



First English Lutheran Church

NEWSLETTER

May 2025



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.

Rev. Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett
Interim Pastor

Dr. Stephen and Jodi Swanson,
Missionaries/Tanzania

Barbara Wegner, *Parish Secretary*

Liz Ketz, *Financial Secretary*

Kaitlyn Burdorf, *Jr./Sr High Youth Leader*

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First English Lutheran Church
9 NW 3rd Street
Ortonville, MN 56278





Notes from Pastor Cheryl



April 24, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him." (Romans 6:9)

Easter was such a blessing. Once again, the youth were wonderful in all they did and helped with during Lenten services. The disciples around the table for Maundy Thursday service brought extra meaning to the readings. Good Friday reinforced the drama of the day with props and dramatization of the events. Jonathon's beautiful chanting and the stripping of the altar at both congregations. Having a sunrise service on Easter with beautiful music from the congregations, choir, and Liv singing was excellent.

The experience was wonderful. The proclamation was made, and the message was clear - Christ suffered, died, was buried and rose again, so all who believe will also share in a resurrection as our Lord did.

Then came the news of Pope Francis passing. Yes, he was the leader of the Roman Catholic church but that doesn't mean we don't mourn for a great theological leader and especially remember why his life had so much meaning for all Christians.

We saw it from the beginning, he chose the name "Francis" as his papal name to emphasize the teaching of St Francis of Assisi, to assist those who suffer, care for those in need, and preach peace and love to all people, as we read in 1 John 4: *"⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love."* Basically, his societal statements and beliefs were that of the gospel message, and that is social statement enough.

He was a humble man. I loved the story when he first became pope that he rode the bus instead of taking a limousine. He cooked his own meals and often visited the poor where they lived. Instead of a grand apartment, he embraced poverty and took modest lodgings. He was a listener, even though he held a very powerful position. He had great empathy for those who were suffering, particularly the homeless, imprisoned, refugees, and migrants. He lived the gospel message.

To him, humility was the "golden rule" reminding people it is the way we are to live. Pope Francis was never self-serving but lived the Gospel of Matthew 20: 40-45, *"when you did it for the least of these... you did it to me."* There is much we as Christians can learn from him, no matter what Christian denomination we belong to.

He truly lived James 1: 22-27, *"²² But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³ For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴ for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵ But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act-- they will be blessed in their doing. ²⁶ If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world."*

During Holy Week and at Easter, we were renewed, restored, and revived in the scriptural message of Jesus Christ obedience, faithfulness, and love for us, and all people. We communed at His table. Heard of His betrayal even as He loved the betrayer. We felt His pain as He suffered insult, abuse, and death. We questioned the darkness and celebrated the light of His resurrection as He defeated death.

Through it all, Jesus spoke and taught and loved all people, even as He knew what was about to come. He cared for each and every one of us without favoritism or prejudice. And He commended us to do the same.

Now that we have heard the gospel message of the good news of Christ this Easter, learned from an earthly example of pious and humble living, let us not be just hearers of the word, but be as Paul tells us in Romans 12: *"² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God--what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned."*

Gratefully Rejoicing in Christ for You!
~ Pastor Cheryl

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH BOARD MEETING

Council Minutes April 13, 2025 (not yet approved)

Members present: Jon Anderson (president), Becky Parker (treasurer) and *Stewardship*, Darin Ehrenberg – *Stewardship*, Kari Dorry – *Youth & Family*, Dale Price – *Church Properties*, Paula Reisdorph – *Evangelism*, Ehrenberg – *Lay Ministry*, Kaitlyn Burdorf – *Christian Education*, Amanda Stattelmann – *Christian Education*. Meeting was called to order by President Jon Anderson.

Approval of March Council Minutes as presented – Darin, Kari **MSP**.

Approval of Treasurer's Report – Zion's share of salary cost is helping to keep us afloat. Zion pays us regularly but it's at the end of the month and shows up in the next month's funds. The bulletin's balance was changed to not say "due" because it looked bad. The monthly giving from last year to this year is almost identical. We're just a hair behind for year-to-date. Our operating reserves are up a bit from last year so when you look at total receipts we're ahead of the game from last year. Kari, Kristi **MSP**.

Board of Lay Ministry – Kristi Ehrenberg Reported – The plans for Lent schedule was good. The board wanted clarification on the WAM Minutes "Hymn Sing." WAM Minutes were referring to a normal Sunday service with "Favorite Hymns," when it comes time to sing. No one from the board can attend the Synod assembly. Kirsten Karels will be joining the board to replace Kristi. Ellie is attending the Zion/FELC partnership meeting. There were no changes to the Lay Ministry job description. Lay Ministry approved the WAM & Endowment minutes. May 11th Jack Holmquest is going to be preaching, but is requesting that we only pay for his milage, 64 cents a mile x 140 miles is \$84 and asked that anything else we would normally pay him should be donated for anything the church needs. Ellie will take care of getting gift crosses for the Senior acolyte gifts. For coffee fellowship, usually it's a table to a table and a half of people (other than Sunday School students). The board proposes that we not have coffee fellowship in the summer months and maybe change it to once a month when we start back up in the fall.

Approval of Suspending Coffee Fellowship for Summer & Starting up in Fall Once a month on the 1st Sunday – Kristi, Becky **MSP**

Coffee fellowship will continue in May, but the break will start after Senior Recognition (May 18th) on Memorial Day weekend. There was discussion on the clarity of the coffee serving instructional sheet.

The board of Lay Ministry will table creating a job description for the WAM committee; the board will discuss it leading up to next month's meeting.

There was a discussion about the constitution saying the Pastor should (not must) be attending the council meetings in an advisory capacity. She has Zion services at the time FELC's council meets currently. When we get back to fall the council may have to go back to evening meetings, which allow Pastor Cheryl and Barbara to attend meetings again. There is a similar problem with WAM meeting after church, because they attempt to plan worship services without the Pastor being involved. It will be added to May's agenda to decide on a new meeting time so that they can attend the council meetings again.

Board of Evangelism – Paula Reisdorph Reported – 2 (*Zion*) Members are signed up for the Synod Assembly. Deb Henningson has agreed to be on the Evangelism Board. Jane Debner is currently on the board and considering staying on, so the board may have 5 members. The Evangelism Job Description was approved with the addition of a "#12: Provide Lay Assistants to Fairway View for monthly communing on 2nd Wednesday at 1 pm." There was a press release sent out by Pastor Cheryl about our Lenten & Easter services. The summer monthly hymn sings are TBD; Jane will contact the FWV activities director to schedule those. There are no transfers in or out. Pastor Cheryl has a list of interested or returning guests who may be contacted about their intentions, to see if they may like to join. The board discussed maybe having a set New Member Sunday once a year. It was discussed at the council that maybe we would like that to be more often. The Lenten meals went well. About 40 people attended along with 30 youth. July 16th there will be a FELC-Zion youth night at Zion with root beer floats and possible campfire. The deadline to sign up for the MN Twins game is May 4th. Jane will order flowers Mother's Day on May 11th.

Board of Christian Education – Amanda Stattelmann reported – No one from the board is going to the Synod assembly. Beth Fladhammer is interested in joining the board. The board discusses continuing to meet prior to the council meetings, although with the change of council day and time, this may change. The board will not be sending anyone to the FELC-Zion partnership meeting. For the board job description, music for church is not decided months in advance, but we will try as far in advance as possible with our volunteer musicians. The board will also take out the "work with Zion" as that may not be every year. The board will plan and decide what action they want to take for VBS yearly. For the March report, there was normal Sunday School. It was a struggle to get teachers this time of the year and it's why the board ends in April. Milestone checks are happening in April. There is a meeting on Tuesday (4/15) for VBS. Ashley & Kaitlyn will attend. The kids singing in church went well. For the senior recognition gifts, the board will check with Kandra and do what they did last year, and see if she will be in charge of that. Our last day of Sunday School is April 27th, and the board hopes that the kids in church could recite their milestones as a group during the children's message. Someone will talk to Pastor about that. It will be a normal Sunday School day. Maybe there could be ice-cream sandwiches or root beer floats. Someone can ask Barbara about that. The board

would like to change the milestones to be separated by class because it's difficult to have 3 different milestones in one room. For Pre-k-K the board will learn "Now I lay me down to sleep..," for first-third they will learn John 3:16, and fourth-sixth, will learn the Lord's prayer. Volunteers received gift cards from the board for teacher recognition and a recognition will be added to the bulletin.

Youth & Family – Kari Dorry Reported – No one from the board will be able to attend the Synod assembly. Easter breakfast plans are underway. There will be an egg bake, cinnamon rolls, and cereal for the kids. There was a Thrivent gift card donation that will help to offset the price of eggs. 11 students attended the Senior High Youth Gathering. It was a great time. Archer & Bryson were elected to the Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO). For Senior Recognition, someone will ask Barbara to order the cake. Someone will ask Liz if she or the board sends out correspondence. For Youth volunteers, someone will get Ronda a DQ gift certificate for volunteering. There was a date set for a campfire event. Kaitlyn should be consulted before setting dates for these sorts of events. Concerning youth activities for the summer, Kaitlyn doesn't have anything planned this year, but she is in contact with Camp House about possibly fundraising and going there next year. Kari will not be on the board next year. Ashely hasn't been able to come because of the Council move to Sunday while she teaches Sunday School. Maybe she can do something next year if the council meeting is moved. Otherwise it is just Alan and Archer right now. The board continues to search for more members. The board job description looks fine and is approved.

Stewardship – Darin Ehrenberg Reported – Becky said she was interested in attending the Synod assembly. The board is okay with members for next year. The board approved their new revised job description. The board believes we should back up our files. We will figure out the microphones, we could upgrade the microphones to be a wider-pick-up microphone to be a little more forgiving for singers. For the Good News, the board will talk about Easter Breakfast, 1st Communion, and how the Lenten services alternating went.

Church Properties – Dale Price Reported – There is a 2026 mandate for an elevator upgrade. The company who has been servicing us since it was put in came out and gave us an estimate for the upgrade. Dale asked for a copy of the mandate from the state, but has not received it. We're being told it's about \$81,000 to upgrade it. The courthouse next door did an upgrade 3 years ago because they were aware of it. We were not told by that same company that we needed to. The courthouse decided to use a different elevator company to do their upgrade. The board will look into getting bids from other companies. The board did request some money for the Elevator upgrade from the Endowment fund. Spring Cleanup will be May 12th at 6 pm. The backup date will be May 13th (19th). The board does not have any additional members at this time. The board goes to Dean & Liz for help. The sidewalk is sinking by the corner and also by the stairs. There is a leak by the bell tower in the back stairwell. The board is requesting Gunner to come back. We have an estimate on the rotted window in the Narthex. We have the funds. That will be going to Gunner for replacement. That's a 4 to 8 week out project, because this is their busy season. That's not a safety issue. The crank has been taken off. There is also a mouse intrusion problem. Dean is going to see if we can have Plunkett's so a yearly mouse trap outside. The donation to put in new lights in the choir room was large enough that we could include six lights in the kitchen as well. That only took 2 days and they're doing well.

Jon explained the all boards items of backing up the computer & upgrading the sound system. All of the office documents that are in the "shared folder" are on the secretary's computer, so if that one has a problem, all staff could lose files. Barbara should find something good, dependable and that will hold all the files and store it in the church safe. There is an issue with the sound system – if one particular channel is not shut off, it will crack and pop even if it's not being used. This should be repaired or replaced.

Pastor Cheryl has put her "resume" (Rostered Ministers Profile) in to be considered for the called pastor, but she had to submit it to the South Dakota synod which has to submit it to the MN synod, so that's taking more time. The synod has highly recommended that if we are considering Pastor Cheryl for call we should not be considering anyone else at the same time, because it's not fair to the other candidate. There will be a training on May 4th at Zion for the call process. We have a full call committee – Josh Wollschlager wanted to be removed. Kirby Athey agreed to be on it.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Cheryl presented her report (via email) to the council detailing her activities, such as visits with members at FWV, First Communion Classes, and confirmation classes. She detailed the services that she would be leading during the Lent/Holy Week. She mentioned that there would be a speaker on addiction for the Youth Group (rescheduled to April 23rd). There was a suggestion that came up – and will go to the joint committee – to have services at 9 am during the summer and rotate between the churches. Pastor Cheryl will be going to the Synod Assembly and registered through Zion, but the cost will be split. The confirmation students have been doing a GREAT job with the Lenten services and attendance has been good. On June 21st there is a memorial service for Richard Verheul at 11 am at FELC. Pastor Cheryl was wondering if we allow Gideon presentations. She would like to remind everyone to communicate with the pastor to coordinate schedules between the congregations.

Motion to Adjourn Paula, Kristi **MSP** at 11:47 am.

Next council meeting will be on Sunday, May 11th, after church services.

May Newsletter for Youth

Thanks to everyone who attended the Easter Breakfast. Your support to the Youth is much appreciated.

Things are slowly coming to an end for this school year's activities. We will have finished Sunday School classes and the Youth Group by the first day of May. Thanks to everyone for the help and support throughout this past school year.

Thank you to all of our Sunday School teachers and to the Zupfers and Amy A for sharing their musical talents with the kids throughout the year.

Thanks to the youth who went out and cleaned and picked up trash in the area of Highway 75 that we tend on April 30th. You did a great job! We have signed an agreement with the state of Minnesota to continue to care for this stretch of highway for two more years.



We have 17 youth that will be attending Green Lake Bible Camp this summer. We will add the names each week that the kids will be there so that you can remember them in your prayers.

Coming up for May:

4th : Sunday Service with communion

11th- Happy Mother's Day to all our mothers.

18th: Today is Senior Recognition Sunday at church. We will be honoring Brooke, Hannah, Raimi, and Ava today during the service. The juniors and their parents will be helping serve cake and coffee following the service.

25th: Sunday Service with Noisy Offering. Ortonville High School Graduation at 2:00 pm. Best wishes to Brooke, Hannah, Raimi, and Ava on their big day.

26th: Memorial Day - Office is closed today.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Vacation Bible School will be held June 8-12th from 6:30 PM - 8:45 PM at Zion Lutheran Church. All children ages 4 years old-completed 6th grade are welcome to attend, this is a free community event! Registration will close once classes are full and/or on Monday, May 12th. During Wonder Junction, kids will explore key moments in Jesus' life, emphasizing the wonder of His birth, childhood, ministry, death, resurrection, and return. Each day will feature Bible lessons, music/songs, memory verses, crafts, snacks, and games that deepen kids' understanding of Jesus. We are so excited for you to join us as we travel through the Old West while we learn about Jesus and how to live for his glory – the greatest joy there is! Scan QR code below or visit the on-line registration link:



<https://zionparishmyanswers.myanswers.com/wonder-junction/>

Please select the grade your child will complete at the end of the current school year.

- Work also is being done on having three youth gatherings this summer again up at Zion. The dates are: June 18th, July 16th, and August 20th.

Thanks to the following people for their donation: Jim and Ranet Schmeichel in memory of Ruth Hansen and David Jergenson.

Parish Nurse Article for May

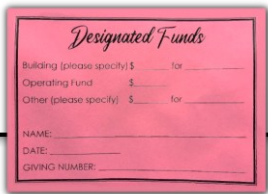
Experiencing the Freedom of Jesus



Jesus invites you to drop the baggage you try to carry through life. Give him the burdens that you were never intended to bear. You cannot reach out to others if your hands are already full. Take up Jesus' offer to travel light. Gratitude is a sign of freedom from want and contentment.

Jesus gives you hope because he knows the way you should go. Jesus your Shepherd has come to guide you through life. Keep your eyes on Jesus when fears surround you in your life. Remember that God is always with you in any fearful situation.

John 8:36- So if the Son sets you free, you are totally free.



If you do not have giving envelopes because you give electronically or by loose check, you can find generic pink Designated Funds envelopes in a basket in the Narthex.

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.

May 2025

Designated Funds

Building (please specify) \$
Operating Fund \$
Other Global Missions CS So Africa \$

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

Church & Community News

Mark your Calendar for Summer Youth Nights - Plans are underway to have a night of food, fun, and firepit this summer for the youth to gather together and enjoy some games and a campfire. The dates are June 18th, July 16th and August 20th. The youth nights will be held at Zion Lutheran Church, 806 Highland Hwy, on Wednesday evenings where the youth, completing 7th thru 12th, have plenty of room for outdoor games and to set up a campfire. I am looking for a few volunteers for the evening to bring and set up bean bag boards, volley ball nets, or other outdoor games, or play guitar as we sit around the campfire. Everyone will need to bring their own lawn chair. More information will be available in the June newsletter. Contact Pastor Cheryl to volunteer.



Thank You! A Huge Thank-you to the confirmation students for serving the congregations during the Lenten services and Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. You all did a GREAT job and your brothers and sisters in Christ, young and older, all appreciate it so much. Thank you also to those who helped with the Easter services. The organist, the choir and the brass musicians sounded fantastic. What a wonderful gift you all are to First English. Pastor Cheryl

All friends and family are invited to an OPEN HOUSE WEDDING SHOWER for Adam Helgeson and Brystin LaMont on Saturday, May 10th, from 2 to 4 pm at Zion Lutheran Church, 806 Highland Highway, Ortonville. Please stop in to visit with Adam and Brystin and have some lunch. Guys, you are welcome - it's not just for women! Hosted by Ellie Helgeson, Diane Lindquist, & Sandra Helgeson.

We are seeking a couple additional volunteers to help at the Tech Desk on Sundays. We'd like a few more volunteers for additional rotational support for these duties. If you have an interest in helping or want to ask more questions about the duties, please contact the Church office. We will provide formal training for all Tech Desk volunteers.

FELC and Zion are teaming up for a trip to Target Field on Thursday, June 26th, to see the Twins take on the Mariners at 12:10. We've got over 20 people interested so far! Come join them. The cost is \$50, which includes the ticket and food in the Legends Landing section. After the May 12th deadline, we will determine the best transportation option, but the cost is expected to be an additional \$20-30. Youth must be accompanied by an adult. Each person must fill out a separate registration form, which is available near the office. Payment is due when you turn in your form. Contact Deb at 320-815-8522 with any questions.



May 12th is the First English Spring Cleaning Day, with a backup date of May 19th. Please join us at 6:00 pm to help clean up the First English Lutheran Church grounds, flowerbeds, etc.

CentraCare Hospice currently has a high need for volunteers in our area and they're inviting you to consider learning more about this opportunity. Their spring volunteer training will be held at their Hospice Office in Willmar on Tuesday, May 13th and Thursday, May 15th. The 2-day training will give you a comprehensive look at the hospice program including communication and caring skills, pain management and symptom control, an overview of their complementary therapies, and more. They are looking for men and women of all backgrounds and do have a

high need for veteran volunteers. For questions or information, call Deb Van Buren at CentraCare Hospice - 320-231-4433.

The Annual Synod Assembly is at Gustavus Adolphus College June 6-7th. Similar to last year, the Assembly will tentatively begin Friday evening at 6 pm with hors d' oeuvres, networking, anniversary celebrations, and more! They are currently working on service projects with their mission partners, Global Refuge and Lutheran Social Service of MN, that would begin around 1 pm on Friday. Saturday morning will open with worship at 9 am. A full day of business will follow. All attendees will have the opportunity to hear from Bible Study Leader, Karoline Lewis, Marbury Anderson Chair in Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary and Executive for Worship, ELCA, John Weit. Onsite attendance is limited and will be based on a first-come basis so please register early! There is unlimited space for attending online. Please contact the church office to let us know if you'd like to attend as a FELC delegate. **We are still looking for a few delegates.**

Green Lake Lutheran Ministries invites you to "Ordinary Time," a faith-centered rhythm at Camp House in Brimson, MN, just 30 minutes from the North Shore. Pastors, musicians, artists, and educators will inspire participants' spiritual and creative sides, guiding all those present into an intentional Christian community. Camp House will be on Ordinary Time for five weeks this summer, June 14th to July 18th and August 14th to the 17th. Come on your own or with your family, friends, or youth group, for a few days or a full week. Stay as long as you need. GLLM.org/Ordinary-Time

The Church Council voted to suspend coffee fellowship for the summer months. The last day for coffee fellowship will be May 18th (Senior Recognition). In autumn they decided to have it on the first Sunday in each month, rather than every Sunday.

CAMP HOUSE OPENING WEEKEND (May 16-18, 2025): This weekend is **FREE!** You are invited to be the first guests at Camp House for our 2025 season! Join us as we throw open the windows, sweep out the cobwebs, and get the site ready for another season of programming. Tasks will include cleaning, setting up program areas, and some minor building maintenance. Meals will be provided. There are projects for all ages, so bring your family, friends, or youth group and help us welcome summer! Register by May 6th. Register online at: www.gllm.org



SENIOR RECOGNITION: Join us on Sunday, May 18th, during regular worship as we honor Brooke & Hannah Brown, Raimi Kelzer, and Ava Lovgren, who will be graduating this month. Thank you to the Day of Love for making the quilts which will be presented during the special blessing ceremony at the end of worship. Join us for cake at our coffee fellowship served by the Juniors and their parents following the church service. The Ortonville Commencement Ceremony is Sunday, May 25th.



KDIO BROADCASTS

.... **(April 6th)** was sponsored by Pastor Cheryl in memory of her son Joe Rondeau who passed away 10 years ago on this date.



.... **(April 13th)** was sponsored by Penny & Curtis Hormann in memory of Arlene Dockter, Inez Fraasch, & Ray Hormann.

.... **(April 20th)** was sponsored in memory of loved ones by Marilyn Hanson.

.... **(April 27th)** was sponsored by Garry & Ethel Swenson in memory of Garry's sister, Jeanette Bergstad who passed away on March 5, 2025.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING and COMFORT for Marcus Hanson, JoAnn Hasslen, Arlen LaCombe, Gail Olson, Harris Selvig, Beth Swanson, Brandi Tweeter, Jean Zielike; Monty Athey, Paul Erdman, Rosie Frank, Larry Helgeson, Natalie Henneberg, Sawyer Henningson, McCoy Jipson, Janice Redfield, David Scholberg, Jerry Stotesbery, and Sally Tyler. AT FAIRWAY VIEW NEIGHBORHOODS: Ricky Anderson, Arvilla Bergseth, Adeline Burgess, Jim Hipple, Vivian Janssen, Roger Nornes; Aletta Simonitch; and Mary Lou Olson in Madison. ALL OUR MILITARY who are deployed to areas of conflict, and South African students Sanelisiwe Dlamini and Andiswa Mbatha. If you would like a name added/removed, please contact the church office.



**CIRCLE FOUR**

Meets in the Church Lounge
on Wed. May 7th at 9:00 am.
Hostess: Kate Heinecke
Lesson: Ev Johnson



Thank you to those who donated Easter Lilies, plants, floral arrangements, or gave monetary donations to the Easter Garden.

The following were specially dedicated and given:

In loving memory of:

Richard Janke by Pat Janke

Pat Ketz and Donald & Corinne Tiegs by Liz Ketz and family

Dylan Wade by Tom and Sandy Rice

Mick Boone and Wes & JoAnn Strei by Richard and Marla Strei and family

Loved Ones by Dean and Anita Longnecker

Herman & Alice Ellingson & Adeline Brown by Dave & Deb Ellingson & family

Jerry Dragseth and Katie Dragseth by Marge Dragseth and the Karels family

Bonnie Hill and Leo & Darlene Barnhardt by Rick and Dawn Barnhardt

Sharon Pansch by Burton Pansch

Ernie & Goody Kanten by Judy Beckman

Dallas I. Hanson and Rev. LeRoy & Carol Mueller by Marilyn Hanson

Loved Ones by Glenn & Deb Henningson

In honor of: Lois Bergeson by the FELC Choir



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.

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.

'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.'

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

**NOTE: New time this month –
5:00 to 6:15 PM.**

Tuesday, May 20th, at 5:00 pm
at Big Stone Tabor Methodist Church.
The cost is \$6.00, and there is a free nursery available by reservation.

Speaker : Joyce Yexley, of Aberdeen, SD

**“A Broken Dream –
From Fiery Trial to New Purpose”**

**Music: Jody Kuper, soloist accompanied
by Bob Frink of Milbank.**

FOOD WILL BE SERVED & ALL ARE WELCOME!

For reservations call Paula Reisdorph (320) 760-9583

POPE FRANCIS

Bishop Dee Pederson Letter



I give thanks for the life, ministry, and witness of Pope Francis I. His compassion, mercy, work for justice, and his respect and love for all people reflect the way of Jesus for all of us. His servant leadership is a model for everyone, especially those of us called to leadership roles in the church.

Pope Francis was committed to being in relationship with people of all faiths. We have learned of the friendship of then Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Jorge Mario Bergoglio, with our own synod leader, Pastor Andrés Albertsen, when Pr. Andrés served as a pastor with the Danish Lutheran Church in Buenos Aires. I give thanks for the privilege of participating in our ecumenical work with the New Ulm Diocese, and the interfaith work of the St. Cloud Diocese. I was especially grateful for Pope Francis' contributions to the dialogues between Lutherans and Catholics and our work for the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification. We remember his participation, along with the Lutheran World Federation, in the ecumenical commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation on October 31, 2016.

I pray for all those who are part of the Roman Catholic Church and who grieve the passing of Pope Francis. As we are in dialogue together, I give thanks for our common Easter faith and our continued partnerships locally and around the world.

What a gift for this servant leader, Pope Francis I, to have been able to give his final sermon on Easter Sunday, and then pass from this life with Alleluias still ringing in his heart.

~ Bishop Dee Pederson

ALTAR GUILD TEAMS – May

Sacristy, Sanctuary, Surplices:

Banners:

Flower Committee:

Marla Strei & Amy Adelman
Julie Hipple & Jocelyn Schowalter
Paula Reisdorph & Carol Newman



SCHEDULING

KEYBOARD/ORGANIST

May 4: Kathy Haukos
May 11: Carol Ydstie
May 14* (FWV): Marilyn Hanson
May 18: Amy Adelman
May 25: Lisa Berdan
June 1: Amy Adelman
June 8: Kathy Haukos
June 11* (FWV): Lisa Berdan
June 15: Marilyn Hanson
June 22: Amy Adelman
June 29: Carol Ydstie

LECTOR

May 4: Sara Mattison
May 11: Christie Petersen
May 18: Jim Foster
May 25: Kelsey Kaye
June 1: Archer Dorry
June 8: Marge Dragseth
June 15: Amanda Stattelmann
June 22: Kathy Randall
June 29: Jon Ydstie

ACOLYTES

May 4: Martino & Meadow
May 11: Hannah & Brooke
May 18: Brianna & Jace
May 25: Nash & Dawson
June 1: Brandon & Lexi
June 8: Hartley & Kimberly
June 15: Mikaela & Liam
June 22: Madilyn & Ashton
June 29: Chase & Cameron

LAY ASSISTANTS

May 4: Terry Kalberg & Becky Parker
May 18: Kirsten & Bryson Karels
June 1: Lori Larson & Jim Schmeichel
June 15: Brent Zahrbock & Marla Strei

FWV Neighborhoods

May 4: Marge Dragseth & Jane Debner
May 11: Marge Dragseth & TBD
June 1: TBD
June 8: TBD
June 29: TBD

GREETERS

May 4: Marge Dragseth & Lexi Kaye
May 11: Paula Reisdorph & Ev Johnson
May 18: David & Deb Ellingson
May 25: Wollschlager Family
June 1: Brent Zahrbock & Ellie Helgeson
June 8: Bruce & Kris Redfield
June 15: John & Lila Salls
June 22: Art & Arlene Vollmer
June 29: Lois Bergeson & Marilyn Chindvall















SOUND SYSTEM

May 4: David Ellingson & Marina Thomson
May 11: Liz Ketz & Marina Thomson
May 18: Marge Dragseth & Marina Thomson
May 25: Terry Kalberg & Marina Thomson
June 1: Liz Ketz & Marina Thomson
June 8: David Ellingson & Marina Thomson
June 15: Marge Dragseth & Marina Thomson
June 22: Terry Kalberg & Marina Thomson
June 29: David Ellingson & Marina Thomson

USHERS

May 4: Ev Johnson, Ron Athey, Kim & Jon Anderson
May 11: Art Vollmer, Brent Zahrbock, Glenn & Deb Henningson
May 18: Dick Strei, Rodney Torgerson, Josh Wollschlager, & Dean Longnecker
May 25: Tami Lundberg, Marilyn Chindvall, Mel & Jackie Domine
June 1: Gale May, Dean Strand, Vern Nickolauson, & David Ellingson
June 8: Darin Ehrenberg, Eldon Knutson, Ellie & Harley Helgeson
June 15: Russel Thielke, Warren Wiese, Gale May, & Connie Newman
June 22: Eugene Stotesbery, Jim Foster, Gale May, & Keven Berdan
June 29: Eldon Knutson, Ron Athey, Tami Lundberg, & Josh Wollschlager



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>May 2025</i> † † † First English Lutheran Church				Daily Devotions are available @ www.firstenglish.net go to "Lutheran Faith" & then "Prayers, Study, & Devotionals."		
Pastor Cheryl's office hours: On Mon, she is at FELC from 10 am to 4 pm. On Tues, she is at Zion from 10 am to 4 pm. On Wed, she is at FELC from 10 am to 3:30 pm (and then teaching confirmation). On Thurs, she is at FELC from 10 am to 4 pm. She will be available by appointment as needed. You can contact her anytime via text (605-237-1501) or email her at CMQRondeau@outlook.com . <i>She will be out of town around Mother's Day for a day or two.</i>			30 9:30 am TV Broadcast 3:30 pm Confirmation (7-9th grade) At Zion Lutheran Church with Youth Group Ditch Walk to follow 5:30 pm TV Broadcast & FELC-Zion Joint Meeting 7:00 pm Senior Choir 	1 MAY DAY <i>National Day of Prayer</i> 	2 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	3
4 9:00 am Worship – Communion – KDIO Broadcast & Facebook Live 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Fairway View Pre-recorded 	5 Cinco De Mayo 11 am Staff Meeting 	6 8:30 am Day of Love 3:30 pm Evangelism Mtg. 4-5:00 pm Bible Study at Donnie's Diner (FWV)	7 EARLY OUT 9:00 am Circle 4 Bible Study (Church Lounge) 9:30 am TV Broadcast 1:45 pm Confirmation (7-8 th grade) 2:45 pm Confirmation (9 th grade) 5:30 pm TV Broadcast 7:00 pm Senior Choir	8	9 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	10
11 <i>Mother's Day</i>  COUNCIL MEETING 9:00 am Worship – KDIO Broadcast & FB Live (Jack Holmquest leading worship) 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship & Council Boards Meet 10:30 (or TBD) Council Meeting 10:30 am Fairway View Pre-recorded	12  11 am Staff Meeting 6 pm Church Grounds Spring Cleaning <div> MN Twins Game & VBS Deadline </div>	13 8:30 am Day of Love 4-5:00 pm Bible Study at Donnie's Diner (FWV)	14 9:30 am TV Broadcast 1:00 pm Fairway View Worship (Pastor Cheryl live w/communion) 3:30 pm Confirmation 7-9 th graders together 5:30 pm TV Broadcast 7:00 pm Senior Choir	15	16 9:00 am Bulletins Printed Int'l Day of Living Together in Peace 	17
18 Senior Recognition  9:00 am Worship with communion – KDIO Broadcast & FB Live 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship (grad cake)	19 11 am Staff Meeting (6 pm Spring Cleaning Backup Date)	20 8:30 am Day of Love 4-5:00 pm Bible Study at Donnie's Diner (FWV) 	21 9:30 am TV Broadcast 5:30 pm TV Broadcast	22	23 9:00 am Bulletins Printed 	24
25 9:00 am Worship – Noisy Offering – Favorite Hymns – KDIO Broadcast & Facebook Live 10:15 am WAM Meeting  	26  OFFICE CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY	27 8:30 am Day of Love 4-5:00 pm Bible Study at Donnie's Diner (FWV) NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	28 9:30 am TV Broadcast 11:00 am Staff Meeting 5:30 pm TV Broadcast 	29	30 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	31