created a small gift bag that would be meaningful to our service. There would be a notice in the bulletin to announce the process. Visitor cards would go to Pastor Mary for outreach.
- **Kids' Mission Update** – The program will be offered during the summer of 2026.

New Business:

- **Third Quarter Financial Statements to Member** – The Stewardship Committee felt it was wise at end of summer to send out financial statements to members and encourage catching up on their pledges. Michael Klapperich moved and Dina Santangelo seconded the motion for Council to recommend the Stewardship Committee proceed with requesting financial statements be sent to members. Motion passed.
- **First English Tech Team** – The First English Tech Team was established to meet the growing technology needs of our congregation. The team members are Michael Klapperich, Cindy Hermel, Kalynn Pempek, Sharon Hunter and Pastor Mary Zupansic. Their goals is to centralize church membership to technology such as Zoom, QR codes and link social media accounts. The Tech Team would prioritize needs and pass on to the proper committee for action or approval.
- **Narthex Photo/Information Display** – The Council previously discussed a narthex digital display using a TV with a computer connection. For the second and better option, Michael Klapperich received a service contract from Wisconsin Audio Video to provide and install two 49" LG commercial-grade displays in the Narthex, mounted above the windows to the sanctuary. Digital signage media players will be installed behind each display to deliver dynamic content for church announcements and communications. This system is designed to enhance internal messaging and provide an effective visual communication platform within the church. The user advantage would be that content is updated on a web-based portal that can be accessed by multiple users. First English would need to have an electrician install a power outlet at each of the display locations

and provide a network data connection. The charge for installation and training would be \$3,275.40 and there would be a recurring monthly service charge of \$62.00 which includes ongoing tech support. Council would like feedback from the congregation within the next couple of months.

- **Realm Conference Approval** – Realm is a church software program subscription that First English has, which is currently being underutilized because we don't know as much as we would like to about the program. On October 19-22, there is a Realm Conference in Nashville, which not only provides training but is a networking opportunity with other churches that already use Realm. Sharon Hunter and Cindy Hermel would like to attend and become our subject matter experts. Cindy estimates that the total cost for the conference, round-trip flights and hotel would be about \$2,000 each. Russ Michalski moved and Dina Santangelo seconded the motion to approve \$2,000 each for Sharon and Cindy to attend the Realm Conference. Motion passed. We currently have an assigned rep that will do digital meetings to answer questions and implementation tips. A potential launch of Realm could take place at the yearly congregational meeting.
- **Organ Guild Event** – Dan Larson wanted to make the Council aware that an event with the Wisconsin River Valley Chapter, American Guild of Organists (AGO) will take place at First English on September 28 at 4:00 p.m. This event is also open to the public and will demonstrate the use of our Peterson recording unit on our pipe organ. Michael Vaningan move and Neil Juedes seconded the motion to allow this event.
- **Misc.** – Neil Juedes suggested using the bottom of the communion cup holders instead of the plastic lined basket for returning cups. The plastic liners are cracked. Neil also suggested the purchase of two I-pads as visual assistance tools for worship services.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, September 15, 2025

A motion to adjourn was made by Mike Vaningan and seconded by Neil Juedes. Meeting adjourned.

Closing devotions by Michael Klapperich

Karen Czechowicz, Recording Secretary

A YEAR OF BLESSINGS

"This year has truly been a blessing from our Heavenly Father. As Abide Tribe Ministries, we are thriving, and it's thanks to your gracious support!

Here are a just a few of our achievements made possible through your support:

- We currently have 23 students benefiting from our sponsorship and scholarship programs.
- We've supported 103 additional students with packages of essential school materials at the start of the academic year.
- Each week we serve over 300 children and teens through our School Outreach and Community Outreach initiatives.
- We are nearing completion of our first building as part of our Community Center Complex, and we eagerly anticipate how God will utilize us in this space!
- In August we are going to fully launch our new sports fields (soccer, netball, and a playground), providing a safe, Christ-centered environment for all who come.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without your contributions and prayers. We cannot express our gratitude enough for everything you have done. We pray that God abundantly blesses you and your family.

With love, Peter and ShyAnn Egwalata, *founders of Abide Tribe Ministries*"

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, died Saturday, October 4, 2025

Born into the family of a wealthy merchant, Francis gave up his inheritance to serve poor people. He formed the Order of Friars Minor (called Franciscans), who took on poverty and the task of preaching "using words if necessary." Francis had a spirit of gratitude for all of God's creation.

Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society, died 1864

Saturday, October 4, 2025

Fliedner helped to bring about a revival of the ministry of deaconesses among Lutherans. He was influenced in this by Moravian deaconesses he had met. The motherhouse he founded in Kaiserswerth, Germany, inspired many around the world to take up this ministry.

Puzzle!

Complete this Bible passage by adding the missing vowels.



F_r by gr_c_ y_ _ h_v_
b_ _n s_v_d thr_ _gh
f_ _th, _nd th_s _s n_t
y_ _r _wn d_ _ng; _t_s
th_ g_ft _f G_d — n_t th_
r_s_lt _f w_rks, s_ th_t
n_ _n_ m_y b_ _st.

_ph_s_ _ns 2:8-9, NRSV



Answer: For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8-9, NRSV