



March 15, 2026

First English Lutheran Church

9 NW 3rd Street; Ortonville, MN 56278

Rev. Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett, Pastor

Lisa Berdan, Senior Choir Director

Fourth Sunday in Lent

ELW SETTING FOUR – EARLY COMMUNION



9:00 am

PREPARATION

Prelude, Bells

Welcome & KDIO Announcement

Peace

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

GATHERING

Prayer of Confession (*inspired by John 9: 1-41*)

P: Holy Jesus, **C: we confess that we fail to question our own sightlessness. Being so sure that we “see,” we miss the truths you would teach us. With the poultice of your love, cure this blindness. Open our eyes to our own misunderstandings, our own failures and our own faults. Make our “shadow side” known to us and help us to diminish it with the light of your grace. For it is only when we see ourselves clearly that we can worship you truly. In the name of Jesus, we pray...**

Words of Assurance

P: We have reflected on our own weaknesses, our own blindness, and on the frailty of others. Jesus says to you ‘I am the light of the world.’

C: So we go, no longer blind to our sins that have been forgiven nor condemning others for the sins that God has forgiven them. As receivers of God’s grace we ask for help to be grace-givers in the week ahead. In the name of Christ. Amen.

Gathering Hymn

‘There is a Balm in Gilead’

#614

(Refrain): **There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole; there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.**

1. **Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain, but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. (Refrain)**
2. **If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul, you can tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all." (Refrain)**
3. **Don't ever be discouraged, for Jesus is your friend; and if you lack for knowledge he'll ne'er refuse to lend. (Refrain)**

Text based on Jeremiah 8:22. Text & Music: African American spiritual.

Prayer of the Day

P: O God, C: in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Preparation for Communion

P: We remember the time...the actions of that ancient meal.

Words of Institution

pg. 130

Lord's Prayer

pg. 154

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

Distribution Hymn: 'Lamb of God' pg. 154

Distribution Hymn 'We Come to the Hungry Feast' #479

Distribution Hymn: 'Let Us Break Bread Together' #471

1. Let us break bread together on our knees; let us break bread together on our knees.

(Refrain): **When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.**

2. Let us drink wine together on our knees; let us drink wine together on our knees. (Refrain)

3. Let us praise God together on our knees; let us praise God together on our knees. (Refrain)

Text & Music: Text: African American spiritual

Eucharistic Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer P: God of our salvation, **C: we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens**

us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Special Music

'Psalm 23: A Psalm of Hope'

Senior Choir

WORD

First Lesson: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

OT pg. 202

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

Psalm 23

ELW Psalm 23

L: ¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

C: ²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

L: ³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

C: ⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

L: ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

C: ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

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

Second Lesson: Ephesians 5:8-14

NT pg. 150

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

Children's Message

Gospel Acclamation

'Return to the Lord'

pg. 151

Holy Gospel: John 9:1-41

NT pg. 78-79

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

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

Sermon

Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett

Sermon Song

'Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound'

#779

1. Amazing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come; 'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

4. The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures; he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

**5. When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.**

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5.
Music: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835, arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851-1921,

Apostle's Creed

p. 127

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

P:Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

P: Receive our prayers, O God...Christ, our strength and salvation.

C: Amen

Offering Collection and Presentation

Offertory Hymn

'In the Cross of Christ I Glory'

#324

- 1. In the cross of Christ I glory, tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.**
- 2. When the woes of life o'ertake me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy, never shall the cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.**
- 3. When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way, from the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.**
- 4. Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified; peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.**

Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872. Music: Ithamar Conkey, 1815-1867.

Offertory Prayer

P: Let us pray...

C: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

SENDING

Commission & Benediction:

P: These are complex times. Let us look carefully in the light of the world, not blundering along in darkness, but as those who were blind and now see. Wherever you go and whatever happens, know that everything exposed by the light becomes visible and conduct your lives reflecting the light of Christ.

And May the Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's make His face shine upon you with grace and mercy

And the Lord look upon you with favor and grant you peace. **C: Amen.**

Pastor Leaves

Announcements

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Be the light. **C: We Will. Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn

'Be Thou My Vision'

#793

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art: thou my best thought both by day and by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord. Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r, raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

3. Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise, thou mine inheritance, now and always: thou and thou only, the first in my heart, great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

4. Light of my soul, after victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931. Music: Irish traditional.

Bells, Postlude

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John 10:27 "My sheep hear my voice; I know them and they follow me."

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.

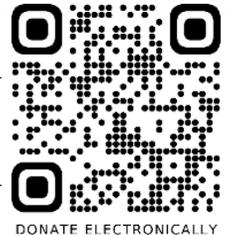
Welcome to all visitors and guests! May the joy of Christ fill you as we worship today. Friendship Pads are at the ends of each pew (by middle aisle). Fill them out, pass them on to your neighbor(s), and send them back to the middle aisle.

KDIO Radio Broadcast is sponsored by your gifts to the Endowment Fund. [Radio broadcast cards are available in the narthex; cost is \$100/week].

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



	<u>February 2026</u>	<u>Year-to-Date 2026</u>
Offerings/Gifts:	\$19,907.36	\$34,904.72
Zion Receivable:	\$3,544.65	\$6,825.69
Total Revenue:	\$23,452.01	\$41,730.41
Expenses:	\$22,286.82	\$41,374.22
Balance:	\$1,165.19	\$356.19



DONATE ELECTRONICALLY

March's pink envelope emphasis is for Big Stone Lake Area Food Shelf.

You can find special pink envelopes for designated giving in the Narthex.

Happy Belated Birthday wishes go out to Burt Pansch whose birthday was yesterday, the 14th.

7-9th Confirmation Students will meet at Zion at 3:30 pm on Wednesday, March 18th. Students will have a snack and prepare for the Lenten service, then have their meal and return to the sanctuary to assist with the Lenten service at 6 pm.

The Lenten meal for Wed. March 18th is Barbeque and chips at Zion Church. The meal for Wed. March 25th is pulled pork sandwiches, BBQ beans, chips, & bars at FELC.

The Endowment Committee will be meeting on March 22nd after the church service. Please get your requests in to their mailbox before then. Please note: parents will need to fill out a request for Bible camp if they wish to get a scholarship from the Endowment committee to help defray this cost. Forms are available in the library under the mailboxes.

March Movie Lock-In for Sunday School kids March 22nd from 9:30 am – 11:30 am. Bring PJs/stuffy/blanket and enjoy popcorn while we watch a Bible movie (the new animated film 'David') together in the church basement.



Vacation Bible School will be 5/31 -6/4 from 6:30-8:45pm. Registration will be later this spring. There will be another planning meeting at Zion on March 24th at 6:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to join.

The FELC parish nurses will hold a Safety & Security Procedures Meeting

immediately after the 4/19 church service in the narthex for about 30 minutes. Anyone can attend and we strongly encourage the ushers to be present. The parish nurses will be covering how to use the AED cardiac monitor, emergency medical procedures, & fire, active shooter/shelter in place procedures. If anyone has other topics of concerns to add to the agenda please let the office know and we will add it. Sheriff Mark Brown will be here that day for part of the training.



Prairie Five/Big Stone Lake Area Food Shelf thanks you for your past support of their work. They are raising funds during the March Campaign so that they can be ready to help friends and neighbors who struggle with food insecurity in Big Stone County. Their goal for this year is 28,000 pounds and dollars.

Recognition of New Members Sunday will be held on April 12th. Cookies will be available following the welcoming service so stick around and meet the new members and have a cookie. If you're interested in becoming a member of First English, please reach out to Pastor Cheryl, someone on the Evangelism Committee, or grab a household record from the Narthex & turn it into the office.

Coffee will again be available before the church service beginning on Sunday, March 22nd. There will be a Keurig pot and pods available to make a quick cup of coffee. Donations will be accepted or if you would like to supply some coffee pods that also would be accepted. Come early and chat with Pastor Cheryl and enjoy a cup of coffee.

The Synod Assembly will be June 5th-6th at Gustavus Adolphus College & online via Zoom. We can send three members as delegates. Early bird discount deadline's 4/10. Please let the office know if you can attend.

Watch Paddington in the DeMarce Theater free & support Swift County Food Shelf on Sat, March 14th at 10:30am. Please bring non-perishable food items or monetary donations to support Prairie Five Food Shelf.

Noisy Offering will be next week (*rather than the last Sunday, which is Palm Sunday this month*). Remember to bring change. Three South African Students' tuition is covered by your noisy offering donations.

You're invited to an Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, March 28th 9am-11am at Peace Lutheran Church (100 4th Ave. SW. New London, MN, hosted by NLS Ambassadors. Freewill donation \$5/child suggested. Great prizes, decorate a cookie, and get info on being a candidate with the NLS Ambassador Program. Questions? Contact Becky Arvia @320-905-3337, Lori Pederson @320-905-2514, or Stephanie Bents @320-220-1504.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sun – 3/15 9:00 am Worship – Communion
– Broadcast on KDIO & Facebook Live
9:30-10:15 am Sunday School

Mon – 3/16 11:00 am Staff Meeting

Tues – 3/17 St. Patrick's Day



9:00 am Day of Love

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

Wed – 3/18 9:30 am Channel 3 Broadcast

1:00 pm Fairway View Lenten Service Live w/Pr. Cheryl

3:30 pm 7-9th gr. Confirmation Students Snack & Prep (Zion)

5:00 pm Lenten Meal at Zion Church

5:30 pm Channel 3 Broadcast (3/15 Sunday Service)

6:00 pm Lenten Service at Zion Church

7:00 pm Senior Choir at FELC

Fri – 3/20 FIRST DAY OF SPRING

9:00 am Bulletins Printed

Sun – 3/22 9:00 am Contemporary Worship – Noisy Offering

– Broadcast on KDIO & Facebook Live

9:30 -11:30 am Sunday School Movie ('David') Lock-in

10:00 am Endowment Committee Meeting

12:00 pm Hartley & Kimberly Neuman Baptisms



Hire a Youth

Spring Yardwork—Garage Cleaning

Youth going on the Sr Mission Trip to Savannah, GA this summer are holding a fund raiser that will benefit you as well as them.

If you have spring yard work or need help with garage cleaning, they are willing to work for you for a reasonable and fair donation.

Able bodied Students seeking work are:

Archer Dorry

James Hodenfield

Cameron Anderson

Bryson Karels

Brandon Kaye

Kirby Olson

Lexi Kaye

Work will be done when weather permits

Limited spots are available

To put in a Request—fill out the form and return it to the office

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Request: _____

Date desire (weather permitting): _____

Address for work: _____

Number of Youth Requested _____

Payment will be made to FELC Mission Trip
in the name of the youth(s)