

First English Lutheran Church NEWSLETTER

January 2026



<u>FELC</u> <u>Mission Statement</u>

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*Barbara Wegner, *Parish Secretary*Liz Ketz, *Financial Secretary*

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





Notes from Pastor Cheryl



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I'm writing this, the wind is blowing over 50 miles an hour with reports of gusts as high as 70 mph. It's a good day to stay home and inside. I've always like snowstorms when I can be at home. It gives time to slow down, reflect, and just to get away from the busyness of work to consider all that God is calling me to do

Working from home is a time to evaluate the challenges that go with forming a partnership between two congregations. All congregations have their personalities. Few congregations within proximity share similar dispositions or they wouldn't be separated.

In trying to bring two unique perspectives together, differences are sure to come out, especially when one has never had to share a pastor or their way of doing things with others.

Combining that challenge is the workings in each congregation itself through various committees and boards. We read in Psalm 133: 1 "How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity." But unity is difficult without communication.

Proverb offers us the wisdom of good communication saying, ¹² Before destruction one's heart is haughty, but humility goes before honor. ¹³ If one gives answer before hearing, it is folly and shame." and "⁵ Let the wise also hear and gain in learning, and the discerning acquire skill,".

Our human nature is to think of ourselves first because we are fallen creatures. Jesus taught how we are to fight against our sinful desire, as Paul wrote in Philippians 2 saying "³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others."

Jesus understood how self-centeredness will result in disregard of others when our focus is on our own desires and needs. It increases moral deterioration rather than God's will and a life that honors God through our service to others. We come up with all kinds of excuses to do what we want, when we want, and allow our thought to be manipulated by Satan's recurring question of "Did God really mean..." Or "God doesn't care if I do it this way..."

Paul warned of this as he wrote to the Romans, "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,". Jesus Himself came to serve and gave an example when He washed the feet of the disciples and lowered Himself in the form of a human to die on a cross like a criminal for our sake.

We all have gifts and we are blessed that many share those gifts. We are all busy and have the same number of hours in a day to take the time to communicate with others as we work to live in harmony. This simple gift of consideration provides unity between the partnership and amid committees within each, eliminating resentment and anger when the others' needs are not taken into account.

James wrote, "¹⁴ But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵ Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶ For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind."

Our congregations have God given gifts to humbly and faithfully serve in the unique mission and ministry given to each. The opportunity for a partnership was a gift given in God's most perfect timing as a benefit and blessing.

The opportunity to serve on a committee or board is a calling to use the gifts you have been blessed with to hear and gain knowledge from others to serve God in new and exciting ways. Consideration and response to that calling requires working together in harmony, uniting within and outside of each congregation. And that consideration is to communicate with others and "look to the interest of others."

"For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another." (Gal 5:13)



FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH BOARD MEETING Council Minutes – December 14, 2025 (not yet approved)

Members present: Jon Anderson (president), Ellie Helgeson (vice president) and *Lay Ministry*, Becky Parker (treasurer) and *Stewardship*, Mari Athey - *Youth & Family*, Jennifer Anderson - *Youth & Family*, Darin Ehrenberg - *Stewardship*, Amanda Stattelman - *Christian Education*, Deb Henningson - *Evangelism*, Dale Price - *Church Properties*.

Meeting was called to order by President Jon Anderson at 10:36 am. Approval of November Minutes as presented – Ellie. Amanda MSP. Approval of Treasurer's Report – Darin, Deb MSP.

The Finance Work Group met after Lay Ministry, so those minutes are not yet approved. A member from the Board of Lay Ministry will need to be appointed to the Finance Work Group as Brent Zahrbock and Keven Berdan can no longer serve on it. The capital improvement fund should be able to cover the Elevator bill in 2026 (The Endowment Fund usually gives some to Capital Improvement as well). There is enough in the checking account to cover the remainder of the Technology Upgrade (left after our dedicated Tech Fund is depleted). The Finance Work Group would like the Endowment committee to liquidate the Ministry Investment Fund and distribute those funds in the coming year.

Board of Lay Ministry – Ellie Helgeson reported – Ellie will be submitting the budget. Staff interviews are mostly completed, but still ongoing. Employees seem like they're in a good place this year. The board recommends going with 2.5% increase in salaries for staff, which is the synod guideline for pastor increases this year. The board said that they did not think Pastor Cheryl should get a raise because she had not been working full-time for a year *(she will have by 2026)*. The board will be routing the Christmas gifts through payroll to distribute checks to staff members instead of cash. Archer Dorry will be providing pulpit supply for our December 28th service.

Board of Evangelism – Deb Henningson reported – The budget has been submitted for 2026. There are no transfers in/out. Pastor passes along the friendship pad leads on prospective members; the Evangelism committee follows up on those. The giving tree is going well this year. There was a suggestion to put out postcards at the local grocery store with information about our Christmas service to promote it. The council consensus was to not do that. We will be broadcasting the 2:30 pm Christmas service on KDIO and the cost was covered by a parishioner. Adult Game Night will be January 9th. The Evangelism board will provide soup and games for after the meal. The Just for the Love of It meal will be February 11th and catered. The Evangelism board will discontinue the coffee before church services. There were too few members using it for the amount of work required. Members may still come with their own coffee in spill–proof mugs. Pastor Cheryl will still be in earlier and people are welcome to come and visit before church. The "Thanks for Popping In" popcorn has been refilled, so people are passing those out. For the Lenten season, the Evangelism Board is willing to cover February 25th Wednesday meal with the Board of Properties but would like others to cover the other FELC Lenten meals. The board's suggestion was for March 11th Christian Education & Stewardship and March 25th Lay Ministry & Youth and Family. Which board will handle each meal can be discussed more next meeting.

Christian Education – Amanda Stattelman reported – The Board met earlier and will stick with the same budget. Sara will complete the annual report and submit it. Kandra and Amanda will be done at the end of this Council year (summer). The board likes the idea of a thermometer graphic for the Technology fund and wanted more transparency of funding. The board had suggested helping with a meal on Ash Wednesday but will discuss the schedule that Evangelism proposed. Beth will meet (in January) with Sara Tollakson and coordinate the VBS dates. The board chose not to have cookies after the Christmas program. The Board of Christian Education decided to have Roller Skating at 10:30 am to 1:00 pm due to families from FELC possibly going home and not wanting to leave again. Pizza will be paid for by own families if they want to order pizza. The Board will pay for all (both FELC & Zion) skaters. Dates and songs for singing in church will be discussed in the new year. The board wanted to discuss the possibility of having church on Zion's lawn in the summer at 7 pm on Wednesday nights with a possibility of switching off Sunday services at each congregation while adding a weekday service, encouraging combined congregations as well. If Zion does not like this idea, it could be in FELC's parking lot.

Youth & Family – Mari Athey reported – Someone from the board will communicate with Liz to learn more about the budget before presenting it officially. The board has decided to keep families paying only the Bible Camp registration fee (which will be \$175 in 2026). Last year the church paid about \$480 per child because the Endowment helped with \$100 per child, and parents paid the registration fee (\$150 in 2025). The kids had a great time at the synod gathering. The sign-up sheets for snacks & monitoring of children were moved to the Narthex (instead of the office hallway). The move has helped with snack sign up, but not many are signing up to monitor the children. The board discussed looking for congregation members to volunteer to teach a life skill, bible lesion, etc. for the Wednesday youth group (when Pastor is attending the council). The sign-up and deposit for the Sr. Youth Mission trip was due today, 12/14.

Stewardship – Darin Ehrenberg reported – The board's budget has been submitted. The board will review the Stewardship theme in January and put the auction fundraiser on the Annual meeting agenda. The board will go with the same mission emphasis funds again for 2026. The board suggests FELC be intentional about the constitution changes the Synod is recommending. The financial status is fine; our partnership with Zion is helping us. The fundraising is not to pay for the Elevator cost, but to put back funds from our use in case something else comes up. The board suggests staying with the same benevolence percentages we are at now.

Church Properties – Dale Price reported – The elevator may be worked on in February or March. The board is trying to get the electricians to work with TKE (Elevator Upgrade). The board is looking to work on the tech desk build in February or March. The new cameras have not been put in place yet. The camera controller FELC has now may not work with 2 cameras. There is an estimate for the addition of a controller. The board is unsure if it's needed yet. The board discussed a possibility of increasing our bandwidth for streaming while removing some unused phone lines and tabled it. FELC still owes Larry's Refrigeration, and someone will check with them about the status of the bill. A humidifier was purchased and the air speed was increased to mitigate the condensation issue. The board's budget will be discussed with Liz.

Pastor's Report- Everyone received a copy of the Pastor's Report. It's also available on our website.

COUNCIL ACTIONS:

- President Jon Anderson appointed Brent Zahrbock & Ellie Helgeson to do our 2025 audit.
- Motion by Darin/Amanda MSP to suspend the paid Zoom account for 2026.
- Motion by Mari/Deb MSP to move the January Council Meeting to Wed. January 7th, & annual meeting to Sunday, January 25th.

- **Items to add to the Annual Agenda** include a reminder of which board to go to with specific concerns, a discussion of the possibility of an auction to help fund our elevator repairs, and the creation of a new pastor-parish relations committee.
- Council consensus that the tech committee can handle the tech portion of the funeral policy.
- Motion by Deb/Amanda **MSP** to approve the Synod Guideline of 2.5% increase in salary for Pastor Cheryl as of 2026
- Motion by Becky/Darin **MSP** to approve the Endowment Distribution.
- Motion by Darin/Amanda MSP to pay pulpit supply to the lay leader of the 12/28 service.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:01 pm by Jon Anderson.

Next Council Meeting scheduled for: Wednesday, January 7th, at 5:30 PM.

FIRST ENGLISH & ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH PARTNERSHIP MEETING Minutes – December 2, 2025 (not yet approved)

Attendance: Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Basset, Jerry Reupke, Jon Anderson, Ellie Helgeson, Sara Tollakson, Jeremy Tollakson — **Absent:** Kirsten Ohm, Becky Parker

Paster Cheryl Rondeau-Basset opened the meeting with a devotion based on Ecclesiastics 4.

Becky Parker presented the proposed compensation package for pastor for 2026. The proposal reflects the recommended salary increase of 2.5 % as proposed by the Southwest Synod. Jon Anderson moved to accept the proposal as presented, and Sara Tollakson seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion carried. The proposed compensation is below.

The recent development of hiring David Tonn to visit the shut-ins of both parishes was discussed. Zion mentioned that they only have 1 person who would be considered a shut-in. However, the hiring of Pastor Tonn was proposed when we were unsuccessful in hiring a youth director to minister to the youth of both parishes. Pastor Cheryl agreed to continue to do the work with the youth, if someone else could be hired to do visitation of parishioners, since she would no longer have the time to do this. Due to the fact that FELC has more students than Zion does, the original plan was to split the cost of this youth director position with FELC being responsible for 75% of the cost, and Zion would cover 25%. Since pastor is filling the youth position currently, it was agreed that the cost to pay David Tonn would be shared at these same percentages, FELC 75%, and Zion, 25%. Pastor Dave is authorized to spend 5 hours per week, and will be compensated at the rate of \$25 per hour, plus mileage.

Ash Wednesday and Holy Week services were discussed. Both Zion and FELC will have Ash Wednesday services in their respective churches. Maundy Thursday services will be held at Zion, and Good Friday services will be held at FELC. Services for the rest of lent will alternate:

Feb. 25 FELC
March 4 Zion
March 11 FELC
March 18 Zion

The next partnership meeting of the First English Lutheran and Zion Lutheran congregations will be held on March 3, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at First English Lutheran Church. Respectfully submitted, Ellie Helgeson, Acting Secretary First English/Zion Partnership Council

2.5% Cola as proposed by the Southwest Synod							
		FELC's Portion 60%	Zion's Portion 40%				
2026 Base Salary at step 17	\$60,451.00	\$36,270.60	\$24,180.40				
(SWMN Synod)							
Housing 30%	\$18,135.30	\$10,881.18	\$7,254.12				
Cash Compensation	\$78,586.30	\$47,151.78	\$31,434.52				
Social Security Offset	\$6,0011.85	\$3,607.11	\$2404.74				
Total Compensation	\$84,598.15	\$50,758.89	\$33,839.26				
Pension	\$8,459.82	\$5,075.89	\$3,383.93				
Health Insurance (est.)	\$4,800.00	\$2,880.00	\$1,920.00				
Life & Disability	\$782.64	\$469.58	\$313.06				
Total Employment Costs	\$98,640.61	\$59,184.36	\$39,456.24				
2025 Amounts		\$56,204.62	\$37,469.75				
Increase for 2026		\$2,979.75	\$1,986.50				

JANUARY 2026 YOUTH NEWS

Congratulations to the Sunday School students on a wonderful performance of "The Christmas Story". The students, Marilyn Chindvall, Amy Adelman, Carmen Zupfer, the Board of Education, and all the parent volunteers that assisted. Thank you.

The Youth Group has been busy: They helped decorate the narthex and had a Christmas party of their own. They will begin meeting again after the New Year's break on January 7^{th} .

Thanks also to everyone who purchased a God's Creation Calendar. We are a few shy of being sold out!!! (as I write this on December 19th.)

Thank you to those who provided snacks and meals for the youth in the various groups.

Thank you to everyone who supported the youth during the bake sale for those that will be heading to Savannah this summer. They raised \$1,087 through the generosity of you the congregation. God Bless all of you!!! There is a meeting for this group on January 7th at 7 pm.





Sr Youth planning a mission trip to Savannah GA in June 2026 are l to r: Kirby Olson, Bryson Karels, Cameron Anderson, James Hodenfield, Brandon Kaye, Lexi Kaye, and Archer Dorry.

COMING UP IN JANUARY:

7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th- Confirmation and Youth Group will be held at their regular times.

7th at 7 pm Meeting for those youth making the Savannah trip this summer.

11th, 18th & 25th - regular Sunday School resumes.

11th: Sunday School roller-skating will be held out at Sioux Historic Pavillion. There will be skating fun for the whole family. Admission will be paid by the Board of Education. This will begin at 10:30 and run through 1:30 PM. Pizza will be available for families to purchase.

Thanks to the following people for their donations in memory of Barbara Nornes to the youth fund: Adeline Burgess, Kevin & Becky Backstrand, Lois Bergeson, Rich & Tami Lundberg, Jerry & Becky Parker, Kip & Sheila Fontaine, Dave & Deb Ellingson, Bob & Ruth Hoel, Jerry & Kathy Longhenry, Arlen & Ardell LaCombe, Harley & Ellie Helgeson, Chris & Leah Swenby, Russ & Ronda Thielke, Erlys Sis, Steve & Lori Randall, Kermit & Sandra Bensen, Rob & Kathy Randall, Jeff & Ann Verdoorn, Dave & Anne Tonn, Dan & Jacalyn Bensen, Ron & Ginger Athey, Jan Eifealdt, Dave & Lori Larson, Sharon Carlson, Marilyn Chindvall, Glenn & Deb Henningson, and Justin & Misty Wittnebel.

A big thanks to Marilyn Hanson, the youth and their leaders for decorating the Narthex for Christmas & for the Hanging of the Greens.

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.

January 2026	
Designated Funds	
Building (please specify) Operating Fund Other Technology Fund	\$ \$ \$
Name	

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

GHURCH & GOMMUNITY NEWS

Annual reports are due into the office ASAP. Financial reports are due 1/5.

Thanks to all of our wonderfully talented musicians who performed for us on Christmas Eve and those who performed at the Abbey of the Hills!

Registration for GLLM's summer programs opens on January 15, 2026, and spots can fill up fast. Parents will be responsible for the deposit fee that is \$175 per student before any discounts. There is a \$65 early bird discount if registered by Feb. 19th and there is a sibling discount of \$25 for the full week registration and \$15 for the Half Blast. **Be sure to register using the Supported Fee rate.** If interested, we have flyers in the pickup room or office.

May the God of all consolation be with....

...the family of Nola Lockwood on her death. A celebration of Nola's life will be held on May 16, 2026 and will be livestreamed on her obituary page on Mundwiler's website.

...Vern and Carol Bell on the death of her sister, Marian Hibma. Funeral services were held 12/23.

Let's go roller-skating, Zion and FELC! FELC Board of Education is planning a roller-skating outing for BOTH congregations on Sunday, January 11th from 10:30 am - 1:30 pm ("come & go") at Sioux Historic. Skating will be FREE for ALL members from both congregations, and ALL ages are welcome to join!

were field 12/23.

KDIO BROADCASTS

- (December 7th) was sponsored by Dick & Marla Strei in honor of Dr. Natalie (Strei) Haken as she graduated from NWHSU Chiropractic.
- (December 14th) was sponsored in memory of Marvin Schmeichel and Mike & Marvis Northwick by Ranet & Jim Schmeichel.
- (**December 21st)**** was sponsored by Barb & Roger Nornes in honor of what would have been their 72nd Anniversary.
- (**December 24**th) was sponsored in memory of Dallas Hanson & Rev. L. F. Mueller & Carol Mueller from Marilyn Hanson.
- (December 28th)** was sponsored in memory of Erv Mikkelson, given by wife Darlene and family, Gary, Joan, & Dean. January 1st is the anniversary of his death.

** Our December 21st and December 28th services didn't go out on KDIO due to a technical problem and a Weather-Related cancellation. Our Endowment Fund will cover those days if we get charged. These sponsorships from members will be moved to service dates in January.

Come One, Come All! (Ages 18-100)! Join our 3rd Adults-Only Game Night!

The evening begins with soup & meat tray at 5:30 pm and then board, card, and dice games to follow. Please call FELC to register (320-839-2527), as a head count is necessary for meal preparation. Transportation can be arranged if people need rides from Fairway View

or other local locations. Come for laughs and fellowship! Hope to see you there!

When: Friday, January 9th **Time:** 5:30 pm Where: FELC Basement Cost: FREE

PRAYERS FOR HEALING and COMFORT for Kelly Athey, Gail Olson, Nancy Pierzina, Harris Selvig, Beth Swanson, Brandi Tweeter, Jean Zielike; Bishop Craig Anderson, Monty Athey, Paul Erdman, Rosie Frank, Dustin Hanson, Larry Helgeson, Natalie Henneberg, McCoy Jipson, Janice Redfield, David Scholberg, and Jerry Stotesbery. AT FAIRWAY VIEW NEIGHBORHOODS: Ricky Anderson, Arvilla Bergseth, Adeline Burgess, Jim Hipple, Vivian Janssen, Arlen LaCombe, 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 Haitian student, Ycherson Soh and South African students Sanelisiwe Dlamini and Andiswa Mbatha. If you would like a name to be added/removed, please contact the church office.

SEASON OF LENT AND EASTER SERVICES:

Each congregation will hold services on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 18th) as follows:

6:30 pm at First English 5:30 pm at Zion &

During Lent and the three days, services will rotate between First English and Zion Lutheran Churches.

These services will all begin at 6:00 pm. The rotation goes as follows:

February 25th – 6:00 pm at First English

March $4^{th} - 6:00$ pm at Zion

March 11th - 6:00 pm at First English

March $18^{th} - 6:00$ pm at Zion

March 25th - 6:00 pm at First English

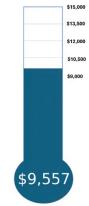
April 2nd - Maundy Thursday – 7:00 pm at Zion

April 3rd – Good Friday – 7:00 pm at First English

Easter Sunday (4/5) Services will be at regular times with the addition of Sunrise service:

7:00 am at First English 9:00 am at First English 10:30 at Zion





We are 63.71% to Tech Fund Goal (\$15k) as of 12/30/25.

Call Out for Tech Volunteers to attend January 15 Training



Tech Training for the new upgraded tech equipment will be held at 5:30 pm on Thursday, January 15th. We are looking for more volunteers who are interested in running the equipment on Sunday mornings to stream the service, use the video cameras, run the sound board and microphones, and assist with the presentation to the large screen TVs.

In general, two volunteers are needed each week on a rotational schedule to help with this important function of our ministry. We are seeking those who are tech savvy... or somewhat tech savvy to help. High school or college students or anyone with extensive computer skills are also welcome to train for this important service.

Our worship service streaming is important for those in the community unable to attend church; for those at Fairway View who depend on the recordings for their Sunday worship; many throughout

the wider area of Ortonville to hear the good news of Christ preached through our Facebook live and YouTube channel or by radio broadcast on KDIO. This mission also provides a place for those who may have fallen away from the church to "come across" a worship service and hear the message of hope once more.

Training additional volunteers provides an opportunity for our faithful tech people to have a break or in case someone is ill to step in when others are unable. Updates and upgrades to the tech equipment happen often with technology so training is an important part of the mission of the church to provide this ongoing ministry.

If you are unable to attend on January 15, arrangements can be made for individual training. Please consider being a part of this important ministry of First English Lutheran Church. Thank you ahead of time.

Volunteers sought for FELC **Technology Committee:**

We are also asking for volunteers to be on a technology committee to equipment oversee our software ensuring they are up-todate and will continue to work reliably.

The committee should meet at least once a year to review the current technology and advise on needs to any upcoming addressed and in any urgent technological situations. Please let the office know if you can share your gifts in this area.

Parish Nurse Article for January

Facing Our Feelings is our theme for this year's Parish Nurse newsletter articles.



The truth is we all may be dealing with a lot of feelings that may stop us from getting more spiritually mature. God created us in his image and that includes all of our emotions. God can make our emotions work for us. The Holy Spirit can enlighten us, inspire us and guide us into spiritual growth. We need to learn to respond to our relationship with our Lord rather than react to our own circumstances. Pray, learn, & pray some more!



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

reconciling

communities in

Jesus Christ's

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

CIRCLE FOUR CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Circle 4 ladies met on Wednesday, December 3rd for

their regular monthly bible study session and then readied for & held their annual Christmas Party in the Fellowship Hall.







the world."

Meets in the Church Lounge on Wed. January 7th at 9:00 am. Lesson: Nancy Nolop

Lesson: Nancy Nolop Hostess: Arlene Vollmer



Oh the weather outside was frightful, but the dinner oh so delightful....

On Tuesday, December 9th, the Day of Love gals enjoyed their Christmas gathering with a delicious meal catered by the Crazy Aprons. It was a relaxing time, a day when there was no quilting, everything was shut down. All that could be heard was the chatter, a great noise!

There was one assignment which everyone took seriously and that was the signing of cards to be sent out for four weeks.



This will enable everyone to get their weekly card in the mail, which they so enjoy and creates a bit of sunshine and smiles. We will be taking a break, with our return on January 6th. You will see the gals that attended the dinner in the picture. Kim came a bit later and just missed the photo!!!

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO ALL FROM THE DAY OF LOVE



QUILTS TO FAIRWAY VIEW

52 quilts stitched with love and handmade Christmas Greetings attached were delivered to all the residents at the Fairway View Nursing Home and to the Madison Home. Gratitude and appreciation were shared with tears, smiles and a twinkle in their eye as they conveyed their message of thanks. Thanks again to the Board of Evangelism and to all who have donated in any way to help make this possible.

These quilts (pictured to the left) and more were blessed during our November 9th service in which the Day of Love ladies talked about the work they do.

Gifts & Memorials (September 26th – December 30th)

Advent Giving Tree

Gayle Anderson, Kevin & Becky Backstrand, Rick & Dawn Barnhardt, Marilyn Chindvall, Circle 4, Marge Dragseth, Jerry & Marilee Haukos, Glenn & Deb Henningson, Rebecca & Neil Heringer, Brett & Kelsey Kaye, Jerry & Kathy Longhenry, Burton Pansch, Jerry & Becky Parker, Christie Petersen, Dale Price, Rob & Kathy Randall, Glenda Reiffenberger, Scott & Monica Simonitch, Art & Arlene Vollmer, and Warren & Barb Wiese.

Altar Guild

<u>In memory of Barb Nornes:</u> Jim & Julie Hipple, Glenda Reiffenberger, Anthony & Jocelyn Schowalter, Dean & Karen Strand, Garry & Ethel Swenson, and Jack & Mary Weber.

Glenda Reiffenberger and Evie Swigerd.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Scott Dahle, Darin & Kristi Ehrenberg, Darlene Mikkelson, and Glenda Reiffenberger.

DAY OF LOVE

<u>In memory of Barb Nornes:</u> anonymous and Dick & Marla Strei and family.

<u>In memory of Nola Lockwood:</u> Mark & Cindy Scholberg, and Jerry Wiegman.

Jon & Kim Anderson, Lois Bergeson, Marge Dragseth, Marilyn Hanson, James & Kate Heinecke, Jim & Julie Hipple, Glenda Reiffenberger, and Anthony & Jocelyn Schowalter.

ELCA MISSIONARIES

Liz Ketz and Clara Zeek.

ELCA SW MN SYNOD

Darin & Kristi Ehrenberg.

ENDOWMENT FUND

Glenda Reiffenberger, Sharon Smith, and Jack & Mary Weber.

FOOD SHELF

Eldon & Carol Knutson.

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

Marilyn Chindvall; Melvin & Jackie Domine; Liz Ketz; and Sharon Smith.

JAYCEE'S PROJECT CHRISTMAS

Kevin & Becky Backstrand, Marilyn Chindvall; Melvin & Jackie Domine; James & Kate Heinecke, Liz Ketz; and Jack & Mary Weber.

KATIE'S KICKS

James & Ranet Schmeichel.

KDIO

Kevin & Becky Backstrand in honor of Adeline Burgess; Dave & Debbie Ellingson in memory of Billy Thymian; Marilyn Hanson in memory of Rev. Mueller, Carol Mueller & Dallas Hanson; Curt & Penny Hormann in honor of their wedding anniversary, in memory of Inez Fraasch & Arlene Dockter, in honor of their children & grandchildren, and in memory of Roy Hormann, honor of Curt Hormann, Doug Fraasch, Cass Sigler, and Danny Bartels; Sharron

Johnson in memory of Jim's birthday; Darlene Mikkelson in memory of Erv Mikkelson; Glenda Reiffenberger in memory of Robert Reiffenberger and in joy of family; James & Ranet Schmeichel in memory of their parents; Anne Tonn in memory of Ruth Hansen.

MISSIONARY FUND

Sharon Smith.

OPERATING

<u>In memory of Barb Nornes:</u> Jon & Kim Anderson; Ricky & Debbie Taylor, and Joe & Jennifer Wiik.

Gayle Anderson; Ron & Ginger Athey; Terry Block; Sharon Carlson; Jyla Dahle; Randy & Jane Debner; Darin & Kristi Ehrenberg; Kris & Nikki Evje; Marilyn Hanson; Glenn & Deb Henningson; Evelyn Johnson; Nancy Nolop; Erlys Sis; Garry & Ethel Swenson; Evie Swigerd; Russ & Ronda Thielke; Jack & Mary Weber; and Clara Zeek

OUTDOOR DIGITAL SIGN

James & Neva Foster in memory of Barb Nornes.

SENIOR CHOIR

Cheryl Carl in memory of Barb Nornes; Marilyn Hanson; Steve & Lori Strei in memory of Arnie Lanners.

SQUARES (BAPTISM CHESTS)

Ron & Ginger Athey in memory of Tom Dorry; and Sharron Johnson.

TECHNOLOGY/COMPUTER FUND

In memory of Barb Nornes: anonymous, Melvin & Jackie Domine, and James & Ranet Schmeichel. Jon & Kim Anderson; Cheryl Carl; Melvin & Jackie Domine; Marilyn Hanson; Eldon & Carol Knutson; Jacalyn Nornes; Jerry & Becky Parker; Rob & Kathy Randall; Glenda Reiffenberger; Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Basset; James & Ranet Schmeichel; Erlys Sis; Kathy Stolpman; Russ & Ronda Thielke; and Rita Verheul.

YOUTH FUND

In memory of Barb Nornes: anonymous, Ron & Ginger Athey; Kevin & Becky Backstrand; Daniel & Jacalyn Bensen; Sandra & Kermit Bensen; Lois Bergeson; Adeline Burgess; Sharon Carlson; Marilyn Chindvall; Janice Elfealdt; Dave & Debbie Ellingson' Kip & Sheila Fontaine; David Hamre; Harley & Ellie Helgeson; Glenn & Deb Henningson; Robert & Ruth Hoel; Arlen & Ardell LaCombe; David & Lori Larson; Jerry & Kathy Longhenry; Richard & Tami Lundberg; Jerry & Becky Parker; Rob & Kathy Randall; Steven & Lori Randall; Mark & Cindy Scholberg; Erlys Sis; Dan & Maureen Stores; Steve & Lori Strei; Christopher & Leah Swenby; Russ & Ronda Thielke; Anne Tonn; Ann & Jeffrey Verdoorn; Jack & Mary Weber; and Justin & Misty Wittnebel.

Eevie Swigerd.

WATER'S EDGE

Erlys Sis and cash gifts from congregation.

Christmas Poinsettias/Floral Arrangements have been given...

- ... in honor of the Christmas season and the magic it brings from Josh & Sara Wollschlager.
- ...in loving memory of Richard Janke from Patricia Janke.
- ... in loving memory of Patrick Ketz and Donald & Corinne Tiegs from Liz Ketz and family.
- ... in loving memory of Dallas I Hanson, Rev. L F Mueller & Carol Mueller from Marilyn Hanson.
- ... in loving memory of Bob & Donna Thompson from Chuck & Carol Thompson, Greg & Pat Thompson, Mark & Sheila Thompson, & families.
- ... in memory of Bob Reiffenberger from Glenda and family.
- ... in memory of Barb Nornes from Dick & Marla Strei and family.
- ...in memory of Diane Schultz from Dave and Lori Larson.
- ...in memory of Jerry and Katie Dragseth from family.
- ... in memory of Herman & Alice Ellingson and Adeline Brown from David & Debbie Ellingson and girls.
- ...in memory of loved ones from Lynne & Keith Giese and family and Steve & Lori Strei and family.
- ... (Christmas Cactus) in memory of Leo and Darlene Barnhardt and Bonnie Hill.
- ... (Blue carnations) in memory of loved ones from our Blue Christmas Service on Dec. 20th.





ALTAR GUILD TEAMS - January

Sacristy, Sanctuary, Surplices:

Banners:

Ginger Athey and Chelsey Stattelman
Julie Hipple & Jocelyn Schowalter

Flower Committee: Connie & Carol Newman



SCHEDULING

KEYBOARD/ORGANIST

Jan. 4: Kathy Haukos Jan. 11: Carol Ydstie

Jan. 14* (1 pm FWV): Marilyn Hanson

Jan. 18: Amy Adelman Jan. 25: Lisa Berdan Feb. 1: Carol Ydstie

Feb. 8: Amy Adelman

Feb. 11* (1 pm FWV): Amy Adelman

Feb. 15: Kathy Haukos

Feb. 18* (Ash Wed.): Marilyn Hanson

Feb. 22: Lisa Berdan

Feb. 25*: TBD

LECTOR

Jan. 4: Marge Dragseth

Jan. 11: Kelsey Kaye

Jan. 18: Brent Zahrbock

Jan. 25: Amanda Stattelman

Feb. 1: Jim Foster

Feb. 8: Marilyn Hanson

Feb. 15: Jim Schmeichel

Feb. 22: Liv Wollschlager

ACOLYTES

Jan. 4: Brandon & Lexi

Jan. 11: Brielle & Archer

Jan. 18: Dawson & Gibson

Jan. 25: Ashton & Madilyn

Feb. 1: Amelia K. & Miley

Feb. 8: Nash & Mia

Feb. 15: Liv & Meadow

Feb. 18* (Ash Wed.): NEED VOLUNTEERS

Feb. 22: Liam & Mikaela

Feb. 25*: NEED 1 VOLUNTEER

LAY ASSISTANTS

Jan. 4: Kris Redfield & Marilyn Chindvall

Jan. 18: Kirsten & Bryson Karels Feb. 1: Darin & Kristi Ehrenberg

Feb 15: Becky Parker & Brent Zahrbock

Feb. 18* (Ash Wed.): NEED VOLUNTEERS

FWV Neighborhoods

Jan. 4: Archer Dorry & Liz Ketz

Jan. 11: Jackie & Mel Domine

Feb. 1: TBD Feb. 8: TBD

GREETERS

Jan. 4: Brielle Rademacher & Amy Adelman

Jan. 11: Sara Wollschlager & Kimberly Neuman

Jan. 18: Mentor & Mentee Volunteers

Jan. 25: Bailey Conroy & Lori Strei

Feb. 1: Mentor & Mentee Volunteers

Feb. 8: Mentor & Mentee Volunteers

Feb. 15: Mentor & Mentee Volunteers

Feb. 22: Wollschlager Family

SOUND SYSTEM

Jan. 4: Kim Anderson & Terry Kalberg

Jan. 11: Matt Karels & Marge Dragseth

Jan. 18: Liz Ketz & Marge Dragseth

Jan. 25: Cody Backstrand & Terry Kalberg

Feb. 1: Matt & Bryson Karels

Feb. 8: Kim Anderson & Terry Kalberg

Feb. 15: Liz Ketz & Marge Dragseth

Feb. 18* (Ash Wed.): Liz Ketz & NEED Volunteer

Feb. 22: Cody Backstrand & Cameron Anderson

Feb. 25*: Matt & Bryson Karels

USHERS

Jan. 4: Ev Johnson, Ron Athey, Jon & Kim Anderson

Jan. 11: Art Vollmer, Brent Zahrbock, Glenn & Deb Henningson

Jan. 18: Nancy Nolop, Dick Strei, Dean

Longnecker, & Josh Wollschlager

Jan. 25: Tami Lundberg, Marilyn Chindvall, Mel & Jackie Domine

Feb. 1: Gale May, Dean Strand, Vern

Nickolauson, & Nancy Nolop

Feb. 8: Darin Ehrenberg, Eldon Knutson, Ellie & Harley Helgeson

Feb. 15: Russ Thielke, Warren Wiese, Gale May, & Connie Newman

Feb. 18* (Ash Wed.): Russ Thielke, Warren Wiese,

Gale May, & Connie Newman

Feb. 22: Eugene Stotesbery, Jim Foster, Gale

May, & Art Vollmer

Feb. 25*: Eugene Stotesbery, Jim Foster, Gale

May, & Art Vollmer



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
January 2026 † Daily Devotions are available @ w go to "Lutheran Faith" & then "Prayers,	ww.firstenglish.net	ish Lutheran Church Pr. Cheryl is at Zion Tuesdays	Pastor Cheryl's Hours: Mondays (FELC Wednesdays (FELC Pastor Office 10 of Pastor Office 10 am – 4 pm (unless up via text (605-237-1501) or email at CN	am to 3:30 (and then ted o at FWV/or visiting men	aching confirmation classenbers) or by appointment.	es), & Thursdays (FELC
28 9:00 am Worship – Favorite Hymns – KDIO Broadcast & FB Live	29 Pastor Cheryl wil	take vacation until December 31st.	New Year's Eve 9:30 am TV Broadcast 5:30 pm TV Broadcast	New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED	9:00 am Bulletins Printed	3
9:00 am Worship – Pledge Dedication – Communion – KDIO Broadcast & Facebook Live 10:30 am Fairway View Pre-recorded	11 am Staff Meeting FELC Financial Reports are due for Audit	9:00 am Day of Love 3:30 pm Evangelism Mtg (Pastor Cheryl will attend) 4-5:00 pm Bible Study at Donnie's Diner (FWV)	9:00 am Circle 4 (church lounge) 9:30 am TV Broadcast 3:30 pm Confirmation (grades 7-8) 4:30 pm Confirmation (grade 9) 5:30 pm Youth Group (gr. 7-12) & TV Broadcast 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm Council Meeting 7:00 pm Senior Choir & Youth Mission Trip Meeting	8	9:00 am Bulletins Printed 5:30 pm Soup/Meat Tray & Adult Game Night following meal	10
9:00 am Worship – KDIO Broadcast & FB Live 9:30 – 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fairway View Pre-recorded & 10:30 am -1:30 pm FELC & Zion Combined Roller-skating event at Sioux Historic	12 11 am Staff Meeting	9:00 am Day of Love 4-5:00 pm Bible Study at Donnie's Diner (FWV)	9:30 am TV Broadcast 1:00 pm Fairway View Worship (Pastor Cheryl Live w/communion) 3:30 pm Confirmation (grades 7-8) 4:30 pm Confirmation (grade 9) 5:30 pm Youth Group (gr. 7-12) & TV Broadcast 7:00 pm Senior Choir	5:30 pm Tech Desk Training	16 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	17
18 9:00 am Worship – Communion – KDIO Broadcast & FB Live 9:30 – 10:15 am Sunday School	19 OFFICE CLOSED Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed	9:00 am Day of Love 4-5:00 pm Bible Study at Donnie's Diner (FWV)	9:30 am TV Broadcast 11:00 am Staff Meeting 3:30 pm Confirmation (grades 7-8) 4:30 pm Confirmation (grade 9) 5:30 pm Youth Group (gr. 7-12) & TV Broadcast 7:00 pm Senior Choir	22	9:00 am Bulletins Printed	24
25 ANNUAL MEETING 9:00 am Contemporary Worship – – KDIO Broadcast & FB Live 9:30 – 10:15 am Sunday School After Church Time TBD Annual Meeting of the Congregation	26 11 am Staff Meeting	27 DEADLINE 9:00 am Day of Love 4-5:00 pm Bible Study at Donnie's Diner (FWV)	9:30 am TV Broadcast 3:30 pm Confirmation (grades 7-8) 4:30 pm Confirmation (grade 9) 5:30 pm Youth Group (gr. 7-12) & TV Broadcast 7:00 pm Senior Choir	29	30 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	31