



June Good News



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*

Office: 839-2527
Fax: 839-3319
Email: felcort@firstenglish.net
Website: www.firstenglish.net

Pastor Cheryl's Summer Office Hours: Mon 9-3, Tues (at Zion) 11- 5, Wed 11-5, Thur. 9-3
Secretary Summer Office Hours: M/TH 8:00 am–3:00 pm, T/W/F 8:00-12:00 noon
Building hours: M-F 8:00 am - 4:00 pm, Sat. & Sun. 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
Facebook: [@FirstEnglishLutheranChurchOrtonvilleMN](https://www.facebook.com/FirstEnglishLutheranChurchOrtonvilleMN)

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

June

**GOOD NEWS AT
FIRST ENGLISH
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13, *Faith, Hope, and Love, but the greatest of these is Love*. Many young couples choose this passage to be part of their wedding service because it reminds us that God Loves us and wants us to love one another. Our church message for this year is *Trust Steadily, Hope Unswervingly and Love Extravagantly*. There is no greater example of extravagant or unconditional love than the love of Jesus Christ. He made the greatest sacrifice: His Life for Our Life.



The transition between pastors can be a trying and often uncertain time for a church. To make things even more confusing, we began our consolidation process with Zion Lutheran Church during this time. We began this Good News Letter in an attempt to keep everyone focused on positive things that were happening in our church, as well as updates on the pastoral call and consolidation processes. We hope you have enjoyed these letters of faith, hope, and love.

The best news we can offer to you this month, is that Pastor Cheryl has submitted her request to be considered for the permanent pastoral position. She was interviewed by the FELC call committee and they have recommended her for the position. The church council approved their recommendation at the June council meeting. The final approval to call Pastor Cheryl for our church will be made on June 22nd at the Annual Election Meeting. Your voice is important in this process, so please plan to attend that meeting if possible. Please keep in mind that Zion must also approve her call for us to proceed.

Most of you have had the pleasure of working with or talking to Pastor Cheryl, but we thought it would be nice to get to know her a little better.

– The Board of Stewardship

Pastor Cheryl's Information for Good News Letter...

June 12, 2025

Since the congregation will be voting on accepting a call as pastor to First English and Zion Lutheran Churches, I have been asked to answer some questions about myself, so you get to know me better. So – here goes...

Where did you grow up?

I was born in Ortonville, MN and grew up on a farm a mile and a half East of Wilmot. SD. My parents were Walt and Evelyn (Martha) Quade. My dad was a farmer, carpenter (building a lot of round-roofed Quonset buildings throughout the area as well as other buildings) and a substitute mail carrier. I have 3 brothers. Two older and one younger.

Go to School?

I attended Lake # 3 Country School through the 7th grade and then went to town school and graduated from Wilmot High School. I've been to several colleges starting with the University of Minnesota, College of Engineering for Architecture; Turtle Mountain Community College in Belcourt, ND for Business; Lynn-Benton Community College in Albany, OR for Real Estate; Harmony Hill Community College in Watertown graduating with an Associate in Business Management; Mount Marty College, Yankton, SD with a Bachelor in Business Administration, emphasis in marketing, concentration in management and minor in history; Master's Degree in Mass Communication and Journalism with a minor in Education from SDSU where I was the recipient of the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors Assistantship; and I received a Master's of Divinity from Luther Seminary, St Paul commuting each week from Wilmot.

I am currently working on a Doctorate in Biblical Preaching focusing on the funeral sermon from Sioux Falls Seminary in Sioux Falls, SD. I also studied at Brooks Institute of Photography at Santa Barbara, CA; Effective Marketing Communications, Executive Center, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; Grant Writing USA with grant writing certification, Bozeman, MT; Leadership Plenty training through SDSU Cooperative Extension Service from Pew Partnership for Civic Change; and several computer applications certifications.

I enjoy learning and presented a paper at the US/China Joint Conference on Women's Issues in Beijing, China entitled: *"Education is Important to Obtain Management,"* and another to the Missouri Valley Adult Education Associate Conference, Rapid City, SD, entitled: *"Colleges Could Do More to Help the Adult Student."*

Places lived?

I've lived most of my life at Wilmot, SD (the last 35 plus years on the same corner); St Paul, MN; Lebanon, OR; spent time in Sioux Falls, SD and Maple Grove, MN and lived on the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation at Belcourt, ND.

Jobs?

I started out working as a grill cook (because I was a terrible waitress) at Trevett's Café in Milbank before Trevett's was Trevett's. Over the years I owned 3 restaurants/cafes: the Wilmot Café, Giggliotti's Sidewalk Café, and the Rendezvous Point Restaurant & Winery (all in Wilmot); I was a Real Estate Agent for Century 21, Accent Realty, Albany, OR; Edina Realty and REMAX in the Twin Cities; and Broker of Rondeau Realty; was the owner/editor/publisher of the Wilmot Enterprise for 10 years; Worked as a Marketing Communications Coordinator for 5 unit managers, for an international telecommunications company called Midcom, Inc in Watertown, SD; a computer trainer/applications specialist for Connecting Point Computer Center in Sioux Falls, SD, ProSource Education Services, St. Paul, MN, the Science Museum of Minnesota, St Paul, and Wayzata Community Education, Wayzata, MN; adjunct business instructor for Sisseton Wahpeton Community College, Agency Village where I researched and developed a Mass Communication program, an adjunct instructor for Mount Marty College, Watertown, SD, computer instructor for LATI in Watertown; and Director of Learning at the Corona Learning Center in Corona, SD; I was the bookkeeper for Ridge Electronic, Inc. of Webster, SD and did various business consulting, grant writing, press release writing, web design and economic development jobs. (I often held more than one job at a time.)

Family (Husband, children, grandchildren, etc.)?

I was married to Mark Rondeau (deceased) for 14 years and had six children; Christopher (Savage, MN), Samuel (Shakopee, MN), Daniel (Sandy Ut), Sally (deceased), Joseph (deceased), and Patrick (Bandera, TX). Some years after I was divorced, I married Scott Bassett of Wilmot (still married). I have 9 grandchildren: and 4 great-grandchildren.

Do you have hobbies?

I like to do yard work and gardening. I have built things like waterfalls out of rocks and cement (the birds love it and the pond below the larger waterfall). I put out a Leprechaun Village in the summer (not done yet this year) and thousands of Christmas lights in the winter. I play piano, guitar, fiddle, and tenor saxophone (but none well since I don't practice very much.) I enjoy jigsaw puzzles, but I don't dare start them since I can't stop working on them. I enjoy painting but haven't had time lately. I like to travel and hope to do more. I've been to China, Canada, England, Scotland, North Ireland (to see relatives), Virgin Islands, and the Holy Lands.

Anything else you would like to share?

I like to write and have published two meditation ebooks: *A New You: With Christ in your Heart*, and *A New Peace: In the arms of Jesus (the first is also in hardcover, the 2nd one I need to finish formatting for hardcover.)* I have 2 others written and need to be formatted.

I have a LOT of houseplants and in the winter, it is like a jungle in my sunroom. (If anyone would like a few houseplants to talk to this fall, let me know.) One rubber tree plant, named Ralph, got so tall I hauled to my sons house in the cities who has an open foyer so it could get past the 10-foot growth stage. (it's about 14 feet tall now - I have pictures).

Over the years in Wilmot I have served on the City Council, the Wilmot Lutheran Church Council (as president also), was their parish assistant at Wilmot Lutheran during two calls, am a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, and was an active member of the Wilmot Community Club and it's president where I put on several jamborees and wrote many variety programs including: *'Ole and Lena See the Stars*, *Cowboys Rules*, and *Just a Little Bit Country*. (To name just a few activities and membership.)

Previous calls?

I completed my internship at Triparish Combined Congregation while completing the last year of my seminary training. I was Ordained as a Word and Sacrament Minister in June of 2015.

Called to Triparish Combined Congregations of Faith Lutheran, New Effington, First Lutheran, Claire City, and Our Savior's of Veblen. 2015 to 2020.

Called to Grace Lutheran Church of Watertown, SD. 2020-2024

Following the death of my daughter and my mom 7 months later, I took a leave of absence for a few months in 2024, before coming to First English and Zion Lutheran in September.

As a minister, I have also taken Coaching Classes, attended the Festival of Homiletics, and Craft of Preaching Master Class to name a few.

As a minister, what are you passionate about?

I am passionate about preaching and love to read, study and contemplate upon the Word to proclaim it in a relevant and understandable way. That way can be different at times for the listener to hear the word anew. The Bible is the living word of God and what scriptures speaks to you or to another person can be different, than the next time you read it or how the other person hears it. That is the Holy Spirit speaking to us in God's perfect timing for what we need to hear in that moment.



I began studies for a Doctor of Ministry in Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary to increase my knowledge of biblically based preaching. In 2018, I transferred into the Kairos program at Sioux Falls Seminary. Then came COVID and loss that often sidetracked me but also gave me time to contemplate and do research on my topic: the importance of the funeral sermon.

Christian Education is also of the utmost importance not just for Sunday school and confirmation students, but for youth, young adults, the elderly and everyone in-between. I love to teach Bible Studies and open others up to the Word of God.

I am also passionate about youth. I feel working with young people is essential, not just because they are the future and we want to keep them coming, but because they have such a need to know the love of Jesus is for them personally, just as they are, and give them the hope they often long for in a confusing and violent world. I often ask people "if the youth don't learn about faith and Jesus now, when will they"? Once they leave home, statistics show they do not attend, and then how will a parent know their child will be waiting for them in heaven if they haven't given them the opportunity to learn and know they have been saved by grace. It's a heavy burden for a parent to carry following the death of a son or daughter, no matter what age they are when they pass from this world.

During my ministry, I have held lock-ins for the youth bringing in speakers to talk on life today as a teenager and what it means to have God in their lives. We've participated in Church on the Street in Sioux Falls, SD and taken service project trips to Churches United homeless shelter in Moorhead, MN with an overnight fun stay for youth and their families. We have held Youth Sunday where youth led worship service. I also accompanied a group of Youth to the Gathering in Houston.

I feel teaching and preaching the gospel message is social statement enough. In providing a solid foundation of our faith, scripture informs people of Christian values to live by that we hold dear and provides the source of our faith: the love of a Savior who lived and died for us even though we didn't deserve it.

There is much more in the Rosters Ministry Profile or feel welcome to come and ask me questions. I welcome the time to get to know you and hope there will be more time for that in the future.

What do you NOT do?

I don't do medical things – I'm not a nursing type of person. I don't faint when someone is bleeding – but when someone comes bleeding or injured, I have these deep sympathy pains in my stomach for them and take a while for me to "do" what should be done.

~ Pastor Cheryl