

First English Lutheran Church NEWSLETTER

April 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.

Rev. Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett, *Pastor*

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Pastor Cheryl's Office Hours: Mon 10-4, Tues (at Zion) 10- 4, Wed 10-3:30, Thur. 10-4
Secretary Office Hours: M-Thurs 8:00 am-3:00 pm, F 8:00-12:00 noon
Building hours: M-F 8:00 am - 4:00 pm, Sat. & Sun. 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
Facebook: @FirstEnglishLutheranChurchOrtonvilleMN

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

 Hello April 



Notes from Pastor Cheryl



March 26, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.” (1 Timothy 4:12)

This verse speaks to me this morning because our young people, all confirmation students from 7th thru 9th grade, demonstrated that quite accurately during our Lenten services and deserve a great deal of appreciation for showing us how true it is.

Perhaps we should take this verse to heart more often in our congregations and invite them to share their abilities in not just worship, but planning, activities, and being involved in the fellowship of our faith families.

In fact, research shows today’s youth want adults to understand they want to have a chance to learn, to have purpose, and be involved. According to Lisa Damour, PHD, writing *What Teens Wish Adult Understood*, (November 17, 2024) with data from Gallup and the Walton Family Foundation, teens wish adults would trust them more. Specifically, to understand they are trying their best to do the right thing and know they are not perfect.

Over the years, I have found Lenten services are a great opportunity for youth to experience reading in front of the congregation because of a smaller, more informal atmosphere, which makes them feel more comfortable, especially when they are with their peers who are doing the same thing. Our scriptures tell us: *“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another.”* (Hebrews 10: 24-25)

Another article written on Sept 11, 2024, in Mission West Virginia, an adoptive parent resource entitled *What you want from adults*, says:

“Adolescents need to have a sense of agency, to learn how to make decisions for themselves. That does not mean to turn everything over to them—but to find an appropriate level of autonomy. Young people are correct when they say, “Don’t just tell us what to do. The best parenting, the best interventions, and the best teaching involve adolescents in learning to solve problems for themselves, not having problems solved for them.”

Overcoming nervousness in front of a group. Learning opportunities in a safe environment. Allowing them to have a fearful experience in a safe atmosphere to see they have nothing to be afraid of. Each week on worship notes, the response I get from the question asking what they want me to pray for them is “their safety.”

All humans, especially the youth, have basic physical needs but also feelings of belonging, being supported and respected, autonomy, and ways to give back. They want to learn they are useful and belong to this faith family. Sometimes that means we need to show them how their faith is important and useful for their lives now by being part of us, and through hearing the words of promise so they feel secure sharing that hope with others.

Too often we look at teenagers and see them with a phone in their hands thinking that’s all they want. I look out over the congregation on Sunday morning and see parents and even grandparents on their phones in the middle of service and these young people with clipboards taking notes. I often think I should hand out worship notes to the adults in the room to help them learn the art of listening, as the confirmation students are doing. *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”* (Proverbs 1: 7)

In the last months, youth have stepped up to lead services, preach the Sunday message, and volunteer to assist on our tech team to name a few things. They have done an amazing job with all they have been asked to do. *“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”* – 1 Peter 4:10

Yes, they may pronounce a word wrong once in a while, as I do, they may show the wrong slide at times, they may even make a mess when they help serve a meal or coffee. Don’t we all? *“Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.”* – Proverbs 15:22. This is a time we as adults help them learn what their gifts are to share with the church and others, and act as advisors so they succeed.

All adults are the counsel they need to give them a word of encouragement, thank them for being part of the faith community, and understand their need to be an accepted as part of their church family. Each time they assist, it empowers them to be active now and in future years to support the church while strengthening their faith for days of trial and temptation that will come.

We want the best for our young people. They learn by examples, through good experiences, and our willingness to include them. Scripture tells us the consequences of disregard for worship and when we fail to teach them how important that is saying:

²¹ For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools (Romans 1: 21-22)

Don’t look down on them because they are young but take a lesson from our youth... to step up and be involved in worship, service and obedience to our God to deepen our relationship with Him. Be an example of how we acknowledge its importance as it helps them grow in faith, love and devotion, bringing them closer to God and filling them with a Spirit of trust for days when they face testing and temptation from Satan.

Gratefully Rejoicing in Christ for You!

~ Pastor Cheryl

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH BOARD MEETING

Council Minutes – March 8th, 2026 (not yet approved)

Members present: Jon Anderson (president), Ellie Helgeson (vice president) and Lay Ministry, Mark Block - Stewardship, Carmen Zupfer - Christian Education, Michelle Bauer - Lay Ministry, Paula Reisdorph - Evangelism, & Dale Price - Church Properties.

Meeting was called to order by President Jon Anderson at 10:40 am.

Approval of February Minutes as presented – Michelle, Paula MSP.

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

The Zion-FELC partnership group met last Tuesday and discussed renewing the partnership this summer. The first agreement was two years, so we're due to renew this summer. The FELC Board of Christian Education had been wanting to have mid-week summer services in conjunction with Zion. The partnership group wants to try this three times this summer and it will be connected to the youth summer fun bonfire nights at Zion. The services would be Wed. night June 17th, July 15th, & August 5th. It would be a condensed contemporary service, then a joint meal, and then the youth would have their summer fun nights as before in 2025. A committee will need to be set up to coordinate and set this up. There will be also be a joint worship at Zion Church Sunday, May 31st to kickoff VBS and a joint worship at FELC in the winter, likely January 10th to have roller-skating together after church.

Pastor's Report- Everyone received a copy of the Pastor's Report. It's also available on our website. Jon mentioned that Pastor Cheryl said it was recommended at the Boundaries workshop that we should read our constitutions together as a council because so many people do not read it. The suggestion is to read a portion of it each time beginning with the duties of the council and go from there.

Board of Lay Ministry – Michelle Bauer reported – The Lenten meal on March 25th will be pulled pork sandwiches, BBQ beans, chips, and bars. Employees should keep track of actual hours on their timecard if that is what their position requires. Ellie will work with Liz on the employee contracts (and getting usual hours on them).

Board of Evangelism – Paula Reisdorph reported – Concerning transfers out/in, Vicki Bartz wants to be transferred out of First English and Burton Pansch and Cody and Karley Teske (along with their four sons: Wyatt, Leo, Brady, Henry) want to be transferred in. Recognition of New Members will be held on Sunday, April 12th. Evangelism served 150-160 people at the Just For the Love of It supper. The board plans to hold another Adult-Only Game Night in January of 2027. The Evangelism & Properties Boards served 69 people at the February 25th Lenten Meal.

Christian Education – Carmen Zupfer reported – The board will go with wooden chalices for first communion gifts and wants to confirm with Pastor Cheryl that it will be *nine* students receiving chalices because it was noted that there were a lot of first communion students. Having first communion on Thursdays, rather than in Sunday School and the classes themselves were well-received. 1st Communion will be March 29th (Palm Sunday). There will not be Sunday School that day. The board would like the Sunday School children to sing that day, even if it means cutting the Children's message or Senior Choir song that day. Instructional materials for VBS have been chosen in joint meetings with Zion. We're still looking for more teachers and confirmation students can help with VBS for service hours and the board would like Pastor Cheryl to pass this information along to the students. The Unity Square was a great outreach event with 55 people from the churches attending. The board would like to do this again next year with more announcements, including pictures, and plan for the summer after open gym stops. No ice skating planned now that it's warming up. There is a FELC March movie lock-in during Sunday School on March 22nd. SS will be over around 11 am (*actually 11:30 am*) that morning. They will watch the new 'Daniel' (*actually 'David'*) animated movie on a projector and have popcorn. Christian Ed has talked with Youth & Family to come up with a way to have a second offering for Bible Camp in April and they're working on getting videos asking previous attendees what they liked about camp.

Youth & Family – No Youth & Family Report was available.

Stewardship – Mark Block reported – Board of Stewardship and Christian Education are serving pizza for the March 11th Lenten meal. Stewardship seems to be down a board member, so will look for a replacement. The Elevator fundraiser auction may be June. Darin received forms from Zielsdorf and Mark may contact a church in Glenwood that holds big-ticket auctions and see how they handle that. High-end items may draw people in. Our financials show that we need the partnership to be able to stay on top of our expenses.

Church Properties – Dale Price reported – Reviewed and inspected the heating & air conditioning unit per Scott of Larry's Heating. The board has ideas of where we need to start preparing for additional changes so it was good they had that meeting with Larry's. The board of properties served the Lenten service with Evangelism on February 25th. Liz let the board know we have completed the payments for the elevator upgrade. That should be reflected in the budget next month. Received an email about spider control and authorized that expense. The board has not yet discussed the cleanup date or cleanup projects yet.

COUNCIL ACTIONS:

- Transfers in / out as Evangelism Board presented. Paula, Ellie **MSP**
- Approval of Zion-FELC joint summer worship services on youth summer fun nights with Board of Christian Ed heading this up & asking for volunteers that are needed. Ellie, Carmen **MSP**

Next Council Meeting scheduled for: Wednesday, April 8th, at 5:30 PM.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:10 am, Ellie, Dale **MSP**.

First English Lutheran and Zion Lutheran Partnership Meeting Minutes Minutes – March 3rd, 2026 (not yet approved) at First English Lutheran Church

Pastor Cheryl opened meeting with prayer and devotion: Let your light shine before others.

Introduction of Partnership Council Members present: Jon Anderson, Steve Winther, Kristin Haggerty, Sara Tollakson (Advisory), Jeremy Tollakson, Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett, and Judy Reupke: Members Absent: Becky Parker and Ellie Helgeson

Executive Committee for the Partnership appointments:

President: Jon Anderson, as per initial Partnership Council agreement (Alternating years between Individual Church Council Presidents). Judy made motion to accept; Jeremy 2nd. Motion carried.

Vice-President: Jeremy Tollakson, as per initial Partnership Council Agreement. Judy made motion to accept; Jon 2nd. Motion carried.

Secretary: Becky Parker (by proxy agreement). Jon made motion to accept; Judy 2nd. Motion carried.

Discussion of Partnership effectiveness for each congregation: Overall input is positive with no significant adverse situations noted. The written agreement time restraints concerning the 2-year commitment, with annual review and 6-month advance notice of any congregation withdrawal, was briefly reviewed for new Partnership Council information. New members received a copy of the Partnership Agreement from previous year.

Evaluation of Pastor handling Youth Activities and visitation done by Pastor Dave: Positive

Discussion concerning possible Wednesday evening services in Summer: Proposed for each Church Council review: Contemporary Service; to include "Family Night with Communion", in conjunction with monthly Youth Services (*actually called 'Youth Summer Fun Nights' they have not been services*) already scheduled. (June 17, July 15 and August 5) Basically, to have Church, Meal and Youth Group Activities to follow. Any offering received from these services should be given to charity, as determined by Education Committees of both Congregations. Coordination and logistics of meals, set up and take down TBD via appropriate Committees? Communication between committees and councils will be necessary.

Discussion of the 2 Combined Services each year: May 31, 2026 –Zion as VBS kickoff; January 10, 2027 –First English

Pastor will be on leave May 7-14, 2026. Mother's Day service to be conducted by Lay Leaders

Other Items Mentioned: FELC has new Evangelism member. (*referring to FELC's 'New Member Recognition' Sunday*) God's Work our Hands is Tentative. Thanksgiving service at FELC this year? Reminder of time change March 8th.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:30 pm. Next Meeting scheduled for June 9th at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Reupke, Note taker

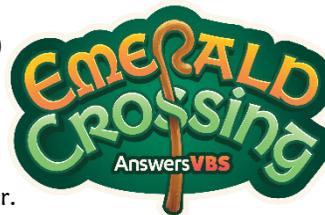
Italics in joint partnership minutes above are clarifying corrections by Barbara Wegner.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Emerald Crossing 2026 Vacation Bible School Committee Minutes March 24, 2026 at 6:30

Attendees: Beth Fladhammer, Pastor Cheryl, Kristin Haggerty, Cindy Nelson, Sandy Helgeson, Violet Baerwaldt, Sara Tollakson

- Sara opened the meeting with a prayer.
- VBS dates: May 31- June 4th - 6:30-8:45
- VBS Program: Emerald Crossing
 - Online access <https://myanswers.com/vbs/manage/85197/library/> (log in & password shared w/committee & not shown here for privacy)
- Directors (Sara Tollakson & Beth Fladhammer)
 - No updates. Sara and Beth have the director and assembly material for the program to review.
- PR & Online Registration (Kristin Haggerty)
 - Open registration on April 1st will run through May 1st. Kristin will create the online registration for the students.
 - Ensure registration form includes consent to take photos and videos to post on Facebook.
 - Sara will create a bulletin insert and newsletter information to include the QR code for registration. Students and volunteers are able to register online.
 - If anyone is interested in volunteering, they can complete the online registration or complete a form, or contact Beth Fladhammer or Sara Tollakson.
 - Kristin will post on Facebook online registration link for both children and volunteers.
 - Encourage registration prior to May 1st to plan for craft supplies, classroom assignments, and volunteers needed.
- Kitchen/Snacks (Sandy Helgeson)
 - Volunteer sign up for snacks will not be done by online registration. Sandy will have a sign up sheet at both FELC and Zion. Also considering the use of Thrivent dollars for healthy snacks.
- Crafts (Violet)
 - Planning for four days instead of all five. Using the last day to finish projects from previous days.
 - Will need volunteers to assist with prepping craft supplies.
- Games (Mack Minder, DJ Haggerty, Nate Gleason, Erik Fladhammer)
 - No updates.
- Decorating (Violet, Sara, and Beth)
 - Reference the Answers VBS Community for ideas.
 - Confirmation students may assist for service projects
 - Will need assistance with decorating and preparing decorations prior.
- Music (Laura Laub)
 - Music with video and motions is available online. Beth will touch base with Laura on selecting songs.
- Drama (Sara to recruit a lead)
 - The committee discussed different options for actors, with previous actors and confirmation students, there should not be an issue having all roles filled.
- Assembly (Beth and Sara)
 - As above - Beth and Sara to review assembly material. Schedule for opening and closing assembly will remain the same as the previous year.
- Safety (Beth and Sara)
 - Beth and Sara checked the first aid kits, only a couple supplies needed. Beth will get the supplies needed.
- Time keeper (Carrie Hjelle)
 - No updates.
- Greeters/check-in (Kandra and Sara W.)
 - Name tags can be printed from the online resource once we have students registered and classroom assignments are completed. We will print these at Zion this year.
 - Attendance forms will be printed and made available to all teachers.
- Photography & Videos (Kandra Kellen)
 - Kandra to take photos throughout the week to share on Facebook. Will ask her to take individual pictures of each of the children to have ready by end of day Wednesday. Discussed printing options - Kristin has a device to print in time, bring to local pharmacy, or the newspaper. Beth will contact Kaitlyn to see what was done last year and cost.
- Teachers (Beth and Sara):
 - No updates until registration is complete.
- Offering:
 - Opening Assembly: Food shelf items and/or monetary donations. Sandy will get a list of times needed to include in the first night's letter to the parents/guardians. Will have an area set up to drop off items as well.
 - Family Assembly: VBS Funds
- VBS funds:
 - Zion has their own youth account that was used prior to the partnership with FELC. FELC has their own VBS account that was used prior to the partnership with Zion.
 - A separate shared fund was created the first year of the partnership in VBS. The offerings from family assembly in 2024 and 2025 were added to this fund and has been used for purchasing the program and craft/decorating supplies for 2025 and 2026.
 - Starting balance for 2026 was \$2,322.05. Reimbursement check made to Sara for the purchase of the program for \$254.15. Current balance \$2,067.90.
- Close in prayer Lord's Prayer
- Next VBS Meeting May 5th at 5:30 at Zion





Youth April Newsletter

March has been a busy month for the youth with all of their assisting with the Lenten Services. We appreciate their work to make the services meaningful.

Our Sunday School students had a great time at their movie event.



Congratulations and God's blessing on the following youth who completed their instruction and participated in their first communion on Sunday, March 29th: Fiona Backstrand, daughter of Cody & Jennifer Backstrand; Eira Kindelberger, daughter of Dustin



& Jamie Kindelberger; Braylon Rademacher, son of Emily & Mickey Rademacher; Bronson Rademacher, son of Emily & Mickey Rademacher; Leo Rademacher, son of Alicia & Taylor Rademacher; Brady Teske, son of Karley & Cody Teske; Leo Teske, son of Karley & Cody Teske; Wyatt Teske, son of Karley & Cody Teske; and Evelyn Zupfer, daughter of Pete & Carmen Zupfer.



Coming up for April:

1st- NO CONFIRMATION

2nd- Maundy Thursday Services will be held at Zion Lutheran Church beginning at 7:00 PM.

3rd- Good Friday Services will be held at First English Lutheran beginning at 7:00 PM.

5th- Easter Sunrise Service will be held beginning at 7:00 AM. There will be an Easter Breakfast served from 8:00-9:00 AM. They will be serving pancakes, sausage, and cinnamon rolls, along with orange juice and coffee. Regular Easter Service will begin at 9:00 AM. **THERE IS NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY.**

8th – Confirmation classes will be at their regular times. 3:30 PM for the 7/8th grades and 4:30 PM for the 9th grade. Youth group will meet at 5:30 PM. Youth Group at Zion-Zion Parents to prepare meal Activity – making May Baskets.

12th – Sunday School at the regular time.

15th – Confirmation classes will be at their regular times. 3:30 PM for the 7/8th grades and 4:30 PM for the 9th grade. Youth group will meet at 5:30 PM at FELC.

19th -Sunday School begins at its regular time.

22nd -EARLY OUT so Confirmation classes report at 1:45 PM for the 7/8th grades and 2:45 PM. The Youth group will meet at 4PM at Fairway View to play games with residents.

26th - Sunday School begins at its regular time. .

29th- Confirmation classes will be at their regular times. 3:30 PM for the 7/8th grades and 4:30 PM for the 9th grade. Youth group will meet at 5:30 PM at FELC. Youth will deliver May baskets.

Thank you to these people for their generous donations to the youth.

- 🌸 Mel & Jackie Domine 🌸 Scott & Monica Simonitch 🌸 Evie Swigerd 🌸 Erik & Beth Fladhammer
- 🌸 Glenda Reiffenberger 🌸 Larry & Shannon Millerbernd 🌸 Sharon Smith 🌸 Chris Petersen
- 🌸 Connie & Carol Newman 🌸 Roger Nornes Memorials: Kevin & Becky Backstrand, Justin & Misty Wittnebel, Russ & Ronda Thielke, Rob & Kathy Randall, Jim & Neva Foster, Daniel & Jacalyn Bensen, & cash memorials from family 🌸 Everyone who gave a Lent Offering for camp scholarships

ZION LUTHERAN PARISH AND FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH ARE EXCITED TO HOST 2026 VBS EMERALD CROSSING!

VBS will be held in the evenings from 6:30-8:45pm, May 31st-June 4th at Zion Lutheran Church, with a closing program on June 4th. For ages 4 years old thru completed 6th grade. VBS is a free community event, all are welcome!

Journey through Ireland in Emerald Crossing, where Psalm 23 comes to life! Kids will explore God as Shepherd, Guide, Comforter, Provider, and King through David's story through Bible lessons, music/songs, memory versus, crafts, snacks and games that deepen kid's understanding of God.

We are so excited for you to join us as we travel from Donegal's green pastures to Dublin's Viking History, as each day reveals how God leads, protects and provides. Join the adventure!

Registration is open! Please register your child by his/her grade currently in. Registration will close once classes are full and/or on Monday, May 4th.

Child Registration URL: <https://zionfelc.myanswers.com/emerald-crossing>

There will be printed Volunteer registration forms in the church bulletins (and around the church), that you can turn if you wish to volunteer. You can also go to our website, firstenglish.net, to find buttons to register online if you wish without using QR codes or typing long addresses. We also posted that website page to our Facebook page.

The direct link to volunteer for VBS is <https://zionfelc.myanswers.com/emerald-crossing/volunteer>



Child Registration QR Code

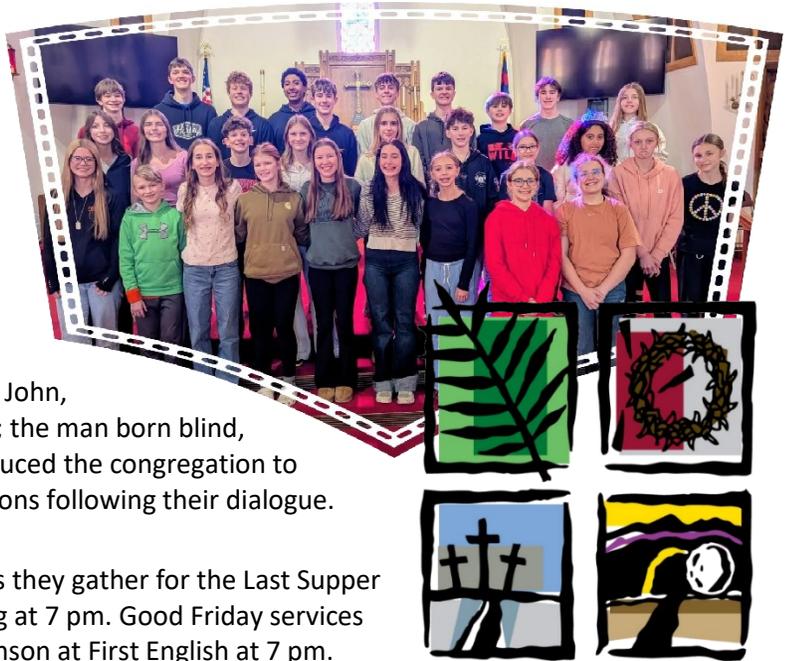
Confirmation student led services during Lent

Thirty confirmation students met each Wednesday during the Lenten season to prepare and lead the evening worship services at First English and Zion Lutheran churches.

Journey to the Cross was the theme for Lent this year based on Holy Conversations with many who knew Jesus. The theme coincided with the 7th and 8th grade study of the New Testament this year as a way to supplement their learning.

The Holy Conversations portrayed: Jesus; Mary the mother of Jesus; Mary Magdalen; Nicodemus; James and John, Jesus disciples; the woman at the well; Mary and Martha; the man born blind, Peter the Rock; and Lazarus. Each week a Narrator introduced the congregation to those who accompanied Jesus on His journey with questions following their dialogue. Scripts were written by Pastor Cheryl.

Their final portrayal will be with Jesus and the disciples as they gather for the Last Supper during Maundy Thursday service at Zion Lutheran starting at 7 pm. Good Friday services will be Tenebrae (A Service of Shadows) by Heather Sorenson at First English at 7 pm.



Parish Nurse Article for April Selfishness verses selflessness



Selfishness is in all of us, we get self centered and put our own needs in front of the needs of others. It is hard to have spiritual growth while thinking only of one's self.

In scripture over & over again it reminds us: Love others, Serve others, Honor others, Help others, Share with others, Encourage others.

Put others before ourselves - We can do it!

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.

April 2026

Designated Funds

Building (please specify) \$ _____
Operating Fund \$ _____
Other SWMN Funding Initiative \$ _____

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



FELC will have a 7 am Sunrise Easter service and then a 9:00 am service. Our Fairway View and Zion's Easter service will be at 10:30 am.

The FELC Youth will be hosting their annual Easter Breakfast on Easter morning between services from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM. Join us for a delicious meal including pancakes, sausage, and cinnamon rolls, along with orange juice and coffee. Come enjoy great food and fellowship while supporting our youth ministry. We look forward to celebrating the joy of Easter with you!



If you would like to donate flowers to FELC for the Easter (April 5th) Garden, please bring or have it delivered to the church office *the week leading up to Easter.* Don't forget to let us know who it is from and the memorial/in-honor-of information so that we can list it in our Easter bulletin & May newsletter. If you want your flowers back, please put your name on them.



Please join us on Good Friday, April 3rd, at 7:00 for Tenebrae - Service of Shadows at FELC. This is a deeply moving and dramatic service of word and music inspired by the historical tradition of Tenebrae and the events surrounding the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. A choir composed of members from our extended community of faith leads the service, accompanied by 3 string players (Emily Trusty on cello, Meg Scholberg on viola, and Traci Tschetter on violin), pianist Carol Ydstie, directed by Lisa Berdan.

Recognition of New Members Sunday will held on be April 12th.

If you're interested in becoming a member reach out to Pastor Cheryl, someone on the Evangelism Committee, or grab a household record from the Narthex & turn it into the office.

*New
Member
Sunday*



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.



☩ We offer Bible Study at Fairway View Tuesdays 4-5 pm in the Orpheum. Everyone is

welcome. If you have family members in Independent living, Assisted Living or the nursing home, please share this with them. The leaders for Bible study are Carol Bell, Ranet Schmeichel, & Neva Foster.

The Synod Assembly will be June 5th-6th at Gustavus Adolphus & 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.

In 2025, First English Lutheran Church received \$2233 through the Thrivent Choice® program — and that's worth celebrating!

Please join us for an Open House Bridal Shower honoring Hannah Strei, bride to be of Joe Kachelmyer on Saturday, April 4th from 10:00-12:00 p.m. The event will be held at The Venue at 320 South Main Street in Milbank, SD. Hope to see you there!

Our Redeemer's Church is having a Spring Tea Luncheon Wed, April 15th in Benson. There will be a free-will donation to fundraise for Prairie 5 Food Shelf. It starts with devotions at 11:00 am and there will be a buffet from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm.

Coffee will again be available before the church service beginning on Sunday, April 12th.

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.



May the God of all consolation be with...

...the family of Roger Nornes on his passing on 3/18. The funeral service was held here, March 23rd.

...Darin & Kristi Ehrenberg and family on the passing of Kristi's father, Harlan VanMeeteren, on 3/24/26.

KDIO BROADCASTS

... (March 1st) was sponsored in memory of Larry Dahle whose birthday was on February 26th from your family Jyla, Darcy, Lynne, Scott, and June.

... (March 8th) was sponsored by your gifts to the Endowment Fund.

... (March 15th) was sponsored by your gifts to the Endowment Fund.

... (March 22nd) was sponsored by your gifts to the Endowment Fund.

... (March 29th) was sponsored in part by Garry & Ethel Swenson and Arelene Gustafson in memory of Roger Nornes and also by your gifts to the Endowment Fund.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING and COMFORT for Kelly Athey, Gail Olson, Nancy Pierzina; Monty Athey, Alvin Dexter, Dustin Hanson, Larry Helgeson, Katelyn Renne, and George Wegner. AT FAIRWAY VIEW NEIGHBORHOODS: Ricky Anderson, Arvilla Bergseth, Adeline Burgess, Jim Hipple, Vivian Janssen, Arlen LaCombe, Roger Nornes; Aletta Simonitch; Janice Redfield in Clinton and Mary Lou Olson in Madison. ALL OUR MILITARY who are deployed to areas of conflict; 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.



**Upcoming Stonecroft Ministries
Sponsored By Women's Connection**

Tuesday, April 21st, at 5:30 pm

at Big Stone Tabor Methodist Church.

The cost is \$6.00, and there is a free nursery available by reservation.

Speaker: Karen Anderson, of Minnetonka, MN with a talk titled:

“From Light to Darkness”

~ Special Feature ~

Stephanie Folk of Big Stone Commons

Music: Brent Zahrbock, Soloist.

FOOD WILL BE SERVED &

ALL/WALK-INS ARE WELCOME!

For reservations call Carol Karels (320) 487-2355



**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.'

Pastor Cheryl is seeking participants for Bible Study

Pastor Cheryl is looking for participants for a bible study to be held at First English Lutheran entitled "A Bible Study on the Christian Funeral: For pastors and congregations, which includes a section on planning your funeral.

The 6-week bible study is a doctorate project and nearing completion. The study will begin the second half of April to be completed in May. Those interested should contact pastor with the time of day: morning, afternoon, evening; and day of week that works best.

(Just a note: Tuesday and Wednesday evenings do not work for pastor).

Those attending will be asked to make written comments on the study at the end.

For more information or to sign up, contact Pastor Cheryl at cmqronda@outlook.com or text your information to 605-237-1501.



FELC TECH DESK FUNDRAISING PROGRESS



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. As of 3/24/26 we are 69.11% to the goal of \$15,000 for our Tech Desk Upgrade Fund. Thank you to everyone who has donated! Continued donations are appreciated.



CIRCLE FOUR

Meets in the Church Lounge on
Wed. April 1st at 9:00 am.
Lesson: Eryls Sis
Hostess: Carol Bell

Gifts & Memorials (December 31st - March 25th)

ADVENT GIVING TREE

Paula Reisdorph.

ALTAR GUILD

In memory of Roger Nornes: Jim & Julie Hipple, and Anthony & Jocelyn Showalter.

Mel & Jackie Domine, Glenda Reiffenberger, and Evie Swigerd.

BELL FUND

In memory of Roger Nornes: Steven & Lori Randall, and Art & Arlene Vollmer.

CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Jon & Kim Anderson.

CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT

Elevator Fund in memory of Roger Nornes: Marilyn Chindvall, Kyle Kirkeby, Denise Richards (*also in memory of Barb Nornes*).

Lois Bergeson, Darin and Kristi Ehrenberg, Glenda Reiffenberger (*Elevator Fund*), and Scott & Julie Schneider.

DAY OF LOVE

Arlene Gustafson *in memory of Nola Lockwood*, Art & Arlene Vollmer *in memory of Carol Bell's sister Marian Hibma*.

ELCA SW MN Synod

Darin & Kristi Ehrenberg.

FOOD SHELF

Gayle Anderson, Marilyn Chindvall, Liz Ketz, Eldon & Carol Knutson, Eryls Sis, and Sharon Smith.

KDIO

Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett & Scott Basset *in memory of Joe & Sally Rondeau*, Jyla Dahle *in memory of Larry Dahle*, Arlene Gustafson *in memory of Roger Nornes*, Garry & Ethel Swenson *in memory of Roger Nornes*, Jonathan & Carol Ydstie *in memory of their parents*, and Clara Zeek *in memory of parents, husband, siblings, relatives, and friends*.

LENT (LOCAL WATER'S EDGE SCHOLARSHIPS)

Kevin & Becky Backstrand, Mark & Amy Block, Sharon Carlson, Marilyn Chindvall, Melvin & Jackie Domine, Kevin Dragseth, Marge Dragseth, Dave & Debbie Ellingson, Jim & Julie Hipple, Evelyn Johnson, Liz Ketz, Sara Mattison, Connie & Carol Newman, Burt Pansch, Dale Price, Paula Reisdorph, Sharon Smith, Dean & Karen Strand, Garry & Ethel Swenson, Evie Swigerd, Elaine Thielke, and Clara Zeek.

OPERATING FUND

In memory of Roger Nornes: Vernon & Carol Bell, Nicki Bjornstad, Ardis Brehmer, Terry Kalberg (*also in memory of Barb Nornes*), Eldon & Carol Knutson, Arlen & Ardell LaCombe, Eryls Sis, Pamela Stock.

Gayle Anderson, Ron & Ginger Athey, Lois Bergeson *in memory of Barbara Jones Brotherton*, Terry Block, Cheryl Carl, Jyla Dahle, Randy & Jane Debner, Melvin & Jackie Domine, Darin & Kristi Ehrenberg, Kris & Nikki Evje, Marilyn Hanson, Glenn & Deb Henningson, Evelyn Johnson, Garry & Ethel Swenson, Evie Swigerd, Russell & Ronda Thielke, and Clara Zeek.

PARISH NURSE

Dave & Anne Tonn *in memory of Carol Bell's sister Marian Hibma*.

SENIOR CHOIR

In memory of Roger Nornes: Jon & Kim Anderson, Ron & Ginger Athey, Glenn & Lisa Berdan, Marilyn Hanson, Glenda Reiffenberger, and Richard & Marla Strei.

Judy Beckman *in memory of Bonnie Hunt*, and Lois Bergeson.

SQUARES - BAPTISMAL CHESTS

Glenda Reiffenberger.

TECHNOLOGY/COMPUTER/SOUND SYSTEM

Marilyn Chindvall, Melvin & Jackie Domine, Marge Dragseth, Sharron Johnson, Liz Ketz, Christie Petersen, Sharon Smith, and Garry & Ethel Swenson.

YOUTH FUND

Jon & Kim Anderson, Kevin & Becky Backstrand, Judy Beckman, Daniel & Jacalyn Bensen *in memory of Roger Nornes*, Lois Bergeson, Marilyn Chindvall, Melvin & Jackie Domine, Marge Dragseth, Erik & Beth Fladhammer, James & Neva Foster *in memory of Roger Nornes*, Liz Ketz, Burt Pansch, Christie Petersen, Rob & Kathy Randall *in memory of Roger Nornes*, Glenda Reiffenberger, Paula Reisdorph, James & Ranet Schmeichel *in memory of Pam Schneck*, Scott & Monica Simonitch, Eryls Sis, Sharon Smith, Evie Swigerd, Russ & Ronda Thielke *in memory of Roger Nornes*, Art & Arlene Vollmer, and Justin & Misty Wittnebel *in memory of Roger Nornes*.

Thank you! 

ALTAR GUILD TEAMS – April

Sacristy, Sanctuary, Surplices:
Banners:
Flower Committee:

Marla Strei & Amy Adelman
Julie Hipple & Jocelyn Schowalter
Carol & Connie Newman & Paula Reisdorph



SCHEDULING

KEYBOARD/ORGANIST

Apr. 1* (1 pm FWV): Marilyn Hanson
April 3* (7 pm FELC): Carol Ydstie
April 5 (7 & 9 am): Amy Adelman
April 8 (1 pm FWV): Kathy Haukos
April 12: Kathy Haukos
April 19: Amy Adelman
April 26: Lisa Berdan
May 3: TBD
May 10: TBD
May 13* (1 pm FWV):
May 17: TBD
May 24: TBD

LECTOR

April 5 (7 am): VOLUNTEER NEEDED
April 5 (9 am): Archer Dorry
April 12: Marge Dragseth
April 19: Amanda Stattelman
April 26: Bryson Karels
May 3: Brent Zahrbock
May 10: Betty Williamson
May 17: Terry Kalberg
May 24: Kathy Randall

ACOLYTES

April 5 (7 AM): VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
April 5 (9 AM): VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
April 12: Lola & Brielle
April 19: Bennett & Bryson
April 26: Katelyn & James
May 3: Jordan & Riley S.
May 10: Mya & Justice
May 17: Liam & Bailey
May 24: Dawson & Gibson

LAY ASSISTANTS

April 5 (7 am): Bryson & Kirsten Karels
April 5 (9 am): VOLUNTEER NEEDED
April 19: Becky Parker & Sara Mattison
May 3: Amanda Stattelman & Sara Wollschlager
May 17: Archer Dorry & Kris Redfield

FWV Neighborhoods

April 5: TBD
April 12: TBD
May 3: TBD
May 10: TBD

GREETERS

April 5 (9AM): VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
April 12: Lori Larson & Paula Reisdorph
April 19: Carol Newman & Nancy Nolop
April 26: Clara Zeek & Neva Foster
May 3: Glenn & Deb Henningson
May 10: Barb & Warren Wiese
May 17: David & Deb Ellingson
May 24: Marge Dragseth &
Kirsten Karels

SOUND SYSTEM

April 3* (7 pm FELC): Marge Dragseth and Matt & Bryson Karels
April 5 (7 AM): Matt & Bryson Karels
April 5 (9 AM): Marge Dragseth, Cody Backstrand, & Cameron Anderson
April 12: Liz Ketz & Cameron Anderson
April 19: Marge Dragseth & Matt Karels
April 26: Kim Anderson & Marge Dragseth
May 3: Matt & Bryson Karels
May 10: Kim Anderson & Marge Dragseth
May 17: Cody Backstrand & Cameron
May 24: Liz Ketz & James Hodenfield

USHERS

April 5 (7 AM): Ron Athey, Russell Thielke, Vern Nickolauson, & Gale May
April 5 (9 AM): Gale May, Dean Strand, Vern Nickolauson, Dave Ellingson
April 12: Darin Ehrenberg, Marilyn Chindvall, Ellie & Harley Helgeson
April 19: Gale May, Warren Wiese, Russ Thielke, & Connie Newman
April 26: Gale May, Jim Foster, Eugene Stotesbery, & Art Vollmer
May 3: Ev Johnson, Ron Athey, Jon & Kim Anderson
May 10: Art Vollmer, Brent Zahrbock, Glenn & Deb Henningson
May 17: Dean Longnecker, Josh Wollschlager, Dick & Marla Strei
May 24: Tami Lundberg, Paula Reisdorph, Jackie & Mel Domine



*7 PM April 2 (Maundy Thurs) at Zion, 7 PM April 3 (Good Fri) at FELC

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>April 2026</i> † † †</p> <p>Daily Devotions are available @ www.firstenglish.net go to "Lutheran Faith" & then "Prayers, Study, & Devotionals."</p>			<p>First English Lutheran Church</p> <p>Pr. Cheryl is at Zion Tuesdays</p>		<p>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.</p>	
<p>29 Palm Sunday </p> <p>9:00 am Worship – First Communion – KDIO Broadcast & Facebook Live 10:30 am Fairway View Prerecorded NO SUNDAY SCHOOL</p> 	<p>30</p> <p>11 am Staff Meeting</p>	<p>31</p> <p>NO DAY OF LOVE</p> <p>4-5:00 pm Bible Study at Donnie's Diner (FWV)</p>	<p>1 No Confirmation Classes </p> <p>9:00 am Circle 4 (church lounge) 9:30 am TV Broadcast 1:00 pm Fairway View Holy Week Worship (with communion) 5:30 pm TV Broadcast & Christian Ed Zoom Mtg.  7:00 pm Senior Choir</p>	<p>2 Maundy Thurs</p>  <p>7:00 pm Maundy Thur. Service at Zion</p>	<p>3 </p> <p>Good Friday</p> <p>9:00 am Bulletins Printed</p> <p>7:00 pm Good Friday Service at FELC</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 </p> <p>EASTER</p> <p>7:00 am Easter Sunrise Worship w/communion 8:00 am Easter Breakfast Served by Youth 9:00 am Worship w/ communion – KDIO Broadcast & Facebook Live 10:30 am Fairway View Prerecorded 10:30 am Easter Worship with Communion at Zion Church</p> 	<p>6</p> <p>Easter Monday OFFICE CLOSED</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>8:30 am Day of Love</p> <p>3:30 pm Evangelism Mtg (Pastor Cheryl will attend)</p> <p>4-5:00 pm Bible Study at Donnie's Diner (FWV)</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:30 am TV Broadcast 11:00 am Staff Meeting 1:00 pm Fairway View Worship Live 3:30 pm Confirmation (7-8th gr.) 4:30 pm Confirmation (9th gr.)  5:30 pm Youth Group (7-12th gr) at Zion & TV Broadcast 5:30-7:00 pm Church Council Meeting 7:00 pm Senior Choir</p> 	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00 am Bulletins Printed</p>	<p>11</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>Senior High Youth Gathering April 10-11th in Redwood Falls</p> </div>
<p>12 <i>New Member Sunday</i> </p> <p>9:00 am Worship – KDIO Broadcast & FB Live 9:30 am-10:15 am Sunday School  10:00 am Fellowship w/New Members 10:30 am Fairway View Prerecorded</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:30 am Day of Love</p> <p>4-5:00 pm Bible Study at Donnie's Diner (FWV)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:30 am TV Broadcast 3:30 pm Confirmation (7-8th gr.) 4:30 pm Confirmation (9th gr.) 5:30 pm Youth Group (7-12th gr) & TV Broadcast 7:00 pm Senior Choir</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:00 am Bulletins Printed</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 </p> <p>9:00 am Worship – Communion – KDIO Broadcast & FB Live 9:30 am-10:15 am Sunday School  10:00-10:30 am Safety & Security Training in Narthex w/Nurses & Sheriff </p>	<p>20</p> <p>11 am Staff Meeting</p>	<p>21 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p> <p>8:30 am Day of Love</p> <p>4-5:00 pm Bible Study at Donnie's Diner (FWV)</p>	<p>22 Administrative Professionals Day </p> <p>9:30 am TV Broadcast 1:45 pm Confirmation (7-8th gr.) 2:45 pm Confirmation (9th gr.) 4:00 pm Youth Group games at FWV 5:30 pm TV Broadcast 6:00 pm GA Mission Trip Planning Meeting 7:00 pm Senior Choir</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:00 am Bulletins Printed</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 <i>Contemporary</i> </p> <p>9:00 am Worship – Noisy Offering – KDIO Broadcast & Facebook Live Whole Church Fun at Lakeside Park </p>	<p>27</p> <p>11 am Staff Meeting</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:30 am Day of Love</p> <p>4-5:00 pm Bible Study at Donnie's Diner (FWV)</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:30 am TV Broadcast 3:30 pm Confirmation (7-8th gr.) 4:30 pm Confirmation (9th gr.) 5:30 pm TV Broadcast 5:30 pm Youth Group (7-12th gr) meal & delivering May Day baskets 7:00 pm Senior Choir</p>	<p>30 </p>	<p>May Day (5/1)</p> <p>9:00 am Bulletins Printed</p> <p>12:00 pm Kate Heinecke Visitation 1:00 pm Kate Heinecke Memorial Service</p>	<p>May 2nd</p>