



First English Lutheran Church

NEWSLETTER

February 2026



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.

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

Hello February!



Notes from Pastor Cheryl



January 27, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What can we do in our sadness? What can we do when we feel broken?

The easy answer is to talk to a friend or relative that we trust, to take a walk, listen to uplifting gospel music, or do something enjoyable to get our minds off it so we can get through a time of sadness or feelings of pain and hurt.

For the Christian, we can join together with other believers, read scriptures, and call upon the Lord, who will answer.

One of my favorite verses is Matthew 11: 28 that says, *"Come to me, all you who are weary and heavy burdened, and I will give you rest."*

We certainly feel weary lately with all the troubled news of the day, the weight of caring for our neighbors, and the fear of friends and family who live near the recent violence has certainly taken a toll on our emotions.

The psalmist writes in 34: 18, *"The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."* In times like now, as our spirits are hurting and we wait impatiently for an end to the suffering.

Being a Christian does not mean we will no longer endure suffering or experience injustice in the world. There are many stories in scripture that tell us this. The story written in Genesis of Joseph's brothers selling him into slavery because of their jealousy. The story of Job who lost everything, including his wife, all his children, property, and even health demonstrates unfairness in the world. The story of the woman caught in adultery in John 8, when the religious leaders would have stoned her showing gender discrimination had Jesus not bluntly pointed that out in His statement *"Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."* (vs 7).

We want to cry out for those who are affected or caught in the middle of the conflicts occurring. For violent behavers to stop doing what we see happening. In despair, we can and we should cry out to the Lord because Jesus understands our pain when we see our vulnerable neighbors suffering and being hurt. We know this from the story of Lazarus death as He wept for His friend. We know in the night in which He was betrayed, as He was in the Garden of Gethsemane, praying for God to take this suffering from Him. But God did not so the scriptures could be fulfilled.

Scripture is where we find our hope and strength to endure these trying times, just as Jesus looked to God. God does not take away all our struggles, but gives us strength to get through them, as written in Isaiah 41:10 *"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*

Having a supportive community of believers helps when we feel traumatized by the disturbing activities happening, especially when we feel so helpless to stop it. Paul writes of this to the Galatians saying, *"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."* And to the Thessalonians he wrote, *"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."* (5:11)

Having a faithful friend to talk to, be vulnerable with about your feelings, and offer support is a blessing from God that encourages and often guides us through confusing times when we feel abandoned by God. It is comforting to know God hears you through fellowship with other followers of Christ, who show their love for you and the love of Christ through them.

Prayer of course is our source of hope and helps to renew our faith, giving us strength and comfort during dark times of grief, brokenness and confusion.

Philippians 4 tells you: ⁶*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."* ⁷*"And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

It can be frustrating to pray and not see answers, but trust the answer will come. God does not always answer in our time or our way because He has a plan for us that is much bigger and better than anything we could ever imagine or desire. So, when we do not understand, have faith as our human mind cannot envision what might be coming as a blessing, and *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."* (Proverbs 3:5-6)

While you wait, take that walk, read a book, talk to a friend, or listen to encouraging gospel music of hope and promise to help get you through. But waiting we must as Isaiah 30:18 tells us: *"Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you... Blessed are all those who wait for him".*

As we walk through this difficult time of darkness, know this too shall pass and the God of all hope is with you, as Paul writes to the Romans *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."* (15:13).

So remain steadfast dear brothers and sister in Christ and know God loves you... and all people, not wanting any harm to come to any of His beloved children, but waits to be gracious to you.

Gratefully Rejoicing in Christ for You!

~ Pastor Cheryl

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH BOARD MEETING

Council Minutes – January 7th, 2026 (not yet approved)

Members present: Jon Anderson (president), Ellie Helgeson (vice president) and *Lay Ministry*, Becky Parker (treasurer) and *Stewardship*, Archer Dorry - *Youth & Family*, Darin Ehrenberg - *Stewardship*, Amanda Stattelman - *Christian Education*, Paula Reisdorph - *Evangelism*, Dale Price - *Church Properties*, Barbara Wegner -Secretary, and Pastor Cheryl.

Meeting was called to order by President Jon Anderson at 6:15 pm.

Approval of December Minutes as presented – Amanda, Dale **MSP**.

Approval of Treasurer's Report – Paula, Darin **MSP**.

There was discussion about changing the council day and time again. There is a suggestion of moving the council meeting to 5:00 pm on Wednesdays so that the smaller break-out board meetings can be during the time when Pastor Cheryl is teaching confirmation class, but the Council Voting Meeting would then be around 5:45pm so the meeting could end before choir. This will be on the agenda for February, along with the decision for the March council meeting as the 2nd Wednesday in March we will have a 6 pm Lenten service.

Board of Evangelism – Paula Reisdorph reported – The Evangelism annual report was reviewed and submitted. Their budget will be identical to the 2025 budget. The current board members will continue on the board in the new council year. Paula Reisdorph will serve another term. Ash Wednesday is February 18th and there will be Fairway View services through the Lenten season at 1:00 pm through April 1st. The board would like a thermometer graphic for the Elevator fundraiser. No changes to the Lenten Meal Schedule. There are no transfers in or out.

The 2025 Giving Tree raised \$2,890. Friday, January 9th is the Adult Game Night and there will be a soup supper starting at 5:30 pm. Wed. February 11th is the Just For the Love of It dinner. Pioneer is catering for that supper. The Evangelism Committee was hoping that the Pastor's Report could come first in the council meetings.

Christian Education – Amanda Stattelman reported – Sara will turn in the annual report. Same budget as last year. The board was fine with all of the “All Board” items. Kandra and Amanda’s terms are up this year but they will serve another term. Beth and Sara will meet in January to discuss the VBS dates. The Christmas Program went well. The 2 (half-sheet) cakes worked out well. Some board members need a lesson in coffee making, so Amanda will help with that. The board would like there to be an announcement on Facebook for the kids to be at the church by 8:30 am to get into costume when they have their next one. The Roller-skating event this upcoming Sunday will be 10:30 – 1:30. Unity Square is February 22nd 1-3 pm. Concerning Ice skating in March, the board will determine if that will happen based on the weather and ice rink conditions. There is a possibility of putting out the message, “If you have skates you are not using any more, the city of Ortonville may want them.” The ice rink does not have many skates or a variety of sizes of skates. The dates for singing in church have not yet been determined. The last day of Sunday School, April 26th, whole church fun info is still to be determined. The board would like to discuss having summer services on the lawn, having combined services, or switching off Sunday services.

Youth & Family – Archer Dorry reported – The board’s budget will be the same as last year and their annual report was turned in weeks ago. The bake sale raised \$1087 and all funds are going to the Savannah Mission Trip. The board will table discussing having volunteers for youth group when Pastor Cheryl has to be in council meetings due to there not being many more youth groups left in the year. There are 7 youth planning on going on the mission trip as of this meeting. The board discussed having regulations created for designated youth funds and will re-visit this. The board discussed working on figuring out how they can lower the costs for the church of bible camp and discussed possibly having a secondary offering with all funds going towards bible camp. Youth & Family Board wants to meet with Christian Ed Board to discuss it since some of those elementary students go to camp too.

Board of Lay Ministry – Ellie Helgeson reported – The board proposed a 2.5% increase in salaries for employees which was figured into the proposed budget. The board does not see a need for 2 Christmas Eve Services. There will be clarification on our employee’s contracts describing how many hours employees usually work.

Stewardship – Becky Parker & Darin Ehrenberg reported – The board recommends that the Lenten service offerings go towards Water’s Edge Ministry Camp Scholarships. Zielsdorf, the auction company, has a flat rate \$850 fee to use their services. FELC needs to come up with at least 100 items to make the auction worth it. They have thousands of registered bidders on their site already. We need to supply pictures and descriptions of the items.

Church Properties – Dale Price reported – The board reviewed Larry’s bill for working on the A/C unit when it failed last summer. The bill was originally about \$21k, and they forgave about \$7k. So our bill is now at \$14,696.50. There was council consensus to pay it. Properties Board members will meet with Scott, the owner, to learn more about the bill and how much more life we should expect to get out of the A/C unit. The board plans to discuss further how to prevent this sort of surprise bill in the future, including looking into other providers, and possibly creating a pro-active maintenance program. Our internet bandwidth will be upgraded. When our MIDCO contract renews in about 3 years, FELC may want to consider other internet providers. Our elevator will be worked on by TKE on January 26th. Nelson Electric will be doing the electrical work for that. We don’t have a written estimate, but have been assured that it is in the \$3k range and they will work with TKE directly. Barbara has been asked to create a sign to post on the elevator about when it is scheduled to be out of commission so people are not caught unaware. The board will also look for a new plumbing service as our current one is gone a lot of the time. TKE will be asked for their liability insurance. Ron is coming January 8th to put in the cameras for the tech desk. We have \$11,601.93 in our Tech Fund currently. The Church Properties board will be working on creating a new set up for the new equipment we have and wants to get feedback from the tech volunteers about preferred height and other preferences before they start building something.

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

COUNCIL ACTIONS:

- Council Consensus to have the next council meeting on February 11th at 5:30pm and also to not add anything about inactive members on the Annual Agenda.
- Barbara will send out a copy of the proposed amendments to the constitution that the Synod came up so that everyone can review and discuss them at a later time.
- Approval of the Annual Meeting Agenda as presented. Darin, Amanda **MSP**.
- Approval of the 2026 Budget as proposed. Ellie, Dale **MSP**.
- The Executive Committee appointed Pete Zupfer to the Finance Committee.
- Approval of the change of Midco contract to remove 2 lines and increase our internet speed. Becky, Archer **MSP**.

Next Council Meeting scheduled for: Wednesday, February 11th, at 5:30 PM.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:11 pm by Jon Anderson. Closed with Lord’s Prayer.

FELC ANNUAL MEETING of the CONGREGATION

Congregational Meeting Minutes January 25, 2026 (not yet approved)

The Annual Meeting of First English Lutheran Church was called to order by President, Jon Anderson. A quorum was declared. The Annual Congregational Meeting was opened with prayer by President Anderson.

President Anderson asked the members present to review the following minutes:

- Annual Meeting – January 19, 2025
- Annual Election Meeting – June 22, 2025

A motion was made by Darin Erhenberg, seconded by Kim Anderson to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting – January 19, 2025 and the Annual Election Meeting – June 22, 2025. Motion carried.

The following reports were presented –

- Treasurer's Report – Presented by Becky Parker, Treasurer - A motion was made by Ellie Helgeson, seconded by Jim Schmeichel to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.
- Auditor's Report – Presented by Ellie Helgeson - The financial records were audited by Ellie Helgeson and Brent Zahrbock. A motion was made by Judy Beckman and seconded by Kristi Ehrenberg to approve the Auditor's Report as presented. Motion carried.

President Anderson presented the Committee, Staff and Board Reports – Dick Strei presented the question as to whether or not there were guidelines for funding the youth's trips, etc. With guidelines in place, it would be easier for the parents and the youth involved to know what they are responsible for when additional funding is needed. Ellie Helegson stated that this had been turned over to the Youth Board for their discussion. Mari Athey, member of the Youth Board stated that this had been addressed at their last meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Youth Director – Pastor and Liz Ketz are presently working with the youth and the youth programs. With the hiring of Pastor Tonn to do the visitation for our congregation and that of Zion Lutheran, time has been allowed Pastor to work with the youth.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Water's Edge Bible Camp (previously GLLM) annual meeting will be held on February 10th. There will be a meal at noon with their meeting at 1:00 P.M. We can have two delegates. If you are interested in attending, please contact Pastor or Barbara at the Church Office.
- Lac Qui Parle Annual Conference will be held on Sunday, March 15th at 2:00 P.M. at Bergen Lutheran Church in Hanley Falls. We can have up to six voting members to attend, ideally three female and three male voting members. If you are interested in attending, please contact Pastor or Barbara at the Church Office.
- Voting members for the Synod Assembly (June 5-6th) will be held at Gustavus Adolphus. We can send three members. If you are interested in attending, please contact Pastor or Barbara at the Church Office.
- Financial Review –
 - Review of Balance Sheet – Presented by Becky Parker – no action necessary.
 - Presentation of the Financial Plan for 2026 – Presented by Becky Parker. A motion was made by Amanda Stattelman, seconded by Paula Reisdorph that we approve the proposed budget for 2026. Motion carried.
- President Anderson stated that if you have specific concerns or questions, please feel contact Pastor or a member of the Executive Board. This will help eliminate all the questions and concerns that are taken to our church office.
- Interest in an Online Auction to fund raise for the "Elevator Repairs" was discussed. Darin Ehrenberg, member of the Stewardship Board stated that their board had discussed this and had made a preliminary contact with Zielsdorf Auction. Discussion was had and a show of hands indicated that those present felt it was a good idea and that the Board should proceed with obtaining more information. Watch your bulletins and/or Parish Caller for future information. If you have larger items that you might consider putting on the Online Auction, please contact the church office with your name and the item you are interested in donating.
- A Pastor-Parish relations Committee was appointed – those appointed were Josh Wollschlager, Ethel Swenson and Kristi Ehrenberg. Ellie Helgeson, Vice-President will also attend these meetings which will be held at least twice a year.
- The Endowment Committee Report was presented. A motion was made by Liz Ketz, seconded by Mailyn Chindvall to approve the Resolution regarding 5% of the corpus amount in the Endowment Fund and that it be authorized and available for distribution in 2026. Said amount available for distribution is \$22,082. Motion carried.
- The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ethel E. Swenson, Secretary



Parish Nurse Article for February - WORRY

What is *worry*?

Worry is to be uneasy in the mind, to feel anxiety about something, to fret. Interestingly it comes from the Old English word that means "to strangle". Worry strangles our peace of mind and our enjoyment of life. Worry affects us mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and physically. God instructs us not to worry, and Scripture overwhelms us with reasons for not being anxious.

Make God the Master that you serve. Our heavenly Father knows our material needs and will provide for them.

"Therefore, don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself" (Matt. 6.34)

Here are a few steps toward freedom from worry:

- *Plan time daily - even if it's only 15 minutes reading the Bible.
- *Choose a phrase from Scripture or hymn that you can repeat to yourself at any hint of anxiety. "Tell it to Jesus," or "God cares for me," or, "the Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want."
- *Play soothing music
- *Design a plan of action. What is in my control?
- *Replace worry with prayer.
- *Get help from others if needed



If you are a worrier, God wants to heal you. He has given you His promises, His protection and His provision. We all have choices, we can keep worrying, ruin our mental and physical health, and retard our spiritual development OR We can cast our cares on the strong shoulders of our loving Savior who has promised to give us His peace.

February 2026 Youth News

January was a busy month for all of the youth activities and fun was had by all at the skating event at Sioux Historic on January 11th. Looking ahead to February...

Sunday school continues to meet following the children's message during worship. There will not be Sunday School on February 15th due to President's Day Weekend. Then on Sunday, February 22nd, all are invited to a Fun Day at Unity Square from 1:00 PM-3:00 PM. Admission will be free to all FELC/Zion members as someone has anonymously offered to pay for all to attend. The party room has also been reserved for us so donations of snacks, water or lemonade to share with all the participants would be appreciated.

Subs are on sale by the Youth Group. The last day to order is February 3rd. All youth and a parent or mentor will be helping put together the subs that morning of Sunday, February 9th. Students, parents/mentors are asked to be at the church at 7:45 AM to begin the work of making the subs.



The youth will also be doing the Souper Bowl of Caring Kettles following the service on Sunday, February 8th. Youth will be at both exits with a kettle for your donations. All proceeds will be given to the Big Stone Emergency Food Shelf, so bring your money to help those out in need.

Watch for the online Youth auction for the youth that will be headed to Savannah this coming summer. The auction will run from February 1st-6th.

Confirmation Classes in February. Please note that February 4th is an early out, so classes will be at 1:45 and 2:45. February 11th & 25th classes will be at their regular times. There will not be classes on the 18th, which is Ash Wednesday, but students should be at the Ash Wednesday Service. Students will be helping with the midweek services as they did last year. There is a need for volunteers to provide snacks in the coming weeks. If you are interested in helping, please sign up on volunteer sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex of the church. The same is also true of the need for volunteers to sit in on the 7th-8th grade class. That sign-up sheet is also on the same bulletin board. Any loving adult can volunteer!!!!

Youth group will meet on February 4th at 4:00 pm to play broomball at the skating rink. Following that they will return to the church for supper and then watch the movie "I Can Only Imagine". They will not meet on February 11th because of the Just For The Love Of It Supper and then will be off for the Lenten Season for the rest of the month.



Thank you for the donation to the youth from Lois Bergeson, Paula Reisdorph, Glenda Reiffenberger, Marge Dragseth, Judy Beckman, Burton Pansch, Marilyn Chindvall, and Art & Arlene Vollmer. In memory of Barbara Nornes from Joe & Cathy Scoblic, Sharron Johnson, Evie Johnson, Steve & Lori Strei, Dan & Maureen Stores, Cindy & Mark Scholberg, Dave & Patti Hamre, and cash memorials from family. In memory of Pam Schneck by Jim & Ranet Schmeichel.

First Communion Classes Sign up

Children in 2nd grade on up are invited to participate in First Communion Classes. Students are required to attend no less than two classes. Classes may be held at both First English and Zion Lutheran with dates and time the end of February or in early March to be determined depending on interest, sign-up and ages.



Any youngster who has not yet taken First Communion class in second grade on up is encouraged to register with Pastor Cheryl no later than February 18th at 605-237-1501 or by Email: CMQRondeau@outlook.com. The students will take their first communion on Palm Sunday, March 29th at their respective churches.

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 KQIO broadcasts when we do not have a weekly sponsorship.

February 2026

Designated Funds

Building (please specify) \$ _____
Operating Fund \$ _____
Other Service Trip Scholarship \$ _____

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

Souper Bowl of Caring will be Sunday, February 8th. Youth will be at both exits with a kettle for your donations. All proceeds will be given to the Big Stone Emergency Food Shelf, so bring your money to help those in need.

Super Subs are on sale by the Youth Group. If you or someone you know would like to order subs for pickup on February 8th, you can pick up a form, fill it out, & return it by Tuesday, Feb. 3rd with your payment to someone in the office. Forms can be found at the sanctuary entrances and on our FB page. Checks should be written to: FELC Youth. Each Super Sub is 15" and serves 4-6 people.

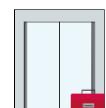
Registration for GLLM's summer programs opened in January and spots can fill up fast. Parents will be responsible for the deposit fee that is \$175 per student before any discounts. There is a **\$65 early bird discount if registered by Feb. 19th** and there is a sibling discount of \$25 for the full 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.

You are invited to a FELC & Zion joint fellowship event at Unity Square in Milbank, SD on February 22nd from 1:00-3:00 pm (or stay longer). "Come & Go" as you are able and join in the fun-filled activities offered including swimming, racquetball, basketball, running, relaxation, exercise, volleyball, & pickleball. A family is sponsoring this event so the cost for attending will be covered for FELC & Zion members. The party room has been reserved, so if anyone wants to donate snacks and water or lemonade, that would be appreciated.

Thank you to everyone who gave me cards and gifts at Christmas. I really appreciate all the lovely words and expressions of Christmas wishes and enjoying hearing from so many. Pastor Cheryl

May the God of all consolation be with Jon Ydstie and family on the death of his eldest sister, Bonnie Ydstie Hunt, from Medina, MN. She passed away on January 3, 2026 peacefully following complications of a stroke. A Memorial Service is planned at a later date.

There is planned maintenance of the Church's Elevator from January 26th to the week of February 9th.



Vacation Bible School will 5/31-6/4 from 6:30-8:45pm. Registration will be later this spring. There will be a meeting February 17th at 6:30pm at Zion to review the materials, pick craft and music selection, and start talking about decorations. Everyone is welcome to join.

2025 Giving Statements \$250 or higher have been sent out (via email or USPS mail). If you don't receive a statement and would like one printed for you, please contact someone in the office.

KDIO BROADCASTS

.... (**January 4th**)** was sponsored in memory of Erv Mikkelson, given by wife Darlene and family, Gary, Joan, & Dean. January 1st was the anniversary of his death.

.... (**January 11th**) was sponsored by Rita Verheul in memory of Dick Verheul on the 1st anniversary of his passing.

.... (**January 18th**)** was sponsored by Barb & Roger Nornes in honor of what would have been their 72nd Anniversary.

.... (**January 25th**) was sponsored in memory of Jim Johnson whose birthday would have been February 17th.

**** 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 covered those days. The sponsorships from members were moved to service dates in January.



CIRCLE FOUR



Meets in the Church Lounge on Wed. February 4th at 9:00 am.
Lesson Leader: Sharon Smith
Hostess: Carol Newman



PRAYERS FOR HEALING and COMFORT for Kelly Athey, Gail Olson, Nancy Pierzina, Harris Selvig, Beth Swanson, Brandi Tweeter, Jean Zielike; Monty Athey, Alvin Dexter, 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.

FELC & Zion members and community residents are invited to join us for a communal meal at FELC on February 11th. The Just For the Love of It meal will start at 5:00 pm and go to 6:30 pm. Pioneer Meat is catering the meal.



February 18 Ash Wednesday services start the season of Lent

Ash Wednesday services will be held at both First English and Zion Lutheran Church at 5:30 pm and 6:30 pm respectively on February 18th with the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

After making confession, the pastor and assistants mark the sign of the cross with ashes on our forehead to remind us that we are made from the dust of the earth and to dust we will return. The solemn service centers around our need to return to the Lord, our God, as it prepares us to focus on our need for reflection and repentance.

During the Lenten season, we gather weekly with the whole church to deepen our knowledge of Jesus' teachings, to love one another as He Himself loved others. During the five weeks of Lent, Christians intentionally focus on Christ life, mission, ministry, death, and resurrection to turn their lives toward living a more Christ like existence through reflection on prayer, fasting and sacrificial giving through works of love. A love for our neighbor with our emphasis this year on Christ Journey to the Cross.

Using gospel readings several voices will be heard from Jesus closest followers, disciples, by-standers, rulers, and mother to enrich our understanding of Jesus humanity and God's plan of salvation for it. During the five-weeks, those surrounding Jesus invite you to reflect on His teachings and the love of Christ as they tell their story and experience with Him.

Confirmation students will assist with services each week centered on important influences along Christ's journey from the readings, songs, and messages of the gospel text. To develop a multi-generational reflection, a questioning atmosphere will allow young and old to address their thoughts and comments to those who journeyed with Jesus.

Ash Wednesday services will be held at First English Service at 5:30 pm and Zion Lutheran at 6:30 pm on February 18th. Midweek Lenten service will be held at 6 pm and rotate between the two congregations beginning with First English on February 25th and Zion on March 4th. A meal will be served prior to Lenten services beginning at 5 pm for the confirmation students and continuing for all until 5:45 pm.

Maundy Thursday services will be held at 7 pm April 2nd at Zion and the Good Friday Tenebrae service by Heather Sorenson will be held at 7 pm April 3rd at First English.



SEASON OF LENT AND EASTER SERVICES SUMMARY:

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

5:30 pm at First English & 6:30 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 4th – 6:00 pm at Zion

March 11th – 6:00 pm at First English

March 18th – 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



LOOKING FOR CHURCH DELEGATES

Please contact Barbara in the church office if you are interested in attending any of these:

- **Water's Edge bible camp** (previously GLLM) annual meeting will be held **February 10th**. There will be a meal at noon with their meeting at 1:00 pm. We can have 2 delegates. Seeking volunteers.
- **The Lac qui Parle Conference assembly** will be held Sunday, **March 15th** at 2:00 pm at Bergen Lutheran Church in Hanley Falls. We can have up to 6 voting members (preferably 3 male and 3 female) attend. The LQP conference needs representation from $\frac{1}{2}$ of the congregations to have a quorum for the meeting. Seeking volunteers.
- **The Synod Assembly** will be **June 5th to 6th** at Gustavus Adolphus College. We can send three members as delegates. Seeking volunteers.

TECHNOLOGY UPGRADE FUND UPDATE

With \$10,042 collected for the Technology Fund since November, we are 66.95% to Tech Fund Goal (\$15k) as of 1/27/26. Thank you so much to everyone who has donated, and we appreciate any continued support for this important part of our ministry.



Keep an eye out for a Future Elevator Fundraising Auction!

Those present at the annual meeting felt having an Auction with Zielsdorf (to raise funds to replace the money spent on our mandatory elevator upgrade) was a good idea. Watch your bulletins and/or newsletter for future information on this.

If you have larger items that you might consider putting on the Online Auction, please contact the church office with your name and the item you are interested in donating.



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.'

ALTAR GUILD TEAMS – February

Sacristy, Sanctuary, Surplices:

Lori Strei & Sara Mattison

Banners:

Julie Hipple & Jocelyn Schowalter

Flower Committee:

Kris Redfield



SCHEDULING

GREETERS

Feb. 1: Eldon Knutson & Dawson

Feb. 8: Sarah Haukos & Amelia

Feb. 15: Nancie Haukos & Mia

Feb. 22: Wollschlager Family

Mar. 1: Art & Arlene Vollmer

Mar. 8: Jackie & Mel Domine

Mar. 15: Bruce & Kristi Redfield

Mar. 22: Glenn & Deb Henningson

Mar. 29: Garry & Ethel Swenson

SOUND SYSTEM

Feb. 1: Matt & Bryson Karels

Feb. 8: Kim Anderson & Terry Kalberg

Feb. 15: Liz Ketz & Marge Dragseth

Feb. 18* (Ash Wed.): Liz & Cameron Anderson

Feb. 22: Cody Backstrand & Cameron Anderson

Feb. 25*: Matt & Bryson Karels

Mar. 1: Liz Ketz & Kim Anderson

Mar. 8: Cody Backstrand & Cameron Anderson

Mar. 11* (6 pm FELC): Liz Ketz & Bryson Karels

Mar. 15: Matt & Bryson Karels

Mar. 22: Liz Ketz & Marge Dragseth

Mar. 25* (6 pm FELC): Liz Ketz & Cameron Anderson

Mar. 29: Cody Backstrand & Kim Anderson

USHERS

Feb. 1: Gale May, Dean Strand, Vern

Nickolauson, & **TBD**

Feb. 8: Darin Ehrenberg, **TBD**, 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

Mar. 1: Ev Johnson, Ron Athey, Jon & Kim Anderson

Mar. 8: Art Vollmer, Brent Zahrbock, Glenn & Deb Henningson

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

Mar. 15: Dean Longnecker, Josh Wollschlager, Dick & Marla Strei

Mar. 22: Tami Lundberg, Paula Reisdorph, Jackie & Mel Domine

Mar. 25*: Tami Lundberg, Paula Reisdorph, Jackie & Mel Domine

Mar. 29: Ev Johnson, Brent Zahrbock, Marilyn Chindvall, & Ron Athey

KEYBOARD/ORGANIST

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* (1 pm FWV): TBA

Feb. 25* (6 pm FELC): TBA

Mar. 1: TBA

Mar. 4* (1 pm FWV): TBA

Mar. 8: TBA

Mar. 11* (1 pm FWV): TBA

Mar. 11* (6 pm FELC): TBA

Mar. 15: TBA

Mar. 18* (1 pm FWV): TBA

Mar. 22: TBA

Mar. 25* (1 pm FWV): TBA

Mar. 25* (6 pm FELC): TBA

Mar. 29: TBA

LECTOR

Feb. 1: Liz Ketz

Feb. 8: Marilyn Hanson

Feb. 15: Jim Schmeichel

Feb. 22: Liv Wollschlager

Mar. 1: Jim Foster

Mar. 8: Chris Peteresen

Mar. 15: Darin Ehrenberg

Mar. 22: Jon Ydstie

Mar. 29: Miley Block

ACOLYTES

Feb. 1: Brielle & Miley

Feb. 8: Liam & Mikaela

Feb. 15: Liv & Meadow

Feb. 18* (Ash Wed.): TBA

Feb. 22: Nash & Mia

Feb. 25*: TBA

Mar. 1: Oliver & Amelia Z.

Mar. 4*: TBA

Mar. 8: Chase & Martino

Mar. 11*: TBA

Mar. 15: Rylie C. & Bailey

Mar. 18*: TBA

Mar. 22: Kimberly & Hartley

Mar. 25*: TBA

Mar. 29: Cameron & Jace

LAY ASSISTANTS

Feb. 1: Darin & Kristi Ehrenberg

Feb. 15: Brent Zahrbock & Marilyn Chindvall

Feb. 18* (Ash Wed.): Kari & Archer Dorry

Mar. 1: Terry Kalberg & Lori Strei

Mar. 15: Lori Larson & Jim Schmeichel

TBA = To Be Assigned
Acolytes for Lenten
Wednesdays will be
assigned by Pastor Cheryl.



FWV Neighborhoods

Feb. 1: TBD

Feb. 8: TBD

Mar. 1: TBD

Mar. 8: TBD

Mar. 29: TBD

*February 18th is Ash Wednesday

* Feb. 25th & March 11th & 25th Lent services are at FELC.

* March 4th & 18th Lent services will be at Zion.

* March 29th is Palm Sunday

REMINDER: Please remember to find your own replacements if you can't make a scheduled date.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
First English Lutheran Church						
February 2026 	Elevator Upgrade 1/26 - 2/9		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.			
1  9:00 am Worship – Communion – KDIO Broadcast & Facebook Live 9:30 – 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fairway View Pre-recorded	2  Groundhog Day 11 am Staff Meeting	3 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)	4 9:00 am Circle 4 (church lounge) 9:30 am TV Broadcast 1:45 pm Confirmation (grades 7-8) 2:45 pm Confirmation (grade 9) 4-5:30 pm Youth Group Broomball at Skating Rink 5:30 pm TV Broadcast 5:30 – TBD Youth Group returns to FELC for dinner and a movie, "I Can Only Imagine" 7:00 pm Senior Choir	EARLY OUT w/Youth Group	5	6 9:00 am Bulletins Printed 4:00 pm Youth FB Fundraiser Auction Ends
Youth Mission Trip Auction Fundraiser	8 AM Feb 1 st through	4 PM Feb 6 th -----	----- Youth Mission Trip Auction	Fundraiser 8 AM Feb 1 st	through 4 PM Feb 6 th	7
8 SOUPERBOWL OF CARING  7:45 am Super Sub Prep 9:00 am Worship – KDIO Broadcast & FB Live 9:30 – 10:15 am Sunday School 10:00 am Pick up Super Subs & Souper Bowl of Caring 10:30 am Fairway View Pre-recorded	9 11 am Staff Meeting Elevator Upgrade Work Planned to End	10 9:00 am Day of Love 4-5:00 pm Bible Study at Donnie's Diner (FWV)	11   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) 5:00-6:30 pm Just For the Love Of It Dinner 5:30 pm TV Broadcast & Church Council Meeting 7:00 pm Senior Choir	12 	13 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	14 VALENTINE'S DAY 
15  9:00 am Worship – Communion – KDIO Broadcast & FB Live NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	16  Pr. Cheryl Working From Home	17 9:00 am Day of Love 4-5:00 pm Bible Study at Donnie's Diner (FWV) 6:30 pm Zion-FELC VBS Meeting at Zion	18 ASH WEDNESDAY  9:30 am TV Broadcast (of 2/15) 1:00 pm FWV Ash Wed. Live Worship Service w/communion 5:30 pm FELC Ash Wed. Service with communion & TV Broadcast (of 2/15) 6:30 pm Zion Ash Wednesday Service with communion 7:00 pm Senior Choir	19	20 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	21
22 9:00 am Contemporary Worship – Noisy Offering – KDIO Broadcast & Facebook Live 9:30 – 10:15 am Sunday School 1:00-3:00 Unity Square Activities (FELC & Zion Members)	23 11 am Staff Meeting	24 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9:00 am Day of Love 4-5:00 pm Bible Study at Donnie's Diner (FWV)	25 9:30 am TV Broadcast (of 2/22) 1:00 pm Fairway View Lenten Worship Service Live with Pastor Cheryl 5:30 pm TV Broadcast (of 2/22) 5:00 pm Lenten Meal 6:00 pm Combined Lent Service at FELC 7:00 pm Senior Choir	26	27 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	28 