



First English Lutheran Church NEWSLETTER

September 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
Pastor

Dr. Stephen and Jodi Swanson,
Missionaries/Tanzania

Barbara Wegner, *Parish Secretary*

Liz Ketz, *Financial Secretary*

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Pastor Cheryl's Office Hours: Mon 10-4, Tues (at Zion) 10- 4, Wed 10-3:30, Thur. 10-4
Secretary Office Hours: M-Thurs 8:00 am–3:00 pm, 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





Notes from Pastor Cheryl



August 26, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"Ready or not - Here I come" – says September.

Exciting new things are happening in September

I was thinking of how as a child you play hide and seek and once in a while, you hide and then change your mind or think of a better place to hide and start to go for it just to hear those words – "Here I come" - and then...! You quickly must decide, do I stay in my hiding spot or run to the new one?



Psalm 61:4 tells us: "*You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.*"

So, in faith, we are deciding to try a new spot as we put our summer activities away and get back into the routine of school, work, and fall events... of which there are many... ready or not, it is time to come out of hiding.

"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast." (Psalm 139 7-10)

WORSHIP SERVICES:

To start off the month will be "God's Work Our Hands" Sunday, September 7th in both congregations. The services will be shortened to give everyone time to go out and do God's work before getting back together for a meal. There will not be communion on the first Sunday due to the shortened service. Additional information is in this month's newsletter.

The second Sunday of September is Rally Sunday and Youth Sunday. As our children and young people return to Sunday school and regular worship, the 14th will be a day dedicated to them and their activities. At First English, the Sunday school will take their annual trip to Lac qui Parle refuge following the service. At Zion, the children will be playing bingo with the adults for a fun activity prior to service. The Youth from both churches will lead the services on the 14th. Archer Dorry will preach at both congregations and youth will serve as readers, ushers, acolytes, and communion assistance. Pastor Cheryl will preside.

On September 21st, the third Sunday, there will be Bible presentations and teacher installation to add to the worship service. There will not be communion on the third Sunday. A baptism is scheduled for First and Acolyte training after worship at Zion.

Installation of Pastor Cheryl will be held on September 28th at both congregations. To allow more time for the service, communion, and Rev. Seyward to get to Zion Lutheran, services at Zion will start at 11 am.

COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR

New in September at First English there will be coffee set up in the narthex before church. The Evangelism team thought it would be a good time for fellowship for any who'd like to come a little early and since I am unable to stay following the service, it gives me an opportunity to visit with members. You are welcome to bring your own mug with a lid and take it into church. I hope to see you there.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHANGES:

First English will make some changes to the Sunday school program beginning on September 21st. The children will be dismissed following the children's message each week. The plan is to "go back to the basics, bible stories, memory work, craft station, game station, skip snack, and include memory verses."

The reason for this change is to increase Sunday school attendance and find more volunteer teachers. This will affect the order of the worship service at First. Special music is moving forward prior to the readings to allow chorus members to teach and the readings to be together so the break in readings will not be a distraction. The placement of the Sacrament of Holy Communion in the order of service will change, but not in September. Communion will take place following the Installation.

CONFIRMATION:

The confirmation program will continue much like last year. Orientation is the last week of August this year so classes will begin Wednesday, September 3rd at 3:30pm for 7th and 8th graders and 4:30 pm for the 9th grade unless there is an early out and then the times are 1:45 and 2:45 pm respectively.

With the large number of students in 7th and 8th grade, parents are asked once again to take turns sitting in class to eliminate behavior problems. Members of both congregations are also asked to sign up for this service as several parents work and not able to take off this early. Please call the office at First to add your name as a volunteer for when a parent is unable to be there or to sign up on a specific date, especially on early out days. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board next to the office at First.

We also need people to be at First English from 4:30 to 5:30 pm as there is no one in the church to supervise the 7th and 8th graders and Pastor Cheryl is in class. If you can help in this way, please sign up.

Snacks have been allowed in the past for confirmation, and a sign-up sheet is available on the bulletin board next to the office at First English. Parents take turns for this, but any other members of either congregation can donate snacks for a week.

ACOLYTE TRAINING:

Acolyte Training for 7th and 8th graders at First English will be on Wednesday, September 3rd following confirmation. Liz Ketz will oversee the training beginning at 4:30 pm. Youngsters at Zion will have their acolyte training on Sunday, September 21st, following worship service.

YOUTH GROUP:

Pastor Cheryl will be working with the youth group until a youth group leader is found. Orientation/organization for youth in grade 7th through 12th will be from 5:30 to 6 pm on Wednesday, September 10th. The meeting will be short with snacks provided. Plans are to begin meeting on Wednesday, September 24th with a meal at 5:30 pm followed by an activity from 6 to 7 pm.

- Twice a month (1st and 3rd weeks) the group will have a discussion and study on a particular topic related to their world.
- On the 4th Wednesday of the month the group will stay at the church for an activity which could be playing board games, watching a movie, or having a speaker in.
- If there is a 5th Wednesday, they will have an activity of their choice, seniority preference for this time.
- **The 2nd Wednesday of the month:** Parents and other adults from both congregations are asked to volunteer as the group will have an activity outside of First English following their meal for drivers and supervision. (Pastor Cheryl will attend the First English Council meeting). Activities may be to go to Fairway View Neighborhood and play a game with the residents, go caroling, have an outside sports event, take a tour, or whatever the group and parents decide. Parents should contact Ronda Thielke or Pastor Cheryl to volunteer. Parent suggestions are welcome.

Meals for youth are on a volunteer basis, and a sign-up list is on the bulletin board next to the office at First. Parents and members take turns providing a meal for the youth each Wednesday.

Youth group is important for the continued faith-based growth of our young people. Parents are encouraged to support the program and have their children attend.

GOING FORWARD TOGETHER

On September 1st, I will have been with you for a year. You have made great progress in your partnership and met many challenges of working together. You should all be complimented for the work you have done and the growth that has occurred. Be proud of what you have accomplished and look to the year ahead with excitement and creativity as you serve God.

We know that "*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.*" As found in Psalm 46:1.

The game of hide and seek is a fun kid's game that most of you played. But there are many developmental characteristics of the game that are beneficial.

Some are building skills for planning, communication and cooperation. Others are to practice courage, empathy and understanding.

Isn't it interesting that such a fun children's game can teach such valuable lessons for life?

We learn, as Job did: ²¹"His eyes are on the ways of mortals; he sees their every step. ²²There is no deep shadow, no utter darkness, where evildoers can hide. ²³God has no need to examine people further, that they should come before him for judgment." (Job 34)

As we go forward together in partnership and as the faith communities of First English and Zion Lutheran, we have no fear, for we know, "*He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High will abide under the shadow of the Almighty.*" (Psalm 91:1)

Gratefully Rejoicing in Christ for You!
~ Pastor Cheryl

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH BOARD MEETING Council Minutes – August 13th, 2025 (not yet approved)

Members present: Jon Anderson (president), Ellie Helgeson (vice president), Becky Parker (treasurer), Darin Ehrenberg - *Stewardship*, Mari Athey & Ashleigh Neuman - *Youth & Family*, Sara Wollschlager - *Christian Education*, Paula Reisdorph - *Evangelism*, Michelle Bauer & Emily Sigler - *Lay Ministry*, Dale Price - *Church Properties*, and Elizabeth Ketz - *Secretary*.

Meeting was called to order by President Jon Anderson at 6:07 pm. Pastor Cheryl led the devotions.

Approval of June Minutes as presented – Darin/Ashleigh **MSP**.

Approval of Treasurer's Report – Paula/Michelle **MSP**.

Board of Lay Ministry – Michelle Bauer & Emily Sigler– Ellie Helgeson will be the chair. There was no WAM, Endowment, or Finance report. At this time no one has applied for the Youth position but are willing to be more flexible with hours. Youth and Family will be responsible for the Sr Gifts. There is no need for a lay leader in October due to a change in Pastor's plans.

Board of Evangelism – Paula Reisdorph – Marla Strei and Paula Reisdorph will be the co-chairs for their board. Deb Henningson will be in charge of coffee before services in September and Marge Dragseth will do October to see how things go. Pool party was well attended 51 people came and a good time was had. The final Hymn Sing for the summer was held today. They were well attended. October 5th will be New Member Sunday. There are two families as of now that will be welcomed into the church on that date: Jackson and Taylor Athey and family and Betty Williamson. Transfer outs: Noah Zehringer and Keven Berdan. There are membership sheets available in Narthex. There is a Spanish pamphlet available in Narthex if we should have Spanish speaking visitors to explain FELC. There will be "Thanks for Popping In" packets for visitors and new members available in the Narthex. Magnets will be available on Rally Sunday for members to take. Evangelism will have a representative for confirmation interviews. Mission Sunday will be November 9th, and Day of Love will be talking about what they do and there will be a special offering held that day for them. Funds from the Giving Tree were distributed and given to various places on motion by Deb/Marge MSP.

Christian Education – Sara Wollschlager – Sara Wollschlager will be the chair. Carmen Zupfer is also on board. Will assign someone for each meeting to report. All the members of this board will take the training for insurance purposes with Protect My Ministry to cover Sunday School. Christian Ed will deal mostly with PreK-6 and Youth & Family will deal with 7-12. Rally Sunday will be on September 14th with activities to follow at the Refuge. Sunday School students will be dismissed following the Children’s Message to go to class at approximately 9:30 and run until 10:15. Sunday School classes will start on September 21st and will use the same curriculum as last year. This Sunday will also be the Bible presentation on this date to 3 yr olds and 3rd graders. Sunday School will not be doing snacks this year. Date for singing in church to be determined and Christmas Program practice will begin in November. VBS went fine this year, but the numbers seemed to be down. This board advised trying to do it a week earlier next year so not to run into Summer Rec. conflicts. Christian Ed and Youth & Family will continue to work on setting the amount that families will be asked to pay for attending Bible Camp. Efforts will be made to set times for the fun events so that the Zion Youth can also participate without having to miss church or possibly explore joint services for that day.

Youth & Family – Mari Athey & Ashleigh Neuman – Archer Dorry will be the board’s chair. Youth nights have been a good event for the youth over the summer. The final one will be on Wednesday, August 20th. Continue next year. Youth board agrees with continuing to assist families with Bible Camp fees and will be working with Christian Education to come up with what to ask the parents to provide cost wise in the next couple meetings. The Youth Board will be working on setting parameters of what being an active member of the Youth Group looks like in regard to the Scholarship given to Seniors at graduation time. The name going forward will be Youth Group. Fundraisers will continue to be Superbowl Subs, Easter Breakfast, Bake Sale, and Silent Auction along with looking at other options. National Youth Gathering will be June 28- July 2, 2027, in Minneapolis. Pastor and Ronda will handle the covenant night with the Youth Group. Synod Junior High Gathering is November 21-22, 2025, in Willmar. Families will need to step up to help with serving the meals for Youth Group and sitting in on classes during the 7-8th grade confirmation time. There will be sign-up sheets for both things, and they are open to any member of the congregation to sign up and help. Youth & Family along with Christian Ed will discuss next month opening the Youth Facebook page to entire congregation.

Stewardship – Darin Ehrenberg – Giving is down from last year by about \$8,000-\$9,000. Working on the theme for next year that coincides with the backpack theme of ‘Come and Follow Me’. Mark Block suggested a possible auction as a fundraiser for the elevator upgrade to help keep our funds available for future needs. Stewardship will look more into this more. Also, some discussion on a “Life Skills Workshop” for our congregation at some point.

Church Properties – Dale Price – Dale Price will be the chair. Three bids were received for the elevator upgrade. The lowest bid was from TKE, who is our maintenance company also. The final bid was \$59,000.00 with extra charges for local electricians. The board is working on building a new platform for Pastor to stand on behind the altar. Window in Narthex is still being worked on as there are still a few issues there. Air conditioning is working but we will need to do an upgrade to the power vent in the future. There is an issue with condensation on the trunk line in the ceiling in the choir area. The vent needs to get wrapped to prevent dripping and molding. The bid from Larry’s Refrigeration is \$2,968.76. There is still leaking from the Bell Tower, and the board is continuing to work on getting this issue corrected. The board also recommends that new office chairs be purchased for Pastor and the two-office staff. Pastor Cheryl provided information on proposed microphone/computer upgrade. A list of hardware/software inventory was compiled, Shure micro recommended, and proposed timeline for project completion by the beginning of June 2026 to coincide with joint worship at Zion Lutheran, providing a two-week window for installation and training.

Pastor’s Report– Everyone received a copy of the Pastor’s Report. Kaitlyn Burdorf submitted her resignation as Youth Director effective August 21st. A card was sent around for all the boards to sign thanking her for her service. Ronda Thielke will be coming in to discuss with Pastor how Youth Group will be run and when they will be meeting. This will help carry us over until we get a new Youth Director. There is a change in that Pastor will not be taking off the Sunday’s reported in her report because of conflicts with other’s schedules.

ALL BOARD ITEMS:

- Everyone looked over job descriptions (except Christian Ed) and are ok with what was printed
- Council will meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month beginning at 5:30 PM for each individual board and the full Council Meeting (with all boards sending a representative) at 6:00 PM. Boards may meet ahead of this time and just send a representative to the full council meeting at 6:00 PM. This meeting will be held either in the Sanctuary or in the Narthex.
- Most groups agreed to give the coffee before the service option a try. The Evangelism Board is heading up the months of September and October to see how things go. This would only be coffee and no treats.
- Names submitted for help during installation service: Ellie Helgeson, Darin Ehrenberg, Amanda Stattelman. Other suggestions included Jon Anderson (who will be gone), Archer Dorry, Jyla Dahle.
- Liz Ketz will be working with the new mentors and the Board of Education to get the Protect My Ministry requirements completed.
- God’s Work Our Hand Sunday will be run much like last year with volunteers signing up to do various activities. Amanda Stattelman has volunteered to do one activity, and Cody Backstrand will head up the Birthday Bags again. Other suggested activities included: Muffins for Public Servants, Headstone cleaning, Ditch clean-up (Youth and Families will head this up with the Youth Group).
- Pastor will keep everyone updated on Confirmation Interviews and invite each board to send a representative to be a part of it.

COUNCIL ACTIONS:

- Motion by Ellie/Michelle **MSP** to approve transfers in for Betty Williamson and Jackson & Taylor Athey Family and transfers out for Noah Zehringer and Keven Berdan.
- Motion by Darin/Becky **MSP** to approve request for \$2,968.76 to Larry’s Refrigeration to Insulate main floor trunk to eliminate dripping in basement choir area.
- Dale/Darin **MSP** to accept TKE bid of \$59,000.00 plus local expenses to be determined for electrical to modernize the elevator to meet state codes.
- Dale/Becky **MSP** to allow the purchase of 3 new chairs for use in the Pastor’s office and main office.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:38 PM.

Lord’s Prayer was said by all.

Next Council Meeting scheduled for: Wednesday, September 10th at 5:30 PM.

Zion/FELC Partnership MEETING

Partnership Council Minutes – August 12th, 2025 – 5:30 p.m. at Zion (not yet approved)

Attendance: Jerry Reupke, Sara Tollakson, Jeremy Tollakson, Ellie Helgeson, Jon Anderson, Becky Parker, Pastor Cheryl
Meeting was called to order by Chairman Reupke.

Pastor led us in devotions and prayer based on Psalm 82.

The Council will need to meet prior to recommending a benefit package for Pastor at our council meetings in October. This will be for insurance and retirement benefits with salary decisions to come at budget time.

Pastor Cheryl will be installed at each congregation on Sunday, September 28. She has requested Zion to move their service to 11 a.m. just for that Sunday to accommodate a longer service.

Pastor Cheryl's activity report has been sent to councils. There is one addition of a Day of Love Mission emphasis on November 9.

Communion for September is on the 2nd and 4th Sundays due to God's Work Our Hands Sunday and Communion scheduled for the installation on the 28th .

It is imperative that each congregation strive to accommodate all youth in joint activities without interrupting their church attendance. Youth sharing activities is a priority.

Sunday School structure will be discussed at the August council meeting.

No one has applied for the youth director position. Pastor thought we should consider making it more flexible with 15-20 hours. Pastor is considering staying and helping with youth activities after confirmation classes.

The group stressed how important it is to remain connected by activities, even if we are two congregations. We are proud of our progress in this partnership.

Next Partnership Council meeting will be on October 7, at 5:30 p.m. at FELC.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Becky Parker, Secretary

September Newsletter for Youth

Our summer is quickly coming to an end, and I have to say that August was a fairly quiet month. The final summer youth gathering was held at Zion on Wednesday, August 20th. This seemed to be a hit with the students so we will hopefully continue this again next summer.

Our Backpack Blessing event on Sunday, August 24th was well attended, and we wish a year full of blessings to all our youth as they return to school.



If your 7th grade confirmation student has not picked a mentor for their confirmation years, please get this done as soon as possible. We will be having our FALL MENTOR/MENTEE meeting on Sunday, September 21st right after the church service. We will try to be done by 10:45 am. Our new mentors will need to have a background check and do the Protect My Ministry training if they have not done so in the last few years. I, Liz, will be contacting them about this.

September:

- 1- Labor Day- Office closed
- 3-Confirmation Classes: 7th-8th 3:30-4:30 PM
7th grade Acolyte Training will be held following confirmation class at 4:30. It should take about ½ hour. Any 8th grader who wishes to attend for a refresher is welcome
9th- 4:30-5:30 PM
- 7- Gods Work Our Hands Sunday
- 10- Confirmation Classes: 7th-8th 3:30-4:30 PM
9th- 4:30-5:30 PM
Youth Group Orientation Meeting: 5:30-6:00 PM
- 14- Rally Sunday -Right after the service students will meet with their parents down at the Refuge. Parents will fill out the paperwork at that time.
- 17- Confirmation Classes: EARLY OUT 7th -8th 1:45-2:45 PM
9th 2:45-3:45 PM
- 21- Bible distribution to 3-year-olds and 3rd graders during church 9:00 AM. NOISY OFFERING will be collected today. Regular Sunday School classes will begin today. Students will be dismissed following the Children's Message and will then go to class which will run until 10:15. **MENTOR/MENTEE** meeting immediately after church. We will try to be done by 10:45 am.
- 24- Confirmation Classes: 7th-8th 3:30-4:30 PM
9th- 4:30-5:30 PM
Youth Group: 5:30 -7:00 PM for all 7th -12th graders.
- 28- Installation of Pastor Cheryl.
Sunday School at regular dismissal time following the Children's Message





Parish Nurse Article for September

Colossians 1:13-14 He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sin.

The list of every human’s failure and short comings is a long one, but the blood of Jesus on the cross blotted out the list of your sins. God allows us to make our own choice when it comes to following him and choosing where we want to spend eternity.

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.**

September 2025

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

Church & Community News

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!

Noisy Offering will be moved to September 21st so as not to have it during Pastor Cheryl's installation.

Greenwood Cemetery is looking for donations. The roads need to be redone, and the expense is above & beyond their current budget. Any donation would be greatly appreciated. You can mail your donation to Greenwood Cemetery, PO Box 41, Big Stone City, SD 57216. If you have any questions, contact Rick Barnhardt at (605) 880-0407.

Congratulations and God's blessings to

...Jackson & Taylor Athey on the baptism of their triplets: Reagan Erin, Lincoln Ray, and Cohen Lee Athey! The baptism was held here, Saturday, August 2nd. Reagan's sponsors are Isaac Knutson & Erin Dammann. Lincoln's sponsors are Anne Johnson & Skylar Johnson. And Cohen's sponsors are Paige LeRoy & Ashley Athey.

...Gene and Marcella Stotesbery who celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary, Aug 29th.

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.



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.

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.

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.

You're invited to a Turkey Dinner and Fall Bazaar at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Baxter (on Hwy 212 between Dawson and Montevideo) September 10th. Serving begins at 4:30 pm. Menu includes: Turkey & Dressing, Potatoes & Gravy, Carrots & Coleslaw, Lefse, Bread & Butter, Pie, and Coffee. Music provided by Dr. G's Band. Adults - \$15.00, Children 4-12 yrs - \$7.50, 3 years and younger – free. Take-out dinners* available at back entry available until 6:15 pm (*adult price only). Air-Conditioned.

Healing Waters Parish invites you to their Free-Will Fundraiser on September 14th, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. There will be Burgers, Pie & Ice Cream, and a Quilt Raffle (need not be present to win). The raffle tickets are \$2 each or 3 tickets for \$5. The fundraiser will be held at Clarkfield Community Center (904 10th Ave. in Clarkfield).

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 (Hamballs, baked potato, vegetables, & dessert). Highlights: Speaker VJ Smith (author of The Richest Man in Town), countryside public health (blood pressure and other information), Prairie Five Program info, and much more! The cost is \$12.00 and guests must register prior to the event. To register send payment, your name, address and phone number to Prairie Five Community Action, PO Box 159, Montevideo, MN 56265. The registration deadline is September 10th. You can call (320)269-6578 or email p5meals@prairiefive.org for more info.

KDIO BROADCASTS

- **(August 3rd)** was sponsored in memory of Larry Haukos from Kathy Haukos and family.
- **(August 10th)** was sponsored in honor of Jim & Neva Foster's 50th wedding anniversary by them. "We have had many blessings through the years." – Jim & Neva
- **(August 17th)** was sponsored by Tom & Sandy Rice in honor of their 58th anniversary which was August 15th.
- **(August 24th)** was sponsored in loving memory of Ray Bergeson from Lois and family.
- **(August 31st)** was sponsored in memory of Patrick Ketz whose birthday would be today by Liz Ketz and family.

We inadvertently missed a KDIO sponsorship from Pastor Cheryl in memory of Joe Rondeau who's 10th heavenly birthday is August 8th.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING and COMFORT for Angie Aschwege, Kelly Athey, Dawson Evje, Harley Helgeson, Arlen LaCombe, Gail Olson, Harris Selvig, Beth Swanson, Brandi Tweeter, Jean Zielike; Bishop Craig Anderson, 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.



God's Work, Our Hands Is Coming Up!

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 will be honoring God's work, Our Hands on September 7th, through a variety of service acts and community gratitude recognition. We will be putting together birthday bags for the food shelf, making appreciation muffins for local workers (Sheriff's office, Ambulance office, Hospital Nursing Desk, City Workers), trimming bushes, gravestone cleaning, making birthday cards, and doing ditch cleanup.

If you won't be able to make it to our church that morning, but would like to participate, we will also be collecting items to donate to Mainstreet Industries & Someplace Safe. There is a drop off box in the Narthex. Items being collected include: Dental Hygiene products (toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, dental floss, etc.), Bathing products (shampoo, conditioner, body wash/soap, etc.), Menstrual products (tampons, disposable pads, etc.), Deodorant, Lotion, Chapstick/Lip Balm, Nail Clippers/Nail Files, Toilet Paper, Kleenex, Combs/Brushes, Diapers/Wipes, Cleaning products, Art Supplies (markers, colored pencils, crayons, pens), Word search books/Seek and Find, Fidgets & Post it Notes.

And if we get someone to chair this, there will also be a potluck meal at the church for after the activities. Please find the sign up sheet in the Narthex and sign up with what you are willing to help with that day. We need people to chair the activities or else we can't have them.



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.



A Community Christmas Musical Opportunity for Singers & Instrumentalists

While we may not be ready to say good-bye to summer, the Christmas season is all too soon upon us! 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 First English Lutheran Church.

An organizational meeting was held Wednesday, August 27th, 6:30 p.m. If you couldn't attend that meeting, but still wish to be a part of this event -- or if you have any questions -- please contact Lisa (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!



Upcoming Stonecroft Ministries Sponsored By Women's Connection

Tuesday, September 16th, at 5:30 pm
at Big Stone Tabor Methodist Church.
The cost is \$6.00, and there is a free nursery
available by reservation.

Speaker: Carlotta Rasmussen, of Jamestown, ND
Her talk is titled:

“Paint and Repurpose” ~ Special Feature ~

Silent Auction Bring items to bid on like produce,
baked goods, decorations, books, etc.

Fundraiser for Stonecroft Ministries

Music: Amy Adelman, pianist

FOOD WILL BE SERVED & ALL ARE WELCOME!

For reservations call Paula Reisdorph (320) 760-9583



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.'



Meets in the Church Lounge on
Wed., September 3rd at 9:00 am.
Hostess: Kate Heineke
Lesson: Carol Bell

SEPTEMBER 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

ALTAR GUILD TEAMS – September

Sacristy, Sanctuary, Surplices:

Banners:

Flower Committee:

Misty Wittnebel & Nikki Evje
Julie Hipple & Jocelyn Schowalter
Ellie Helgeson



SCHEDULING

KEYBOARD/ORGANIST

Sept. 7: Kathy Haukos
Sept. 10* (1 pm FWV): Amy Adelman
Sept. 14: Lisa Berdan
Sept. 21: Amy Adelman
Sept. 28: Carol Ydstie
Oct. 5: Kathy Haukos
Oct. 8* (1 pm FWV): Marilyn Hanson
Oct. 12: Amy Adelman
Oct. 19: Lisa Berdan
Oct. 26: Carol Ydstie

LECTOR

Sept. 7: Brent Zahrbock
Sept. 14: Youth Reader(s)
Sept. 21: David Ellingson
Sept. 28: Liv Wollschlager
Oct. 5: Becky Parker
Oct. 12: Kelsey Kaye
Oct. 19: Jim Foster
Oct. 26: Confirmands

ACOLYTES

Sept. 7: Brandon & Lexi
Sept. 14: Nash & Mia
Sept. 21: Liam & Mikaela
Sept. 28: Kimberly & Hartley
Oct. 5: Dawson & Gibson
Oct. 12: Liv & Amelia K.
Oct. 19: Miley & Kylie
Oct. 26: Oliver & Katelyn

LAY ASSISTANTS

Sept. 14*: Youth Leaders
Sept. 28*: Lori Strei & Lori Larson
Oct. 5: Brent Zahrbock & Jim Schmeichel
Oct. 19: Kirsten & Bryson Karels
Oct. 26: Confirmands

FWV Neighborhoods

Sept. 7: Becky Parker & Marge Dragseth
Sept. 14: Kim Anderson
Oct. 5: TBD
Oct. 12: TBD

GREETERS

Sept. 7: Dean & Anita Longnecker
Sept. 14: Terry Kalberg & Sharon Carlson
Sept. 21: Glenn & Deb Henningson
Sept. 28: Sandy & Tom Rice
Oct. 5: Mentor & Mentee Volunteers
Oct. 12: Mentor & Mentee Volunteers
Oct. 19: Mentor & Mentee Volunteers
Oct. 26: Mentor & Mentee Volunteers

SOUND SYSTEM

Sept. 7: Liz Ketz & Marina Thomson
Sept. 14: Kim Anderson & Marina Thomson
Sept. 21: Cody Backstrand & Terry Kalberg
Sept. 28: David Ellingson & Marina Thomson
Oct. 5: Marge Dragseth & Marina Thomson
Oct. 12: Terry Kalberg & Marina Thomson
Oct. 19: Kim Anderson & Matt Karels
Oct. 26: David Ellingson & Marina Thomson





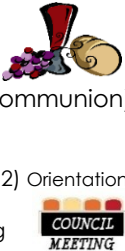














USHERS

Sept. 7: Ev Johnson & Ron Athey
Sept. 14: Art Vollmer, Brent Zahrbock, Glenn & Deb Henningson
Sept. 21: Dean Longnecker, Josh Wollschlager, Jim Foster, & Dick Strei
Sept. 28: Tami Lundberg, Marilyn Chindvall, Mel & Jackie Domine
Oct. 5: Gale May, Dean Strand, Vern Nickolauson, & David Ellingson
Oct. 12: Darin Ehrenberg, Eldon Knutson, Ellie & Harley Helgeson
Oct. 19: Russ Thielke, Warren Wise, Gale May, & Connie Newman
Oct. 26: Eugene Stotesbery, Jim Foster, Gale May, & Art Vollmer



* September communion will be on the 2nd & 4th Sunday due to GWOH & the Installation Service



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>September 2025</i> † † †			First English Lutheran Church <small>Pr. Cheryl is at Zion Tuesdays</small>		<small>Daily Devotions are available @ www.firstenglish.net go to "Lutheran Faith" & then "Prayers, Study, & Devotionals."</small>	
Aug. 31 9:00 am Worship – Noisy Offering – KDIO Broadcast & FB Live 10:30 am Fairway View Pre-recorded	1 Office Closed LABOR DAY	2 8:30 am Day of Love 3:30 pm Evangelism Mtg (Pastor Cheryl will attend) 4-5:00 pm Bible Study at Donnie's Diner (FWV)	3 9:00 am Circle 4 (Church Lounge) 9:30 am TV Broadcast 11:00 am Staff Meeting 3:30 pm Confirmation (7-8) 4:30 pm Confirmation (9) 4:30 pm 7 th – 8 th grade acolyte training (sanctuary) 5:30 pm TV Broadcast 7:00 pm Senior Choir	4	5 9:00 am Bulletins Printed 	6 
7 God's Work, Our Hands  Before Service – Coffee Fellowship 9:00 am Worship – KDIO Broadcast & Facebook Live 9:30 am Community Service Projects 10:30 am Fairway View Pre-recorded Following GWOH – Potluck Lunch (if we get someone to chair this) 4-5:15 pm Christmas Cantata Practice	8 11 am Staff Meeting 	9 8:30 am Day of Love 4-5:00 pm Bible Study at Donnie's Diner (FWV)	10 9:30 am TV Broadcast 1:00 pm Fairway View Worship (Pastor Cheryl Live w/communion) 3:30 pm Confirmation (7-8) 4:30 pm Confirmation (9) 5:30 pm -6:00 pm Youth Group (7-12) Orientation 5:30 pm TV Broadcast 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm Council Meeting 7:00 pm Senior Choir 	11 September 11 th REMEMBRANCE DAY 	12 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	13 
14 Rally Sunday  Before Service – Coffee Fellowship 9:00 am Youth-led Worship – communion – KDIO Broadcast & Facebook Live 10:00 am Youth at Wildlife Refuge 10:30 am Fairway View Pre-recorded 4-5:15 pm Christmas Cantata Practice 	15 11 am Staff Meeting	16 8:30 am Day of Love 4-5:00 pm Bible Study at Donnie's Diner (FWV)	17 Early Out 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	18	19 9:00 am Bulletins Printed 	20 
21 Bible Presentation & Mentor Mtg  Before Service – Coffee Fellowship 9:00 am Worship – Baptism of Norah Jayme Haukos – Noisy Offering - Bible Presentation – KDIO Broadcast & FB Live 9:30 – 10:15 am Sunday School 10:00 am Mentor/Mentee Mtg. 4-5:15 pm Christmas Cantata Practice 	22 11 am Staff Meeting 1st Day of Autumn 	23 8:30 am Day of Love 4-5:00 pm Bible Study at Donnie's Diner (FWV)	24 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9:30 am TV Broadcast 3:30 pm Confirmation (7-8) 4:30 pm Confirmation (9) 5:30 pm Youth Group (7-12) & TV Broadcast 7:00 pm Senior Choir	25 	26 9:00 am Bulletins Printed 	27 
28 Installation of Pr. Cheryl  8:00-9:00 am – Special Coffee Welcoming in Fellowship Hall 9:00 am Worship – Communion – KDIO & Facebook Live 9:30 – 10:15 am Sunday School 1-3:30 pm Fellowship Hall Reserved 4-5:15 pm Christmas Cantata Practice	29 11 am Staff Meeting	30  8:30 am Day of Love 4-5:00 pm Bible Study at Donnie's Diner (FWV)	Pastor Cheryl's Hours: Mondays (FELC Pastor Office 10 am to 4 pm), Tuesdays (Zion Lutheran 10 am to 4 pm), Wednesdays (FELC Pastor Office 10 am to 3:30 (and then teaching confirmation classes), & Thursdays (FELC Pastor Office 10 am – 4 pm (unless up at FWV/or visiting members) or by appointment. Contact her anytime via text (605-237-1501) or email at CMQRondeau@outlook.com .			