

**Third Sunday of Advent  
December 14, 2025**

**First English Lutheran Church  
402 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Wausau, Wisconsin 54401-4448  
715-842-5727**

**<https://www.firstenglishlutheranwausau.org>**

**A Congregation of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

**Pastor: Reverend Mary E. Zupansic  
Minister of Music: Daniel Larson  
Pianist: Hal Osborn  
Parish Administrator: Debra Kluetz**

## **WELCOME TO FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Whether you are joining us in person or online, we are blessed to have you worshipping with us today. We pray that our time of worship together further encourages and strengthens our call to discipleship. If you are a visitor, you are invited to fill out the neon green Visitor Card and give it to an usher or greeter. Please come to worship with us again!

Large print bulletins are available in the narthex. A 'Parents' Room' is located off the narthex w/ changing table and restroom. Restrooms are in the narthex lunge and at the bottom of the east/west stairwells. A Handicapped Accessible restroom is available through the double doors on the east side (lectern side) to the front of the worship space.

Assistive listening devices are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.

*Busy Bags—Child Activity Kits* for our little disciples are available in the narthex on the Busy Bag Trees in the narthex. Each bag contains a coloring book, crayons, story book, and quiet games. Please return the bags to the tree after worship.

## **LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

Presiding Minister: Pastor Mary E. Zupansic

Assisting Minister: Nicholas Schumacher

Acolyte: Brooklyn Detert

Pianist: Hal Osborn

Lector: Ella Radke

Greeter: Spencer Radke

Ushers: Eli Akey, Jarek Nelson, Aidan Detert, Nickolas Marquard

Communion Assistant: Abigail Schumacher

Communion Set-up: Marla Zumann

Communion ware Washers: Neil & Sue Juedes

## INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
whose home is heaven and earth,  
whose salvation is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of one another.

*(Pause)*

Long-expected God,

**we confess that we look to ourselves  
for the peace and security only you can provide.**

**We reach for swords and spears,  
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.**

**We become impatient while waiting  
and weary of keeping awake.**

**Free us from self-reliance,  
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.**

**Increase our trust in God's timing,  
and awaken us to your advent among us,  
that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve,  
but according to God's own righteousness.

✝ You are freed and forgiven,  
saved by grace,  
and ready to welcome the Savior.  
**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG**    *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

**ELW #242**



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



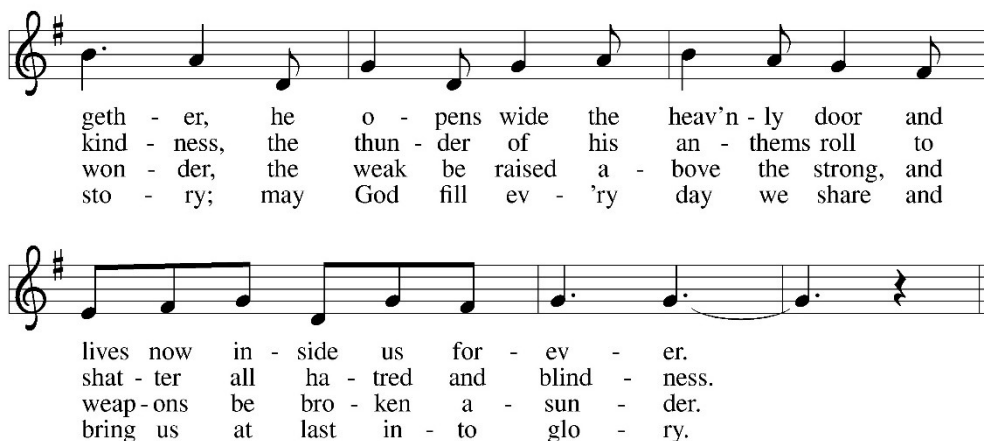
an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and

lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

Text and music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com). 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE - LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (the Joy Candle)



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, and peace to earth be  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's  
3 To you a - lone, O God, we cry, the Ho - ly One we

giv - en! Let an - gels sing, let all re - ply; good -  
au - thor, O Lamb of God, your death a - lone takes  
name you; for you a - lone are God most high, one

will breaks forth from heav - en! Lord God Al - might - y,  
sin a - way for - ev - er. Stretch out your arms to  
liv - ing God we claim you: we wor - ship you, Lord

heav - en's king, we wor - ship you, our thanks we sing, we  
ev - 'ry land, and, as you reign at God's right hand, re -  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it ev - er blest, in

praise you for your glo - ry.  
ceive our prayer; have mer - cy.  
God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

## **FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10**

A reading from Isaiah.

- <sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and shouting.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and  
Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.
- <sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees.
- <sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God. He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."
- <sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;
- <sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless  
sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert;
- <sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of  
water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
- <sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for  
God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
- <sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up  
on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.
- <sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD shall return  
and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall  
be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**    *Prepare the Royal Highway*  
(Verse 1)

**ELW #264**



- 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
- 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
- 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch-es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

*Refrain*



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress



## GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

<sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

<sup>11</sup> “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

**Pastor Mary E. Zupansic**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Prepare the Royal Highway*  
**(Verses 2-4)**

**ELW #264**



- 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
- 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
- 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch-es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

*Each petition ends with the following response.*

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

# MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

## OFFERING

### OFFERING HYMN

*He Came Down*

ELW #253



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.  
he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Nourishing God,

**you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.**

**Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,**

**that we may rejoice and be for the world**

**signs of your kingdom come.**

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

### DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

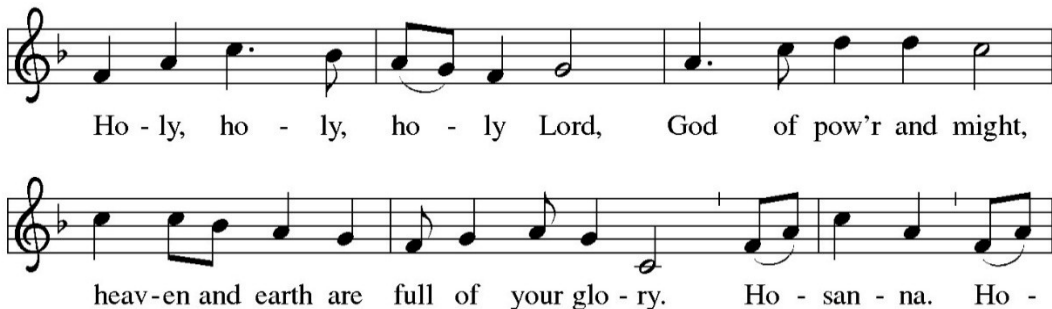
### PREFACE

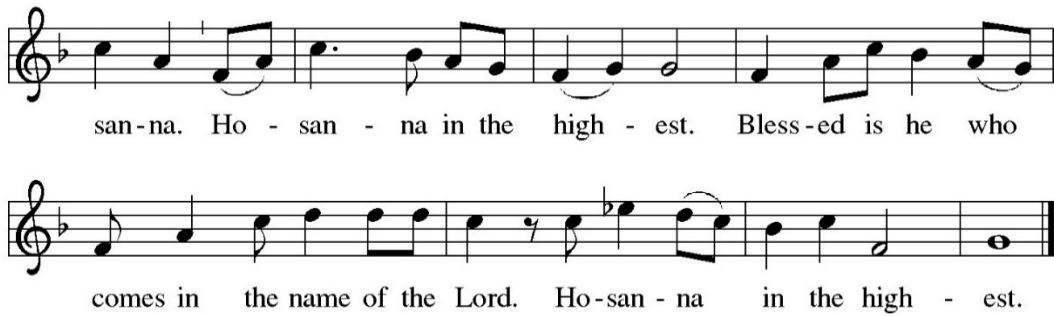
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,  
through whom you will also make all things new  
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### HOLY, HOLY

ELW P. 144





### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, the Beginning and the End,  
our Salvation and our Hope,  
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.  
When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,  
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.  
At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring  
us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,  
his life, death, and resurrection,  
we await his coming again  
in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us  
and on this bread and wine we share:  
strengthen our faith, increase our hope,  
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church,  
both now and forever. **Amen**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Here is life. God is with us.  
Come, receive what God has promised.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## LAMB OF GOD

ELW P. 146

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## COMMUNION HYMNS

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*  
(vv 1-4, 8)

ELW #257

*Each Winter as the Year Grows Older*

ELW #252

## TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.  
God our host,  
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.  
Send us forth, eager to share the feast,  
welcome the stranger,  
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.  
**Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

**Pre-School:** Led by Gracin Dittmar and Mia Lodahl  
**Song: J-E-S-U-S**

**Congregation Song**      *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*      **ELW #270**

**Primary and Confirmation Class:** Led by Dilynn Koehler, Jenny Blaschka,  
Amy Abitz, Mabel Akey, Nina and Georgia Dittmar, and  
Pastor Mary

**Puppet Skit – “The Good News”**

**Congregation Song**      *O Little Town of Bethlehem*      **ELW #279**

**Sr. Youth:** Led by Pastor Mary and Amy Abitz  
**Stick Drama – “One King”**

## SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## BLESSING

May God who comes among us,  
Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,  
and good news to share today and always. **Amen.**



# SENDING SONG

## Joy to the World

ELW #267



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing  
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

# DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake. **Thanks be to God.**

# POSTLUDE

From sundaysandseasons.com.

Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Scripture readings and liturgy from Sundays and Seasons.com Copyright 2011 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #42253. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Hymns reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-700000. All rights reserved.

## **PASTORAL CARE**

If you would like a visit from Pastor Mary, or if you have a pastoral emergency, please call Pastor on her cell phone 920-671-4338.

## **GIFTS have been given by**

Elevator Fund: Marla Zumann in memory of Joyce Utecht; Virgil Voigt in memory of Joyce Utecht; Kathy Rohde in memory of Joyce Utecht

## **NEW OFFICE EMAILS**

Pastor Mary: [pastor@firstenglishlutheranwausau.org](mailto:pastor@firstenglishlutheranwausau.org)

Deb: [parishadmin@firstenglishlutheranwausau.org](mailto:parishadmin@firstenglishlutheranwausau.org)

These are now working emails. Please send all correspondence to these addresses.

## **THANK YOU,**

First English family for making my 95<sup>th</sup> birthday memorable. Thank you for the Card of the Week. I used it as a 95-year-old brain teaser. I tried putting a face with each name. Only one uncertainty. May the dove of peace hover at your window!

Love you all! -- Delphine Saeger

## **SNOW SHOVELERS NEEDED**

Sign up on the sheet on the narthex table.

## **WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

Sunday, December 7: 98    You Tube Views:    Thursday, December 11: 22

**SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE** Sunday, December 7: 13

## **A GIFT HAS BEEN GIVEN**

in loving memory of Arlan and Shirley Erickson by their children, along with this note: “First English Lutheran Church was the place we were all baptized and confirmed. Three of us were also married there. Even though we are no longer members it has served our entire family with the Christian foundation and continued to do so with our parents. Please accept this gift and we hope that it helps your church to continue to spread God’s word.

Also, thank you to Pastor Mary for the wonderful support, prayers and gracious words extended to us at our parents’ funeral. She was very accommodating. God bless. – Wendy, Rhonda, Gina and Chad Erickson”

## **FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH CANCELLATION POLICY**

If cancellation of FELC worship service is necessary because of inclement weather, please check the following sources for notice of the closing:

WSAW Channel 7

WAOW Channel 9

First English Lutheran Church Facebook Page

First English Lutheran Church Congregation Email

Every effort will be made to communicate worship service cancellation to you by the above listed communication tools. In case something prevents those communications from reaching you and there are poor weather conditions, please prioritize your safety and stay home.

If the schools are closed due to poor weather conditions, the First English Lutheran Church office will also be closed and scheduled events cancelled.

## **2025 OFFERINGS**

In order to get a complete record of your financial contributions for the calendar year 2025, please have your offerings in **before Dec. 31, 2025**. The books for 2025 will close Dec. 31. Any 2025 offerings received after the 31<sup>st</sup> will be applied to your 2026 giving. Thank you!

## **ADVENT/CHRISTMAS DEVOTION BOOKS...**

are available in the narthex and church office. The devotional provides blessings and prayers to enrich your preparations and celebrations during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Quantities are limited so be sure to pick up your copy.

## **CHOIR ANTHEM**

for Advent 4 (Dec. 21, 9:00am service) Dan has an Advent anthem ready. Rehearsals have begun. All interested singers can come and practice the anthem after the worship on Sunday mornings, (10:00-10:30) and on Tuesday nights beginning on Dec. 2, after Bell Choir practice (6:45-7:15 p.m.). Choir members will meet up front by the piano.

## **AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE**

Our annual Advent Hunger Offering will be received during the season of Advent. The need for such an offering remains so important. The special Hunger Appeal offering envelopes are available on the narthex tables. You may place your gifts in the offering plate on Sunday morning or Thursday evening. Thank you!

## **A CHRISTMAS MEDITATION**

You are invited to enjoy some “down time” right in our sanctuary...next Sunday, Dec. 21, 3:00-5:00 p.m. Dan Larson will provide music on our baby grand piano for a time of meditation, prayer, quiet reflection and the beautiful music of the season. Come when you can – leave when you must. A freewill donation will be received.

## **2025 MITTEN TREE RESULTS**

Thank you very much to everyone who donated items to the Mitten Tree! A total of 285 items (hats, mittens/gloves, sets, scarves, and headbands) were collected and distributed to area schools!

## **FIRST ENGLISH IS ON INSTAGRAM**

First English now has an Instagram social media page to help spread the word about all of the wonderful things our church is doing. If you are on Instagram, be sure to follow "firstenglishwausau." You'll see the same photos and posts that appear on our Facebook page.

If you have any news and photos to share on our Instagram, Facebook, or web site, please email [kmpempek@gmail.com](mailto:kmpempek@gmail.com) or [sue.juedes@gmail.com](mailto:sue.juedes@gmail.com).

## **ARE YOU MISSING**

a food storage container or sheet pan? Check our church kitchen table – one of them might be yours!

## **FREE LITTLE PANTRY**

The Food Pantry Transition Team is looking for a willing woodworker who would build a Free Little Pantry for First English to provide food for our neighborhood friends in need of assistance.

**A materials list, diagrams, and specific directions will be provided. In addition, the FELC Council will purchase and provide the needed materials.** Please contact the church office if you are able to help us make this neighborhood outreach a reality.

## **AS YOU BEGIN**

If you are finding that you have Christmas lights that don't work, don't throw them out. Bring them to the narthex coatroom and place them in the container. They will be taken to Habitat for Humanity, then sent for recycling.

Since 2014 the Habitat Wausau Team has collected 46,355 pounds of holiday lights. The lights were recycled and kept out of our local landfill. The proceeds from the collection of holiday lights help Habitat Wausau purchase needed tools for the construction team.

## **YOUTUBE**

First English is now on our previous YouTube channel. Go to the **YouTube Channel**. In the search space, put **first english wausau**. Then click on **First English Wausau**. You will then have access to our live-streaming for Sunday worship and special services. If you haven't already done so, please subscribe! If you have any questions, feel free to call the office.

## **TREASURE SALE NEWS...**

Items for next year's Treasure Sale are coming in on a regular basis. We are accepting clean clothes in good condition, housewares, collectibles, books, linens, DVDs, CDs, and more. If donating linens, please mark them with what size they are. This is very helpful.

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

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!

## PEEK AT THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 14-21, 2025

**Sunday, Dec. 14:** 9:00 a.m. Worship / 10:15 a.m. Choir Practice  
10:15 a.m. Sunday School

**Sunday, Dec. 15:** 6:00 p.m. Church Council

**Tuesday, Dec. 16:** 9:00 a.m. Quilting  
6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir / 6:45 p.m. Choir Practice

**Thursday, Dec. 18:** 6:00 p.m. Worship (*in the sanctuary*)

**Friday, Dec. 19:** 6:30 p.m. NA Meeting

**Sunday, Dec. 21:** 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School  
3:00-5:00 p.m. Christmas Meditation (*sanctuary*)

## LET US REMEMBER IN PRAYER...

John Otto

Karl Otto

Linda Kittel

Judy Beemer (*sister of Roger DeWitt*)

Ron Wiese (*friend of the DeWitt family*)

John (*family of Klapperich and Wynn*)

Melinda (*sister of Matt Heyne*)

John & Pat Alters (*parents of John & Mike*)

Diane (*Aunt to Angela Greenfield & Jarek Nelson*)

Heidi Olson (*daughter of Duane & Darlene Chapman*)

Janet Alters (*Family member of Mike & Joan, Jack & Kim, Erin, Spencer and Ella*)

Tracey (*friend of Sheri Fochs*)

**Homebound / Assisted Lived:** Kathie Peterson (*Primrose*), Dolores Hintz (*Sylvan Crossings*), Sue McKee (*Rennes in Weston*), Diane Zuelke (*Mountain Terrace*), Michelle Detert (*Cady Home*), Ila Barttelt (*Rennes*), Joyce Utecht (*Rennes*), Gary Klingbeil (*Wood Aven*), Rick Petzke (*Crossroads Care Center in Weyauwega*)  
Dennis & Laurayne Nicoliasen (*Rennes*) Geraldine Hopperdietzel (*Wood Aven*)  
Audrey Fellbaum

Delphine Saeger

**Daily Prayers Offered for:** Bishops Anne Edison-Albright (*East Central Synod*) and Yehiel Curry (*Presiding Bishop of the ELCA*), and all those who work in the East Central Synod Office; ShyAnn and Peter Egwalata (*in Uganda*)

## **UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS**

### **John of the Cross, renewer of the church, died 1591**

**Sunday, December 14, 2025**

John was a member of the Carmelite monastic order and worked to reform it. His writings reflect a deep interest in mystical thought and meditation.

### **Las Posadas (LLC)**

**Tuesday, December 16, 2025**

This celebration, long popular in Mexico, takes its name from the "posadas," or lodgings, sought by Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. Their search is reenacted in a neighborhood, unsuccessfully, until finally they are welcomed in, and a party commences.

### **Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died 1552**

**Saturday, December 20, 2025**

Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katie eventually took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin.

