



# *First English Lutheran Church* NEWSLETTER

September 2023



## FELC Mission Statement

By the grace of God First English Lutheran Church will grow as one family of faith, secure in the knowledge of Christ's gift of salvation, proclaiming God's love for all.

Pastor Denise Fossen

Dr. Stephen and Jodi Swanson,  
*Missionaries/Tanzania*

Barbara Wegner, *Parish Secretary*

Liz Ketz, *Financial Secretary*

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First English Lutheran Church  
9 NW 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Ortonville, MN 56278





## *From the Pastor*



*Becoming real.*

I have not yet seen the Barbie movie (it's on my list). I'm told it's not really a movie about a toy; it's about becoming real. Barbie wants the same thing the Velveteen Rabbit wanted, what Pinocchio wanted, and what many of us want: to become real. We want to be "fully alive."



As Christians, we become real together, not alone. There are no Lone Ranger Christians. We become real in Christ. We become one with Christ each time we participate in the Lord's Supper. Some traditions use adapted words of St. Augustine to invite people to Communion, "Behold what you are." The people respond, "May we become what we receive."

Becoming fully real in Christ is what we do over a lifetime of faith. Some have found it helpful to have a "Rule of Life." Jenn Giles Kemper of Sacred Ordinary Days describes it this way:

"A rule of life is a commitment to live your life in a particular way. It is meant to be crafted with prayer and discernment, in partnership with God, as you consider the way God made you and the values He has inscribed upon your heart. Once written, it serves as a tool that can help you make decisions for your life and determine how best to order your days.

The first example of a Christian rule of life came from the Desert Fathers, a monastic community of mystics living in Egypt around the third century AD. The most well-known rule is the rule of St. Benedict, written fifteen hundred years ago, which was created to help his community of monks translate their faith into the habits and rhythms of their shared daily life.

A rule of life is different than the goals, intentions, or resolutions we tend to set for ourselves. Those methods are task-based and measurable, and they're often focused on what we do. A rule of life, on the other hand, helps you become. It is comprised of several simple statements that guide the posture of your life and the living of your days. It is not lived *perfectly* but can be lived *faithfully* while fostering within you an integrated and embodied life of faith.

Allow your rule to develop slowly over time. Listen for God and realize that the unique expression of Christ in you, your family, and your church will look different than the expression of Christ in others. It can be helpful to remember that the kingdom is built by the whole of the church body, so you need only seek to be a faithful hand or foot. Ask God how to live your part faithfully.

Consider inviting others into this exercise with you, such as a spouse, a spiritual director, or members of your community. Regard your rule as a living document—something you can review and adjust as you live it out."

As we begin our fall and school schedules, what better time to renew or begin a spiritual practice that helps us become real?

Journeying on the Way,

*Pastor Denise*



### **FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH BOARD MEETING** **Council Minutes – August 7, 2023** (not yet approved)

Members present: Pastor Denise Fossen, Kristi Ehrenberg (president), Becky Parker (treasurer) and Stewardship, Darin Ehrenberg- Stewardship, Gayla Athey-Youth & Family, Kim Anderson -Evangelism, Michelle Bauer- Lay Ministry, Glenn Henningson-Church Properties, and Barbara Wegner-Secretary.

Meeting was called to order by President Kristi Ehrenberg at 7:53 pm.

Approval of June Minutes. Darin & Glenn MSP.

Approval of June Treasurer's Report – We're ahead by about \$8,300 in offerings this year to date compared to last year. We took \$10k out to cover expenses in June but didn't take money out in July. Offerings from 1st week in Aug. were good. ELCA Benevolence was lowered to 4%, when we bring in more, we can consider raising that some. Kim & Gayla MSP.

**Board of Lay Ministry** – Michelle Bauer – Accepted the June & July reports, except there was a question on the WAM minutes. The board wondered if there were three services on Christmas Eve. Pastor Denise explained that we don't know yet. Christmas Eve is the 4th Sunday in Advent. WAM still needs to meet to discuss plans. That answer was accepted. Marilyn Chindvall is still working on the safety committee. Trinity Lutheran in Clinton declined partnering due to an unexpected expense. The board does not feel from the discussions with Rebecca Larson that partnering her would be a good fit. The board wishes to go back to the drawing board on the youth director issue.

**Board of Evangelism** – Kim Anderson – Hymn Sings at Fairway View have been well attended and enjoyed. Our church members come and bring family members too. This Wednesday (8/9) is our last Hymn Sing this summer. Accepted the transfer in and out of Wally Sayles. The board will participate in the confirmation interviews on Aug. 23rd. They are planning for New Member Sunday for Sept. 17th. We do not know the number of new members at this time. Notices will be put in the bulletin so if someone is visiting, they can see a contact number and plan to come September 17th. The board is still looking into directory planning and hope to bring more information to the council at our September meeting. Kim asked about the financial impact of the directory that we'd be looking at and where those monies would come from. It's been 5 years since our last one. Becky said we would have to look back at what it would cost. Pastor Denise added that if anyone knows some new people who have been regularly attending church, please invite these new members to join.

**Christian Education** – No one from the Board of Christian Ed was present.

**Youth & Family** – Gayla Athey – Kari wasn't here. Gayla didn't want to pick a chair without all 2 members present. The contact information is correct. The Board began with Lay Ministry to discuss the Youth Leader prospects. Trinity had an unexpected expense so we won't be partnering with them so the board is going back to the drawing board and will meet in the next few weeks to try to figure something out for Kid's Club and Youth Group. Zion is not a good fit for us. Kari & Gayla have not discussed the ELCA Youth gathering, covenant night, or Synod Junior High Gathering yet.

**Stewardship** – Darin Ehrenberg – We're behind on total receipts but the offerings have been up since last year. Board rotates representatives so no chair was picked. Contact info is right. Job descriptions are right. Darin needs safe haven training but no one else from the board does. The dates for the backpack blessing, God's Work Our Hands, New Member Sunday, Rally Sunday and Bible Presentation are fine. Board is waiting for Pastor & WAM to choose a theme for the next year so they can decide on a stewardship theme. Vacation Bible School was really well received. Everyone loved it but there was discussion on the expense (\$100+ per kid). Board believes that VBS involves outreach to non-members, so in the future pink-envelope or Lent offerings may be designated to help pay for VBS. Marge Dragseth volunteered to house the VBS councilors again. It worked out well to have them all in one house. At least 40 of the 49 children were members or grandchildren of members. Marge says it preps kids and gets them excited about going to camp also. Having it here brought more kids. Families seemed to enjoy having it here more than having it elsewhere. Having it more than one day was great and having them come to the service on Sunday and sing brought it all together.

**Church Properties** – Glenn Henningson – Art came and discussed Nobles has some more work to do. We still owe them about \$97,000 and haven't paid them yet. We will sit on that until it's done. No items from Dean, except the carpets are going to be shampooed later this week. The board will continue to work on getting the bells fixed.

**PASTOR'S REPORT** – Pastor Denise –

**Worship:** As the norm, "live" services are held the 1st Sunday of the month at Fairway View with communion; the 2nd Sunday they watch on the screen and are served communion. July 31st was the fifth Sunday and was by watching on the screen. A seven-week Advent series was purchased. WAM and I will discuss it when we meet in September. Also to be discussed are what services are to be held and when as December 24th is the fourth Sunday in Advent and Christmas Eve. The theme verse and contemporary service order of worship are a work in progress, as is God's Work Our Hands' Sunday. The Blessing of the Backpacks' blessing and prayer are completed.

**Pastoral Care:** Funerals: Swede Anderson, with Rev. Daryl Thul officiating on June 16th; Mark Block, with Rev. Melanie Reiners officiating on June 23rd; Wally Sayles visitation and funeral (June 27th) and Ken Henneberg (June 29th) with me officiating. Weekly bible study at Fairway View which is down to 3 people. We'll see if more people start coming again in fall. Completed pre-marital counseling for the Mork-Thorson wedding. Pastoral care was given by phone, in-person in my office, in their home, in hospital, on their death bed, and by mail.

**Youth and Confirmation:** VBS was July 24-27th. I was there daily. There was a lot of singing and a lot of energy. VBS sang their songs at a program Thursday night and on Sunday July 30th. Thanks to all the volunteers that assisted the Green Lake Bible Camp counselors for a successful and fun-filled event.

Confirmation has been planned for the 2023-2024 school year. This year we'll be meeting during Lent, with a meal organized by Marge Dragseth (open to everyone), followed by the mid-week Lenten service. The younger confirmation students will help with set-up and serving.

Confirmation interviews will be held on August 23rd with August 30th for acolyte training and confirmation orientation for parents and students. First day of confirmation class is September 6th.

Backpack blessings to be held during the service on August 27th and September 24th is bible distribution.

I had a conversation with Rebecca Larson, the youth director at Zion Lutheran in Ortonville, about the possibility of some cooperative youth work.

**Synod and Community:** I was a participant (reading the "charges") at the ordination of Laurel "Mort" Meyenberg at Our Saviors Lutheran in Montevideo on Saturday, July 22nd.

Pastor Janet Warnes from Zion Lutheran Church in Ortonville has resigned her position. I was in contact with the synod office to clarify what our/my responsibilities are. Zion is to reach out if they need anything.

Hymn sings were held at Fairway View on the second Wednesday of June-July-August.

**Looking Ahead:** God's Work Our Hands is Sunday September 10th.

Kristi asked who has organized God's Work Our Hands in the last years. Kirsten Karels was mentioned, along with

Michelle Bauer saying she has done it. Nancie's name was also mentioned as having worked on it in the past.

New member Sunday is September 17th (same day as Rally Sunday). I've spoken with two families that are interested in formally joining. If you know of others that are regular attenders and would like to formally join our church, have them contact me or the church office.

October has a baptism, wedding, and confirmation on three different weekends.

The Bishop's Fall Theological gathering for rostered leaders is October 8-10th in Sioux Falls, SD. I will be leaving after church Sunday afternoon and returning Tuesday late afternoon, but I'm not sure if I'll be back in time for Bible study at Fairway View or not.

December 2, 2023 is Equipping Congregations Day; details forthcoming. June 7-8, 2024 is Synod Assembly.

**Final Notes & Comments:** Becky appreciated that Sunday morning hymns have been extremely relevant to the scriptures for the day. Kristi asked if Kathy is supposed to come during recorded services (as some of the people at Fairway View were expecting her). Kathy comes during the live services, not the pre-recorded ones. Becky also mentioned the directions (with screenshots) for the volunteers who go to Fairway View are excellent. The new directions from Kim Anderson have been very helpful for our volunteers.


- **Board of Evangelism** - Contact information is good. Marge Dragseth will be the board chair.


Next council meeting will be on September 11th at 7:00 PM.


Motion to adjourn – Becky & Darin MSP.


Closed with Lord's Prayer at 8:19 pm.


## Youth News September 2023


 We are still working on getting things set up for the new school year. At this time, we do not have a schedule for Kid's Club or Youth Group. If this should change, we will update you on the Youth Facebook page.

 If you do not have access to the Youth page and are a parent, student, or mentor, please send me a request from the Facebook page.

 Please note that this is a **private group** meant for the youth, their parents, and the mentors of our confirmation students. If you are not one of these, then you will not be granted access to this page.

 I will be going through and making changes to who has access to this page so if you no longer meet one of these three requirements, you will be removed.

 I know it is a little early, but we will be selling God's Creation Calendars again this year. The price will be \$8.00. They are here so if you want to be sure to get one stop in at the office anytime to purchase one! 😊

 We are excited to announce we are in the beginning phase of planning for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA, on July 16-20<sup>th</sup>. The theme for the convention is: **Created to Be**. Youth participants must be in 8<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grade at the time of registration. If your child is interested in attending, please let us know in the office. There will be a meeting coming in the near future to see if we have interest in anyone attending.



### September:

4- Labor Day- Office closed

6- Confirmation begins: 7th -8th 3:30-4:30 PM 9th 4:30-5:30 PM

10- Gods Work. Our Hands.

13- Confirmation classes: 7th -8th 3:30-4:30 PM 9th 4:30-5:30 PM

18- Rally Sunday

20- Confirmation Classes: 7th -8th 3:30-4:30 PM 9th 4:30-5:30 PM

24- Bible distribution to 3-year-olds and 3rd graders during church and Sunday School to follow.

27- Confirmation Classes (**Early Out times**): 7th -8th 1:45-2:45 PM 9th 2:45-3:45 PM

### Parish Nurse Article for September

*Adonai- Lord and Master*

Adonai is a Hebrew name for God meaning "master, ruler, owner, lord." It is the generic term for "lord" in Hebrew. It is first seen in Scripture when Abram, longing for an heir, cries out to God in Genesis 15:2. He looked to him in prayer through confusing circumstances. He connected his hopes to Adonai and revered Him as the one who held answers to life in His hands.

You and I should do the same. When we accept God as Master- sovereign over all- then He becomes greater and we become less. When we get to know God as our Adonai, we will be more inclined to seek Him and revere Him in appropriate measures to His glory.

Let us be undone together and bow our hearts before Adonai, our Lord and Master, with renewed awe of His greatness.

"Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the God of Jacob" (Psalm 114:7)

## CHURCH NEWS

**New Member Sunday** is on September 17th. If you know of someone who is formally interested in joining our congregation, please let them know to talk with Pastor Denise (763-516-2026) or contact the church office (320-839-2527).

**The SW MN Jr. High Youth Gathering** will be in Willmar, MN November 17<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Sr. Choir began August 30<sup>th</sup>.** New members of all ages with a basic enthusiasm for music and desire to spend time with a fun, supportive group are **always** welcome and appreciated! If your summer plans prevented you from joining us in August or if they will in early September, join us *any* Wednesday at 7:00 pm in the choir room located on the lower level next to the fellowship hall.

**MAY THE GOD OF ALL CONSOLATION be with Vern & Carol Bell** as Vern Bell's brother, Daryl, passed away 8/11 and his funeral was 8/21 in Lakeville, MN.

**CONGRATULATIONS AND GOD'S BLESSINGS** be with

... Daniel & Andrea Bartels (née Burman) on the birth of their son, David, on July 8th.

... Matt and Kirsten Karels and family on the adoption of the newest member to their family: Ellie Mae Sahalie Karels.

... Gene & Marcy Stotesberry who celebrated their 64th anniversary on August 29th.

**You're invited to Hope Pregnancy Center's annual Celebration of Life Banquet** Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at the Willmar Conference Center. The speaker will be Kelly Lester. Kelly is a testament to how God can clean all the dirty parts of a painful story and make it brand new. Doors open for informative displays and fellowship at 5:30 pm. Dinner-Program-Live Auction at 6:15 pm. Register to attend [findhopepc.com](http://findhopepc.com), click support or call 320-235-7619 before September 1<sup>st</sup>.

**We are looking for volunteers** to prepare and serve coffee on Sundays going forward. Please contact the office if you are willing to help. If there is no one willing to help, we may not be able to hold coffee fellowship.



**We are seeking to fill** the FELC Youth and Children Program Leader position. It will start at approx. 20-hours per week, Mon-Fri, plus limited evenings and weekend hours for youth ministry activities and chaperoning youth events and trips. There is potential for future growth in hours with program growth. If you or someone you know is interested, drop off your resume and references at the church office or e-mail it to [pastor@firstenglish.net](mailto:pastor@firstenglish.net).

**PRAYERS FOR HEALING and COMFORT** for Ricky Anderson Jr., Carol Barrett; Jyla Dahle, Arlen LaCombe; Gail Olson; Harris Selvig; Brandi Tweeter; Paul Erdman; Beckett Foster; Baby Rosie Frank; Larry Helgeson; Natalie Henneberg; Baby McCoy Jipson; Zane Kilde; Brian Pribyl; Janice Redfield; David Scholberg; Jerry Stotesberry; and Terry Ward. AT FAIRWAY VIEW NEIGHBORHOODS: Janet Anderson; Arvilla Bergseth; Ruth Hansen; Jim Hipple; Vivian Janssen; & Eleanor Nickolauson. ALL OUR MILITARY who are deployed to areas of conflict. If you would like a name added/removed, please contact the church office.



**KDIO BROADCASTS**

... (August 6<sup>th</sup>) was sponsored in memory of Larry Haukos from Kathy Haukos and family.

... (August 13<sup>th</sup>) was sponsored in memory of Ray Bergeson and other loved ones from the Bergeson family.

... (August 20<sup>th</sup>) was sponsored by your gifts to the Endowment Fund.

... (August 27<sup>th</sup>) was sponsored anonymously in support of the radio broadcast ministry.

**THE PINK ENVELOPES**

for each month are for designated funds. You may designate your extra gift to any fund you wish. Our Board of Stewardship also designates a special emphasis for each month of the year. September special gifts go to the Endowment Fund which helps cover the cost of the KDIO broadcasts when we do not have a weekly sponsorship.

Thank you for supporting FELC's giving emphasis!

**September 2023**

Designated Funds

**Building (please specify)** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Operating Fund** \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Other** Endowment Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

January .....Technology Fund  
 February.....Service Trip Scholarship  
 March..... Big Stone Lake Area Food  
 April..... SWMN Funding Initiative  
 May..Global Missions - Companion Synod South Africa  
 June.....Someplace Safe  
 July.....Families in Need  
 August..... Baptism Chests  
**September.....Endowment Fund**  
 October.....Jaycees Project Christmas  
 November.....God's Work, Our Hands/Service Projects  
 December.....ELCA Missionaries

**PASTOR-PARISH RELATIONS**

Part of the Board of Lay Ministry's job description says that the board is to: **Ensure that a pastoral relations committee is active and that it offers verbal encouragement and/or directions to the pastor(s).** Current members of this committee are Jackie Domine, Josh Wollschlager, and Marilyn Chindvall. If any congregant has an issue and doesn't feel they can talk directly to the Pastor, they are invited to speak to one of the committee members. Please consider this an open invitation; both negative and positive comments are welcome. The committee meets with the Pastor twice each year, more frequently if necessary. Thank you to those willing to serve in this capacity.



**Upcoming Stonecroft Ministries  
Sponsored By Women's Connection**

Tuesday, September 19, at 5:30 pm at  
Tabor Methodist Church.

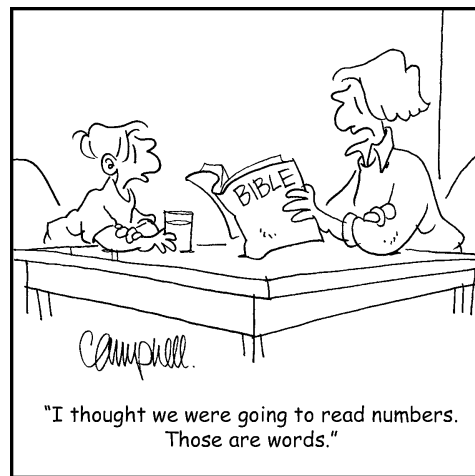

The cost is \$6.00, and there is a  
free nursery available by reservation.

**Speaker:** Delaine Shay of Sioux Falls  
"New Life"

**Special Feature:** Silent Auction as fundraiser for  
Stonecroft. Items such as decorations, baked goods, crafts,  
garden produce, etc. may be brought when you come.

**Music:** Dan Lindholm of Milbank – Soloist

**FOOD WILL BE SERVED & ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**CIRCLE FOUR**

Meets in the Church Lounge on Wed.,  
September 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.  
Hostess: Eryls Sis  
Lesson: Carol Newman




**Southwestern Minnesota Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

The congregations and all the baptized who are the Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are claimed by this mission: God places us in cities, farms and towns together under one prairie sky. The Risen Christ surprises us with opportunities to plant God's Word in the world.

*'As members of the ELCA, we believe that we are freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. With our hands, we do God's work of restoring and reconciling communities in Jesus Christ's name throughout the world.'*

Walking together in confidence, we cultivate life-giving congregations, nurture partner ministries, and cooperate in the life of the ELCA.

By God's grace, together we have what we need.

**OFFICE HOURS UPDATE**

The Church Office will be switching back from summer hours to normally scheduled hours.

**MONDAY - THURSDAY**

**8:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**FRIDAY**

**8:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

# SEPTEMBER 10<sup>th</sup> is God's Work, Our Hands Sunday!

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

This year, First English Lutheran Church in Ortonville will be honoring God's work, Our Hands through a variety of service acts and community gratitude recognition. We will be out in the community cleaning ditches, helping our neighbors, and putting together small tokens of thanks for other community service members.

We will also be doing a supply donation drive for local nonprofit groups. We are looking for various toiletry items such as women's products, toothbrush/toothpaste, shampoo & conditioner, deodorant, cleaning/sanitizing products, diapers/wipes, markers, crayons, colored pencils, fidgets, post it notes, etc. There will be a donation box in the Narthex at the church for anyone wanting to donate items.

As a Congregation, we look forward to this this day of service and fellowship each year!

If you haven't already, you can sign up for some of our service projects on the sign-up sheets in the Narthex or online at the following website (you can scan the QR code for easier access).

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0849AF2EA1FBC16-gods>



## PROGRAMMED RETREATS

**GREEN LAKE LUTHERAN ministries** Visit [GLLM.ORG](http://GLLM.ORG) for more info & to register online!  
-2023 FALL-

### FALL COLORS RETREAT

**September 22-24, 2023** | Camp House | ALL AGES!  
Let Camp House host you as you explore the fall beauty of the North Shore. Evenings and mornings will include devotions and activities, as well as great food, and the days are yours to search out some of the best fall colors of the season. This weekend is open to all ages! Consider staying until Monday and help us pack up and close down the site for the winter.

### FALL FRENZY YOUTH RETREAT

**September 29-30, 2023** | Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp | Grades 2-6  
If you had a great time at summer camp, this is your chance to come back! Join us as we gather together to explore God's word, play games, spend time outside, and enjoy the beauty of camp in the fall! Some of our wonderful summer camp staff will be back to lead us in activities - you won't want to miss this fun retreat!

### GOOD NEWS GOOD BREWS

**October 6-8, 2023** | Green Lake Bible Camp | Ages 21+  
Join Pastor Reggie Klindworth as he shares the Good News and walks you through the craft brewing process. No matter the experience level, come join us for a great opportunity for crafting, conversation and community. Activities include brewing beer, taking a tour of a local brewery, and devotions.

### GRANDPARENT & GRANDCHILD RETREAT

**November 4-5, 2023** | Green Lake Bible Camp  
We are excited to offer this fun-filled retreat meant just for grandparents and grandchildren! This one night retreat will offer you a unique chance to spend time doing camp activities, while also learning more about your faith together! With intergenerational Bible studies, worship, activities, and more, this is your chance to spend intentional time together while playing in God's creation!

### CREATIVE SOULS RETREAT

**November 17-19, 2023** | Green Lake Bible Camp  
Whatever your hobby may be, bring your supplies and join us for a great weekend of creating and resting by the lake at Green Lake Bible Camp. Enjoy fellowship and a supportive Christian atmosphere in the company of other creative people. You will also have time for devotions, taking a walk, an offered craft or even a nap!

A North Shore getaway for all ages!



Grades 2-6 enjoy an overnight at camp!







## Day of Love Group from First English Lutheran, Ortonville

Thank you for your donation to the Green Lake Lutheran Ministries Quilt Auction! Your item #194, "Town Square", sold for \$450. Your item #300, "Confetti", sold for \$445.

**The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Quilt Auction was another record-breaking year!** It was a beautiful, sunny day at camp and the perfect day for a Quilt Auction! Over 120 bidders joined us under the tent, while an additional 200 people bid online. This year's Moment of Giving raised funds to repair the Stave Chapel at Green Lake Bible Camp, totaling over \$42,000. **The Quilt Auction itself raised over \$153,000!** This year's auction and Moment of Giving totals not only broke the previous records, which were set just last year, but also helped to surpass the \$2,000,000 mark for total funds raised at the Quilt Auction historically.

God's Peace,

*Kirsten Palan*  
Kirsten Palan  
Director of Development  
kpalan@gllm.org

*Sonya Erickson*  
Sonya Erickson  
Director of Finance & Administration  
serickson@gllm.org

**CAMP HOUSE**  
1411 Camp House Rd  
Brimson, Minnesota 55602  
Telephone: 218-848-2277

**GREEN LAKE BIBLE CAMP**  
9916 Lake Avenue South  
Spicer, Minnesota 56288  
Telephone: 320-796-2181

**SHORES OF ST. ANDREW**  
19080 16th Street NE  
New London, Minnesota 56273  
Telephone: 320-354-2961



Dear Friends –

Today I am drawn to the text of this old hymn:

*Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love....our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.*  
ELW 656

I am sharing the note below so that, as people of this synod, walking together, our hearts may be united in prayer and support for Synod Minister, Pastor Naomi Mahler.



Southwestern Minnesota Synod

August 9, 2023

Dear Siblings in Christ:

In the past week, I have received some distressing health news. The breast cancer that I had in 2017, for which I was treated and remained cancer free for the past 6 years, has now returned. Therefore, I will be taking medical leave to be treated for this reoccurrence. I don't know exactly where this is going, but a treatment plan is being made with my medical providers.

I covet your prayers and support. Before long, I will reactivate my Caring-Bridge page so you can check on any updates if you would like to do so.  
<https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/naomimahler>

I regret having to take this time away from my work at the SW MN Synod, but I am sure that you can understand the need to do this. So, until further notice I will no longer be able to be contacted for ministry support.

I ask that you be even more understanding and supportive of the Synod staff, as this will put an even greater burden on them. I am confident that you will do so.



*Pr. Naomi's Family*

Thank you for holding Pr. Naomi and her family in prayer. As you do, I know that you also may wonder how to direct questions and needs. Please direct inquiries as follows:

Call process – Synod Minister Heather Culuris, [heather.culuris@swmnelca.org](mailto:heather.culuris@swmnelca.org) or Executive Assistant and Roster Manager Tammy Schacher, [tammy.schacher@swmnelca.org](mailto:tammy.schacher@swmnelca.org)  
South Africa Partnership – Bp. Dee Pederson, [dee.pederson@swmnelca.org](mailto:dee.pederson@swmnelca.org)

As fall schedules begin, staff will connect with Conference Ministries as follows:

- Crow River and Lakeland – D.E.M. Pr. Troy Pflibsen
- Prairie, Shetek, Scenic Valley, Minnesota Valley, and Watonwan River – Synod Minister Heather Culuris
- Glacial Ridge, Great River, and Lac Qui Parle – Bp. Dee Pederson

Greetings for Pastor Naomi may be sent to the Synod Office – 175 E. Bridge St., P.O. Box 499, Redwood Falls, MN 56283.

*In all times, the people of God hold close the promise of our God, The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. – Lamentations 3:22*

Thank you for joining your hearts with ours in prayer and love.

+ grace and peace,  
Bp. Dee Pederson



## ALTAR GUILD TEAMS – SEPTEMBER

Sacristy, Sanctuary, Surplices:

Lori Strei

Banners:

Julie Hipple & Jocelyn Schowalter

Flower Committee:

Ellie Helgeson & Carol Newman



## SCHEDULING

### KEYBOARD/ORGANIST

**Sept. 3:** Kathy Haukos  
**Sept. 10:** Amy Adelman  
**Sept. 17:** Lisa Berdan  
**Sept. 24:** Amy Adelman  
**Oct. 1:** Kathy Haukos  
**Oct. 8:** Carol Ydstie  
**Oct. 15:** Lisa Berdan  
**Oct. 22:** Marilyn Hanson  
**Oct. 29:** Amy Adelman

### LECTOR

**Sept. 3:** Kelsey Kaye  
**Sept. 10:** Jon Ydstie  
**Sept. 17:** Terry Kalberg  
**Sept. 24:** Liv Wollschlager  
**Oct. 1:** Dave Ellingson  
**Oct. 8:** Darin Ehrenberg  
**Oct. 15:** Kim Anderson  
**Oct. 22:** Ellie Helgeson  
**Oct. 29:** Confirmands

### ACOLYTES

**Sept. 3:** Archer & Meadow  
**Sept. 10:** Amelia & Lexi  
**Sept. 17:** Hannah & Brooke  
**Sept. 24:** Liv & Owen  
**Oct. 1:** Bennett & Bryson  
**Oct. 8:** Liam & Mikaela  
**Oct. 15:** Chase & Ava  
**Oct. 22:** Ashton & Madilyn  
**Oct. 29:** Raimi & Martino

### LAY ASSISTANTS

**Sept. 3:** Kirsten Karels & Marla Strei  
**Sept. 10:** Jim & Ranet Schmeichel  
**Oct. 1:** Kristi & Darin Ehrenberg  
**Oct. 8:** Liz Ketz & Marilee Haukos

### FV Neighborhoods

**Sept. 3:** Kim Anderson, Pat Collins  
& Mary Lou Olson  
**Sept. 10:** Kim Anderson  
**Oct. 1:** TBD  
**Oct. 8:** TBD  
**Oct. 29:** TBD

### GREETERS

**Sept. 3:** David & Debbie Ellingson  
**Sept. 10:** Sharon Carlson & Lois Bergeson  
**Sept. 17:** Glenda Reiffenberger & Ev Johnson  
**Sept. 24:** Josh, Sara, & Liv Wollschlager  
**Oct. 1:** Kim & Jon Anderson  
**Oct. 8:** Jackie & Mel Domine  
**Oct. 15:** Dean & Anita Longnecker  
**Oct. 22:** Sandy & Tom Rice  
**Oct. 29:** Ethel & Garry Swenson



















### SOUND SYSTEM

**Sept. 3:** Liz Ketz & Matt Karels  
**Sept. 10:** Matt Karels & Marina Thomson  
**Sept. 17:** Marge Dragseth & Marina Thomson  
**Sept. 24:** Terry Kalberg & Marina Thomson  
**Oct. 1:** Liz Ketz & Marina Thomson  
**Oct. 8:** Matt Karels & Marina Thomson  
**Oct. 15:** Marge Dragseth & Marina Thomson  
**Oct. 22:** Terry Kalberg & Marina Thomson  
**Oct. 29:** Dave Ellingson & Marina Thomson

### USHERS

**Sept. 3:** Ev Johnson, Kevin Fossen, Art Vollmer,  
& Ron Athey  
**Sept. 10:** Glenn Henningson, Larry Dahle, Kim &  
Jon Anderson  
**Sept. 17:** Dean Longnecker, Dick Strei, Josh  
Wollschlager, & Russ Thielke  
**Sept. 24:** Tami Lundberg, Marilyn Chindvall,  
Jackie & Mel Domine  
**Oct. 1:** Brent Zahrbock, Dean Strand, Vern  
Nickolauson, & Dave Ellingson  
**Oct. 8:** Liz Ketz, Eldon Knutson, Darin Ehrenberg,  
& Harley Helgeson  
**Oct. 15:** Russell Thielke, Warren Wiese, Gale  
May, & Connie Newman  
**Oct. 22:** Eugene Stotesberry, Jim Foster, Gale  
May, & Keven Berdan  
**Oct. 29:** Rodney Torgerson, Liz Ketz, Rob  
Randall, & Josh Wollschlager



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>September 2023 † First English Lutheran Church</b>			Daily Devotions are available @ <a href="http://www.firstenglish.net">www.firstenglish.net</a> click on "Lutheran Faith" & "PRAYERS, STUDY, & DEVOTIONALS"			
					<b>1</b> 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 9:00 am Worship – Communion – KDIO Broadcast & FB Live 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Fairway View Worship Pre-recorded	<b>4 Office Closed</b>  <b>LABOR DAY</b>	<b>5</b> 8:30 am Day of Love 4-5:00 pm Pastor Denise at Donnie's Diner at FWV 	<b>6</b> 9:00 am Circle 4 (Church Lounge) 9:30 am TV Broadcast 3:30 pm Confirmation (7-8) 4:30 pm Confirmation (9) 5:30 pm TV Broadcast 7:00 pm Senior Choir 	<b>7</b> 	<b>8</b> 9:00 am Bulletins Printed 	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9:00 am Worship – Communion – KDIO & FB Live 9:30 am Community Service Projects 10:30 am Fairway View Worship – Pre-recorded 11:00 am Potluck Lunch at FELC	<b>11</b> 10:00 am Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Council Meeting  September 11 <sup>th</sup> <b>REMEMBRANCE DAY</b> 	<b>12</b> 8:30 am Day of Love 4-5:00 pm FWV Donnie's Diner Group	<b>13</b> 9:30 am TV Broadcast 3:30 pm Confirmation (7-8) 4:30 pm Confirmation (9) 5:30 pm TV Broadcast 7:00 pm Senior Choir 	<b>14</b> 	<b>15</b> 9:00 am Bulletins Printed 	<b>16</b> 
<b>"God's work. Our hands." Sunday</b>						
<b>17</b> 9:00 am Rally Sunday Worship – New Member Sunday – KDIO & FB Live 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship & Rally Sunday 	<b>18</b> 10:00 am Staff Meeting 	<b>19</b> 8:30 am Day of Love 4-5:00 pm Pastor Denise at Donnie's Diner at FWV 	<b>20</b> 9:30 am TV Broadcast 3:30 pm Confirmation (7-8) 4:30 pm Confirmation (9) 5:30 pm TV Broadcast 7:00 pm Senior Choir	<b>21</b> 9:00 am LQP Conference Pastors are meeting at First English	<b>22</b> 9:00 am Bulletins Printed 	<b>23</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Autumn 
<b>24</b> 9:00 am Worship – Noisy Offering – Bible Presentation – KDIO & FB Live 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:00 am Sunday School  	<b>25</b> 10:00 am Staff Meeting <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	<b>26</b> 12:00 pm Executive Meeting 	<b>27</b> 9:30 am TV Broadcast 1:45 pm Confirmation (7-8) 2:45 pm Confirmation (9) 5:30 pm TV Broadcast 7:00 pm Senior Choir	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	<b>30</b> 