



First English Lutheran Church
9 NW 3rd Street; Ortonville, MN 56278
Rev. Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett, Pastor
Lisa Berdan, Senior Choir Director



Dr. Stephen and Jodi Swanson, Missionaries/Tanzania

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost – Backpack Blessing

August 24, 2025 CONTEMPORARY – FAVORITE HYMN SUNDAY 9:00 am

PREPARATION

Prelude

Bells

Welcome & KDIO Announcements

Peace:

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

GATHERING

Call to Worship: *(inspired by Luke 13: 10-17)*

Come, all you who are struggling.

Come, all you who are crippled by pain and suffering.

Come to worship a God who heals your pain.

Come to worship a God who gives forgiveness.

Let us worship God, who sets us free and gives us new life!

Gathering Hymn

Favorite Hymn

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(based on Psalm 103)*

P: Holy and Merciful God,

C: We confess to you our forgetfulness. We confront today our waywardness. We accept Lord that we are sinful. To turn to our past is to recall both your great acts of love and kindness... as well as many moments and situations where we know we failed you. Even still... your love remains. And so in humility and brokenness we pray We ask you to forgive. We ask Lord that you would heal. Buy us back, Lord, redeem us from our slavery to ourselves and our own way. Crown us again with your acceptance and care. Satisfy the real thirst of our soul.

Renew us with the strength that only you can give. Reveal yourself to us again as a God of grace... Rich in mercy, patient with our wandering. As far as the rising sun is from the setting sun, remove our sin from us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(based on Isaiah 58)*

P: Though you may have strayed, when you come to Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant, you can be sure that the kin-dom offered cannot be shaken. You will not be abandoned; indeed you will have continual guidance. Each time you feed the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted you grow in the strength of your faith and bond with God. You are changed. Praise be to God; you are forgiven and set free from bondage. **C: Thanks be to God!**

Hymn of Praise *'Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven'* vs. 1 & 2 #865
1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to his feet your tribute bring. Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore his praises sing. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King!
2. Praise him for his grace and favor to our forebears in distress. Praise him, still the same forever, slow to chide and swift to bless. Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious in his faithfulness!

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847, Music: John Goss, 1800-1880.

Prayer of the Day:

P: O God of all goodness, **C: you welcome us, forgive us and heal us. You seek us out from places where we have hidden from you. You crown us with steadfast love and mercy. Reveal yourself to us in this moment. Let us know your presence so that we may bless you: Bless you, O God! Bless your holy name! Amen.**

Duet *'There is Power in the Blood'* Lindy Lu Hammer & Russ Howard

WORD

First Lesson: Isaiah 58:9b-14 OT pg. 533

L: Word of God, Word of Life **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 103:1-8 ELW Psalm 103

L: ¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

C: ² Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—

L: ³ who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;

C: ⁴ who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;

L: ⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

C: ⁶ O LORD, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.

L: ⁷ You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.

C: ⁸ LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

L: Word of God, Word of Life **C: Thanks be to God.**

Second Lesson: Hebrews 12:18-29

NT pg. 176

L: Word of God, Word of Life **C: Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS!

Students are invited to come forward with their backpacks.

Children's Message First

Backpack Blessing – Come Follow Me!

P: Lord, we are at the start of a new school year.

C: So we bring these backpacks and the children who will carry them to your altar.

P: Just as you called your disciples to follow you and do your good work,

C: Bless these children as they carry these backpacks on their journey, filled with the tools they need to learn more about your world and work.

P: Just as you, our Good Shepherd, lead us to fertile fields and to find rest beside cool water,

C: May the contents of these backpacks fill and nourish their minds so they may be an abundant blessing of your love to others.

P: Just as they carry these backpacks with them whenever they go to school.

C: Go with them to each class, O God, and be with them in the classroom, the hallways, the lunchrooms, and playgrounds that they may know they are your hands of love wherever they go.

P: When these backpacks are opened at the start of the day

C: Open their minds to the many things you have to teach them and give them an eye for the blessings you have lovingly created and placed in each day.

P: When these backpacks are closed,

C: Help them to retain the knowledge learned and live in ways that are helpful to others as the Shepherd wills for our daily lives.

P: In all these things, Lord, let these backpacks and those who carry them be a constant reminder that you are truly the loving Good Shepherd to your sheep.

C: Called by you to share your love and good Word to classmates, teachers, friends and family.

P: Help them to see they are called and cared for by you in all things.

C: And a shepherd to guide and lovingly direct them as they journey through life.

P: Help them to utilize the many talents and skills you have gifted them with.

C: And to use them to your glory.

P: In this hope, bless these backpacks and the students who carry them... in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Go in peace children of God and remember God loves you...

C: Amen.

Noisy Offering

(children can collect their offering and then take their backpacks)

Gospel Lead In 'Open My Heart to Your Love' vs. 1 DRM pg. 217

Holy Gospel: Luke 13:10-17 NT pg. 58

P: The Holy Gospel according to... **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett

Sermon Song Favorite Hymn

A Testimony of Faith

**We believe in one God, who is Creator,
maker of all we see and all we don't see;
Who is Ruler of the universe:
Source of all creation!**

**We believe in one God, who is Jesus Christ,
God from God, Light from Light, true God and true human.
He is one with the Creator; the Word made flesh, our Messiah:
Savior of all creation!**

**We believe in one God, who is Holy Spirit, Breath of God moving among
us. Who is one with the Creator; one with the Christ; our Comforter and our
Guide; Our Healer for all creation!**

MEAL

Prayer Song 'Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying' WOV #775

Prayer for Others

P: God of love, **C: Have mercy on us.**

Offering Collection and Presentation

Offering

Offertory Hymn

Favorite Hymn

Offertory Prayer

Almighty God, who made us who we are, we offer all of ourselves to You. Take our talents, our energy and our joy, and use us to share Your love. Take our mistakes, our regrets and our pain, and use us to bring Your healing. Magnify the gifts we offer before You today, to spread Your peace in the world. Amen.

SENDING

Commission & Benediction *(based on Isaiah 58: 10)*

As you have been fed, go to feed the hungry.

As you have been set free, go to set free the imprisoned.

As you have been received – give.

As you have heard – proclaim.

And the blessing which you have received from the Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit be always with you and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Pastor Leaves

Announcements

Dismissal

L: Go in peace... blessed by God. **C: We will. Thanks be to God.**

Sending Hymn

Favorite Hymn

Bells, Postlude

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1 Corinthians 13:13 (MSG) But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.

Pastor Cheryl's Summer Hours: Mondays (FELC Pastor Office 9 am to 3 pm), Tuesdays (Zion Lutheran 11 am to 5 pm), Wednesdays (FELC Pastor Office 11 am to 5 pm, & Thursdays (FELC Pastor Office 9 am – 3 pm), or by appointment. Contact her anytime via text (605-237-1501) or email at CMQRondeau@outlook.com.

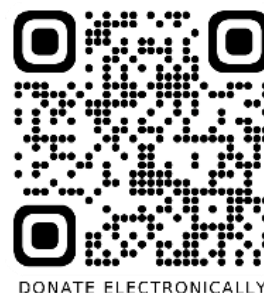
Welcome to all visitors and guests! May the joy of Christ fill you as we worship today. Friendship Pads are at the ends of each pew (by middle aisle). Fill them out, pass them on to your neighbor(s), and send them back to the middle aisle.

KDIO Radio Broadcast is sponsored in loving memory of Ray Bergeson from Lois and family. [2025 & 2026 Radio broadcast cards are available in the narthex; cost is \$100/week].

OFFERING UPDATE: You're encouraged to visit our webpage for Online Giving at www.firstenglish.net or scan the QR Code from the offering cards or bulletins.



	<u>July 2025</u>	<u>Year-to-Date 2025</u>
Offerings/Gifts:	\$15,791.84	\$121,924.05
Zion Receivable:	\$3,192.06	\$19,583.68
Total Revenue:	\$18,983.90	\$141,507.73
Expenses:	\$17,416.03	\$135,520.66
Balance:	\$1,567.87	\$5,987.07



DONATE ELECTRONICALLY

August's pink envelope emphasis is for our Baptism Chests. You can find special pink envelopes for designated giving in the Narthex.

Happy birthday wishes go out to Evelyn Olson whose birthday is this Friday.

Today is Our Annual Backpack Blessing – Let's send our congregation's kids into the new school year assured of God's promises and our loving support! During the service, children will come forward for a special moment of prayer and blessing.



Confirmation Orientation for 7th – 9th graders and their parents/guardians is this Wednesday at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary.

We need a couple of acolyte volunteers for next Sunday (Labor Day weekend). Please contact someone in the office if you are willing to help.

Congratulations and God's blessings to Gene and Marcella Stotesbery who will be celebrating 66 years of marriage, Aug 29th.

Coffee Fellowship will start up again beginning in September, however, it will be held upstairs in the narthex before our church service, so come a little early. Pastor Cheryl will be available for visiting. Bring your own cups with lids, or, if you forget, we will have some available for you here.

Before Pastor's installation service, September 28th, there will be a special welcoming coffee event from 8:00 am – 9:00 am downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Please come early that morning to help welcome Pastor Cheryl in as our officially called Pastor!

Pastor Cheryl's installation to our churches will be during our services on Sept. 28th.

Children's Dental Services will be at the Big Stone County Family Services on Tues, September 9th. See the flyer in the kiosk for more information.

If you would like giving envelopes for the new year and signed up or came into the office within the last year to get them, then you will be on the list for next year. But if you have not signed up or asked for envelopes within the past year and would like some for 2026, please contact someone in the office to request them.

Recognition of New Members Sunday will be October 5th. If you're interested in becoming a member reach out to Pastor Cheryl, someone on the Evangelism Committee, or grab a household record from the Narthex & turn it into the office.

Singers of all ages and instrumentalists are invited to be a part of our 4th community Christmas musical experience to be held once again this year in concerts on Dec. 6th and 7th at the Abbey of the Hills Inn and Retreat Center. The concerts will feature groups accompanied by talented musicians under the direction of Lisa Berdan. Large group practices will typically be held at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoons at FELC. An organizational meeting will be held Wednesday, August 27th, 6:30 p.m. at FELC. If you cannot attend that meeting, but still wish to be a part of this event -- or if you have any questions -- please contact Lisa Berdan (email lisamberdan@gmail.com). If it works better for you to be a part of the audience, please put the performance dates on your calendar, with more information to come!

Senior Choir practice will begin following the Christmas Concert meeting Aug 27th, at 7:00 pm. 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!

The Mental Health Task Force serving Big Stone County & BSC Family Services invite you to a special day dedicated to mental health and wellbeing, Aug 27th from 9 am to 3:30 pm in Clinton at the Clinton Memorial Building. See flyer for more info.

Thank you to everyone who donated jeans to the Day of Love. With those jeans we are able to continue making our graduation quilts. These quilts are made with the denim and stitches of love. Also, a big thank you to those of who have donated old cards for reprocessing. As the cards are reprocessed, it is fun to think of the joy that the card must have brought to the recipient. With reprocessing your cards, new cards have been created and are bringing joy and sunshine to someone else. Thank you for sharing and donating, it is appreciated



Prairie Five is having a senior expo Wednesday, September 24th. It will be held at 550 S 1st Street, in the Montevideo community center. Lunch will be served. The cost is \$12.00 and guests must register prior to the event. The registration deadline is September 10th. Please see the flyer in the Narthex for more information.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING and COMFORT for Angie Aschwege, Kelly Athey, Dawson Eyje, Harley Helgeson, Arlen LaCombe, Gail Olson, Harris Selvig, Beth Swanson, Brandi Tweeter, Jean Zielike; Monty Athey, Paul Erdman, Rosie Frank, Larry Helgeson, Natalie Henneberg, McCoy Jipson, Janice Redfield, David Scholberg, Jerry Stotesbery, and George Wegner. AT FAIRWAY VIEW NEIGHBORHOODS: Ricky Anderson, Arvilla Bergseth, Adeline Burgess, Jim Hipple, Vivian Janssen, Nola Lockwood, Roger Nornes; Aletta Simonitch; and Mary Lou Olson in Madison. ALL OUR MILITARY who are deployed to areas of conflict especially Jacob Hamann, Colin Hartman, Tyler Ruby, and Thomas Halverson; and our South African students Sanelisiwe Dlamini and Andiswa Mbatha. If you would like a name to be added/removed, please contact the church office.



Are You Called to Make a Difference?

Do you have a heart for helping young people grow in their faith and become confident, compassionate leaders? We are seeking a **Youth Leader** for the combined youth program of First English and Zion Lutheran Churches.

This is more than just a job; it's an opportunity to have a significant impact on the lives of young people in the Ortonville community. You'll be a mentor and guide, helping them navigate their spiritual journey and build a strong, supportive community.

About the Opportunity

- **Part-Time:** Approximately 10-15 hours per week, primarily on Wednesdays.
- **Your Role:** Guide, mentor, and inspire our youth.
- **Make an Impact:** Help shape the next generation of leaders in our community.

If you are passionate about working with youth, we want to hear from you!

For more information, please contact Pastor Cheryl at First English Lutheran Church, 9 Third Street NW, Ortonville, MN, or email CMQRondeau@outlook.com.

God's Work, Our Hands is coming up September 7th. There are signup sheets in the Narthex if you are willing to volunteer to help with an activity.

God's work. Our hands.



This Week's Ministry Assistants — August 24th

Organist: Kathy Haukos

Lector: Kathy Randall

Greeters: Bruce & Kristi Redfield

Acolytes: Archer & Lola

Tech Desk: Marge Dragseth & Marina Thomson

Ushers: Eugene Stotesbery, Jim Foster, Gale May, & Art Vollmer

Next Week's Ministry Assistants — August 31st

Organist: Amy Adelman

FWV: Mel & Jackie Domine

Greeters: Ethel & Garry Swenson

Acolytes: **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Tech Desk: Terry Kalberg & Marina Thompson

Lector: Marge Dragseth

Ushers: Eldon Knutson, Ron Athey, Tami Lundberg, & Josh Wollschlager

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sun – 8/24 9:00 am Worship – Backpack Blessing – Noisy Offering
– Favorite Hymns – Broadcast on KDIO & Facebook Live



Tues – 8/26 **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

8:30 am Day of Love

4-5:00 pm Bible Study at Donnie's Diner (Fairway View)

Wed – 8/27 **CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION**

9:30 am Channel 3 Broadcast

5:30 pm Channel 3 Broadcast

6:30 pm 7-9th graders with parents/guardians

Orientation for Confirmation in Sanctuary

7:00 pm Senior Choir

Fri – 8/29 9:00 am Bulletins Printed

Sun – 8/31 9:00 am Worship – Broadcast on KDIO & Facebook Live
10:30 am Fairway View Worship (pre-recorded)

Mon – 9/1 **LABOR DAY – OFFICE CLOSED**

