



First English Lutheran Church NEWSLETTER

September 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*

Nancie Haukos, *Youth Director*

Barbara Wegner, *Parish Secretary*

Liz Ketz, *Financial Secretary*

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

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





Notes from Pastor Cheryl



August 25, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It's that time of year again where we say – where has the summer gone. We are in the last days of August with Labor Day right around the corner and everyone is going back to regular schedules and the familiar routine of work.

This morning I realized I forgot to send Birthday wishes to my niece and so I commented on the belated Birthday wishes that work seemed to get in the way. At times we get so busy with our work, other things are forgotten. We labor along and all at once the day is over. That may seem rude and uncaring to some, but what should our thoughts be about work? How much effort should be given to our labor when we spend about a third of our lives doing so. Where does God place work in the daily routine of our lives?

God gives us His blessing for our efforts in a prayer in Psalm 90:17 saying: *"Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands."*

Right from the start, God took His creatures – Adam and Eve – *"and put him in a garden of Eden to work it and keep it."* (Genesis 2:15) So He created work as a beneficial part of our lives.

Elisabeth Elliot writes in her book, *Discipline: The Glad Surrender*, "Work is a blessing. God has so arranged the world that work is necessary, and He gives us hands and strength to do it. The enjoyment of leisure would be nothing if we had only leisure. It is the joy of work well done that enables us to enjoy rest, just as it is the experiences of hunger and thirst that make food and drink such pleasures."

I would have to agree. I like work. I like the feeling of accomplishing something. Rest and Sabbath are important, but tilling, planting, spending time pulling weeds in the garden, and then harvesting the fruits of my labor give me a really good feeling.

Some years back I hauled many rocks in from the farm to build raised rock garden, an outdoor fireplace, and a couple of waterfalls in the back yard. I mixed the cement in a wheel barrel and selected rocks for each space to fit just right. I still look at those creations with a feeling of accomplishment and satisfaction.

Timothy Keller explains in *Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work to God's Plan for the World*, that "Work is so foundational to our makeup that it is one of the few things we can take in significant doses without harm. Indeed, the Bible does not say we should work one day and rest six or that work and rest should be balanced evenly but directs us to the opposite ratio. Leisure and pleasure are great goods, but we can take only so much of them."

As many return from vacation and now back to regular work schedules after Labor Day, it's easy to groan a little bit trying to get back into the swing of things. I know I have done that after I've been gone a few days. Work seems to get in the way of enjoying family, takes away from the leisurely morning of coffee looking at the sunrise, combined with the effort to get out of pj's before noon.

But after so long of doing that, I'd be lost and question what my purpose in life is. "No work is insignificant. All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence," Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote in *Strength to Love*.

And it is, as it gives us a feeling of fulfillment and pride. It is a gift from God.

As Ecclesiastes writes: *"I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil—this is God's gift to man."* (3: 12-13)

A gift that allows us to be co-creators of the world He gave us. To take care of this precious planet and beautiful creation. To build a better life for others than we have been given and make the world a better place for all to live. God gave us so many talents and skills and abilities to have scientist, doctors and agronomist discover new and better ways to grow things, create things, and cure things. He gives us teachers, leaders, and people with organizational skills to share those gifts with those who are vulnerable, oppressed and have needs. He creates within some the desire for nursing, care-giving, and stay-at-home parenting. All important work.

Ronald Rohlheiser wrote in *The Sacredness of Work*, "We know God not just in our conscious awareness and in prayer, but also in a deep inchoate way, by participating with Him in building this world – by growing things, building things, carving things, creating things, cleaning things, painting things, writing things, raising children, nursing bodies, teaching others, consoling others, humouring others, struggling with others, and loving others. Work, like prayer, is a privileged way to get to know God because, when we work, we are toiling in partnership with Him."

So as Labor Day comes and goes and we return to our regular schedule of work and labor, be proud of the journey God has taken you on to get to where you are, a place of great importance and blessing, as it is all in God's plan and purpose for you and for your good.

And *"Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!"* Psalm 90: 17

Happy Labor Day!

Gratefully Rejoicing in Christ for You!

~ Pastor Cheryl

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

BOARD MEETING – August 12th, 2026

Members present: Jon Anderson (president), Ellie Helgeson (vice president) *and Lay Ministry*, Becky Parker (treasurer) *and Stewardship*, Emily Sigler – *Lay Ministry*, Cody Teske – *Lay Ministry*, Paula Reisdorph - *Evangelism*, Beth Fladhammer – *Christian Education*, Dale Price - *Church Properties*, Barbara Wegner - *Secretary*, and Pastor Cheryl.

Meeting was called to order by President Jon Anderson at 6:05 pm. Pastor Cheryl led us in a devotion specifically related to church council meetings.

Approval of June Minutes as presented – Paula, Dale **MSP**.

Approval of Treasurer's Report – Giving is down over the summer, but we're not transferring money out of reserves. Some people designate money to "Operating Reserve Only" to avoid having a percentage of that money go to the Synod, so the operating reserve money is growing. – Ellie, Emily **MSP**.

Board of Lay Ministry – Emily Sigler reported – As Vice President, Ellie will be the chair for the board. Contact information is correct. Job description is good. The board approved the Finance Work Group & Endowment reports. When the members of Lay Ministry meet with employees for their annual evaluations, the employees will be presented with the employee handbook, and their individual job description and contract. The employees would then sign off on those after having reviewed them. The salaried employees' contract will have the budgeted amount for the year divided by 24 pay periods and explain the expected amount of hours that go along with that compensation. If any one of those employees has an issue with how much they are getting, then they will need to keep track of their hours and document that this job can't be done in the amount of time that the church has budgeted for. The board of Lay Ministry might meet with employees anytime from now, or September or October.

Board of Evangelism – Paula Reisdorph reported – 53 people attended the pool party, including 3 from Zion. Thank you to the Endowment fund for helping to provide cheese, meat, crackers, and water for this event. 24 people attended the hymn sing in July. The last hymn sing will be August 19th. Outreach is ongoing towards welcoming new members to FELC. The "Thanks for Popping in" popcorn has been a success and continues. New Member Sunday is October 4th. Marla and Paula will be the co-chairs for the board. Marge Dragseth will be the contact person of God's Work, Our Hands. The board of Evangelism decided to plan a potluck meal so members can come back together after doing their projects. There will be BBQs from Pioneer. They will use the rest of Endowment money given for multi-generational events to cover this. Members will be asked to provide other side dishes. The board of Evangelism designated projects for other boards to plan and/or lead. The board of Christian Education & Stewardship will be in charge of making muffins and delivering them to Hospital/EMT/Police workers. The Board of Youth & Family will be in charge of cleaning ditches. The Board of Lay Ministry will be in charge of cleaning the cemetery. The Board of Properties will be in charge of a Food Drive. There will also be a table of supplies for recycled card making. Jennifer from Someplace Safe will come and talk during a service on Mission Emphasis Sunday (Nov. 8th). The Board of Evangelism believes sponsoring a ball field sign to be unnecessary. Members requesting transfers out include Jennifer & Stephen Weber, John & Mary Weber, Joel Yaeger, Hannah Kachelmyer (née Strei).

Christian Education – Beth Fladhammer reported – Beth will be the chair for the Board of Christian Ed. The contact information for the board is good. After discussing with Nancie, it sounds like she is willing to help with Sunday School, but that the older youth will be her priority right now. She can help with printing off Sunday School activity materials and maybe filling in as a teacher on Sunday if there are no other teachers available. The Board of Ed is okay with the dates on the planning schedule. The board of Christian Ed would like to continue having Sunday School children leave in the middle of service and go until 10:15 am, starting in October. The Board of Ed met with someone from Zion to see if there were any ways in which we could partner with Sunday School. Christian Ed members may come to the FELC-Zion Partnership meeting on September 8th. Sunday School will start on Rally Sunday. The children will be here for the full service and then go to the Wildlife Refuge at 10 am. The Sunday School curriculum will be in the Old Testament, picking up with Moses. There will not be Sunday School snacks. The Sunday School children may sing on these tentative dates: October 11th and March 21st. The board is not doing age-related milestones this year. Christmas program will be Dec. 13th. Beth will check if Marilyn Chindvall will help and the practice will start November 8th. Zion would love to have us at the Pumpkin patch; date TBD. Beth & Sara will meet about VBS in January. Beth will let the board know about God's Work Our Hands muffin duties.

Youth & Family – No report was available.

Stewardship – Becky Parker reported – Our auction will likely have about 150 items. Over 100 are already in the system. There will be a Facebook page for the auction. It will be advertised. 3 weeks leading up to the auction people will be able to see the items. Bidding will start September 11th and go until September 21st. The cut-off date for donated items/services will be September 1st. People should hold onto the items until the auction is done and then arrangements will be made to transfer them to the winners. The new theme will be the backpack blessing theme, which this year is "Live by the Spirit" and Galatians 5:25.

Church Properties – Dale Price reported – In the church office, the mini-split started to leak. It's been looked at and Larry's should be by again to clean it out. TKE has sent a request (supposedly contractually) for \$1,751.25 for a yearly mandatory inspection of the elevator. The elevator was installed less than a year ago and the state was fine with it. The board of properties will look into this further to see if it is actually mandatory and in our contract. At the last meeting, the council approved the \$300/yr TKE charge for gas for the various inspections. One of the overhead lights in the sanctuary burned out. They were all installed at the same time, so they will likely all fail soon. Workers have to bring a hoist in at a cost of \$500. Council consensus that

it makes sense to replace them all with LED lights as the electric bill should be cheaper as well. The bell tower work was completed by Gunner. The second dehumidifier was purchased and is running. Those two bills have come in but were previously approved. There was bad flashing on the main peak of the roof. Gunner took care of that. There is still one more repair project Gunner is working on. We do have some water coming in and mold forming on an upstairs door. Cody wants to get an ethernet cord from the office to the tech desk. Nancie's computer will also need a shared folder access, which is currently lacking. The board of properties thanks Cody Backstrand for joining. Properties is aware of a bat in the church and is working on trying to cover spots where bats may be coming in.

Pastor's Report – Everyone received a copy of the Pastor's Report. It's also available on our website. The mini mission trip went well. It looks like there will be eleven new first-year confirmation students. There are eleven 8th grade and eleven 9th grade students. So there should be about 33 confirmation students this year. There will also be a senior taking an independent confirmation study (3 years in one). Jaxson Young in Florida will be able to do the same plan (over 3 years) if he wants. A deadline has been set for the 10th graders to get their requirements met before getting confirmed in October. 3 are completed, 4 are very close, and there is one who has a lot left but is planning to get it in before the interviews. So we should have 8 students being confirmed in October. There will be fall First Communion classes with their communion on All Saints Day. Interviews should be on September 10th, 14th or 21st. September 9th will be the first youth night, and it may be in the sanctuary because Nancie wants to talk about the national youth gathering. There is a rush to get signed up for that due to there being limited spots for service projects. The first day of registration is October 21st. There will be an attempt to have the youth groups go somewhere else on the Wednesday nights when council meets so there won't be a conflict. There is a baptism on September 13th (GWOH day).

COUNCIL ACTIONS:

- Approval to replace all of the overhead lights in the sanctuary for the quote of \$2,988. Becky, Cody **MSP.**
- Approval of authorizing up to \$1,500 for the Youth position's technology (laptop). Becky, Dale **MSP.**
- Approval of Nancie Haukos joining Zion-FELC staff as Youth Director Sept 1st (20 hr/week, \$22/hr), with wages being split with Zion. Dale, Becky **MSP.**
- Approval of transfers out as put forth by Evangelism. Paula, Emily **MSP.**
- Council consensus that representatives from boards should relay information back to the boards and that there should be more discussion with Zion (with Jon hopefully attending a Zion council meeting, and FELC Christian Ed members attending the joint meeting in September) to communicate better in this partnership.

Next Council Meeting scheduled for: Wednesday, September 9th at 5:30 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm.



September Newsletter for Youth

A little about myself. My name is Nancie Haukos. I'm a wife to Ronnie, a mother to Chelsie, Ryan, and Hunter, a stepmom, and a grandma to Clara and Norah. I work at the school full time and will be working at church part-time as the youth director. I previously worked in this position for seven years. I'm excited to be back home!

Thank you to Evie Swigerd for her donation in memory of Arlen Lacombe.
Thank you to Connie and Carol Newman for their donation to the youth.

August 5th the youth enjoyed the last summer outdoor fun night.
August 30th was the Backpack Blessing.

September:

2nd- Confirmation meeting for 7-9th grade students and their parents 6-7:30 pm

9th- Youth group covenant and the ELCA
Youth Gathering information night

13th- Gods Work Our Hands - Ditch Walk day

16- Youth group will take a trip to the Refuge

20- Rally Sunday (Sunday school meets at the refuge at 10:15am)
Youth led services at FELC and Zion
Youth Director installation

23- Early out from school, Confirmation meets from 1:45-2:45, 2:45-3:45
Youth group will meet from 4-5:30 We will be going to Fairway View and grilling supper there as well

27th- Bible presentation and teacher installation

30- Confirmation and Youth group meet

With joy,

Nancie





Above: Coordinator Mel Holtzer-Benitez with the nine youth and chaperons Ronda Thielke and Pastor Cheryl at their mini-mission trip to Churches United in Moorhead, MN on July 29. They delivered 50 quilts from Day of Love Quilters; prepared, served and cleaned up the noon meal; sorted and hung up clothing donated to the shelter. Following our mission work, the group enjoyed the Sky Zone and a meal at Sickies Garage Burgers & Brews.



Over 35 young people attended the last Summer Youth Fun night on August 5th at Zion Church. The young people enjoyed volleyball, 9-square, cornhole and smores made over the fireplace on the new patio. It was a beautiful night and we want to thank all those who came each month to help set up, make the meal and donate snacks, clean up and take down the games again.

Your help is NEEDED!

Do you have a Sunday school age child or grandchild? Are you a sponsor for such a child?
 Do you want that child to know the stories of Jesus and grow in faith in His teachings?
 We read in Proverbs 22: 6 *“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”*
 One promise made at baptism was worship participation with your child. How often do you worship together?
 Another promise was for Christians Education. It is essential for your child to receive instruction in the Christian faith so they never fall away from faith. The church helps by providing Sunday school and Confirmation instruction. Do you witness the importance of learning of God’s Word’s and promises?... by supporting Christian education?
 Your help is needed getting children to Sunday school. Your help is needed as a teacher. It’s not someone else’s responsibility—it is a promise you made at baptism. A responsibility to train up your child in the Christian faith they profess to believe in. How else will they learn? The internet and social media can teach them many things. Including the wrong way.
 Please seriously consider Jesus warning from Matthew 18:6—*“But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea”*
 Sunday school teaches children about God’s love, truth and commandments. It teaches believer have a place in heaven after they die and those who do not know Jesus, do not have. They learn that God will protect them from false and harmful influences and help them grow in healthy spiritual surroundings.
 Please help with Sunday school. Your child’s eternal life depends on it.

Youth Group starts September 9

The combined youth group of Zion Lutheran and First English will begin to meet on Wednesday, September 9th. Youth from 7th through the 12th grades are encourage to participate in youth group each Wednesday during the school year. A meal is served at 5:30 pm with an activity each week from 6 to 7 pm. On early out days from school the activity will be held at 4 pm with the meal after at 5:30 pm.
 Parents take turns providing a simple meal for the youth each week. A sign-up sheet will be available at the first meeting. The Jr High Synod Youth Gathering in Wilmar is set for November 20 & 21st. More information will be available at the September 9th meeting.

Registration for Fall 1st Communion Classes

Children in 2nd grade on up from First English and Zion Lutheran are invited to participate in First Communion Classes this fall. Students are required to attend two hour long classes. Classes will be held at First English on October 1st and 8th beginning at 3:30 pm depending on the grade of the child. Second and third graders will meet at 3:30. Fifth and sixth graders will meet at 4:30. Depending on numbers, the fourth graders may meet in either group.
 First Communion for the youth will be held on All-Saints Sunday, November 1.
 Any youngster who has not yet taken First Communion class in second grade on up may register with Pastor Cheryl by Email: CMQRondeau@outlook.com or at 605-237-1501 providing the child’s full name, grade, parents full names and cell numbers, and congregation they attend.

For those unable to attend in the fall, classes will once again be held during Lent with First Communion on Palm Sunday. This second option allows for smaller classes and more opportunity to attend depending on the families schedules.

Parents & Student Confirmation Orientation set for 6 pm September 2

Parents of 7th to 9th graders and their student are required to attend this year’s confirmation orientation on Wednesday, September 2nd beginning at 6 pm at First English Lutheran Church.
 First English and Zion Lutheran congregations combine their program each year with instruction generally held at First English Lutheran Church as it is just down the street from the school.
 Once all requirements are complete, students make their Affirmation of Baptism on Reformation Sunday in October. This year that date is October 25th for both churches during their regular service times.
 Students in 7th and 8th grade study the Old and New Testament of the Bible on a two-year rotation. This year’s study is on the Old Testament. Ninth graders receive the Lutheran Core studying Luther’s Small Catechism, and Lutheran History and Living to help them grow in faith, understand what we believe as Lutherans, and learn how to develop their own personal relationship with Christ. Students outside of those grade may also attend class or take individual study with the pastor.
 Instruction for 2026-27 begins on September 9th at 3:30 pm for 7th and 8th and 4:30 pm for 9th graders. Classes on early out days are held at 1:45 pm with 9th graders at 2:45 pm.
 A registration form is on the Youth Facebook page to download and complete prior to orientation night.
 Sign up sheets will also be available that evening for parents to sit in on class, offer snacks, offer food for the 5:30 pm youth meal. For more information Email Pastor Cheryl at CMQRondeau@outlook.com2

Pastor Cheryl

Parish Nurse Article for September - *Guilt*



Guilt is that awful feeling that hits us in the pit of our stomach when we know we have done something wrong. Human nature is to fall short of doing the right thing over & over again. Beginning with Adam & Eve, on down, we have all experienced that feeling of dread.

God built in our hearts & minds a knowledge for right and wrong. God tells us not to carry guilt, but to ask for forgiveness, then accept God's forgiveness for us. Your burden of guilt will be lifted.

CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS

Youth and adults are invited to be a part of this year's Christmas Cantata at the Abbey — as singers or instrumentalists — to be held Saturday, December 5th and Sunday, December 6th, at Abbey of the Hills. A "meet and greet" will be held Sunday, August 30, at First English Lutheran at 4:00 pm for information and sign - up as well as Wednesday, September 2 at 6:30 pm. Subsequent practices will typically be held on Wednesdays (6:30) beginning September 2 or Sundays (4:00) beginning September 20. If you would like to be a part of the group but have conflicts with these first few meeting times, contact Lisa Berdan at (320) 305-1123.

Big Stone Area Memory Loss Connection invites you to a free community event on 10 Healthy Brain Habits. The event will be held on Thursday, September 10th from 1:00-4:00 PM at the Clinton Memorial Building. Free transportation is available, see the poster for details.

New Member Sunday will be October 4th. If you're interested in becoming a member reach out to Pastor Cheryl or someone on the Evangelism Committee. We also have forms in the Narthex that you can fill out and return to the office.

THANK YOU EVERYONE WHO HELPED MAKE OUR SHREDDING PROJECT A SUCCESS. THERE WERE MANY WONDERFUL COMMENTS THANKING US AND SHARING THEIR APPRECIATION! Watch for more pictures with our youth helping!



God's Work, Our Hands Is Coming Up!

There will be a shorter service beginning at 9:00 AM. We will then be dismissed from the service to go and work on Projects to aid our community. Marge Drasgeth will serve as the contact person so if you have other ideas or questions just get a hold of her.

This year, First English Lutheran Church will be honoring God's work, Our Hands on September 13th, through a variety of service acts and community gratitude recognition. We will be making appreciation muffins for local workers (Sheriff's office, Ambulance office, Hospital Nursing Desk, City Workers), gravestone cleaning, making birthday cards, and doing ditch cleanup.

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

There will also be a potluck meal after the activities consisting of BBQs; each person is asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Congratulations and God's Blessings to

....Tiffany and Matthew Otto on the baptism of their twins, Kylar & Wyatt Otto. Their sponsors are Emily Giese, and Mark & Shelby Otto.

.... Owen and Karli Longnecker who were married here at FELC on August 29th

.... Gene & Marcella Stotesbery whose 67th anniversary was August 29th.

May the God of consolation be with Kayla and Mack Minder and family on the death of Mack's mother, Tammy Minder on July 29th.

KDIO BROADCASTS

.... **(August 2nd)** was sponsored in memory of Larry Haukos on what would have been his 77th birthday from Kathy Haukos and family.

.... **(August 9th)** was sponsored in memory of Joe Rondeau (son of Pastor Cheryl) whose birthday was August 8th.

.... **(August 16th)** was sponsored in loving memory of Ray Bergeson from Lois Bergeson and sons.

.... **(August 23rd)** was sponsored in part by your gifts to the Endowment Fund and Garry & Ethel Swenson in memory of Arlen LaCombe.

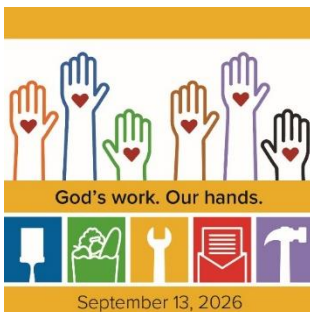
.... **(August 30th)** was sponsored by your gifts to the Endowment Fund.

SEPTEMBER OFFICE HOURS UPDATE

The Church Office will be switching back from summer hours to normally scheduled hours.

**MONDAY - THURSDAY
8:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**FRIDAY
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM**



PRAYERS FOR HEALING and COMFORT for Matt Carlson, Marilyn Chindvall, Gail Olson, Burt Pansch; Monty Athey, Corin Dale, Alvin Dexter, Dustin Hanson, Larry Helgeson, Courtney Jorgensen, Mary Ross, Jerry Stotesbery, and Christina Thompson. AT FAIRWAY VIEW NEIGHBORHOODS: Ricky Anderson, Arvilla Bergseth, Adeline Burgess, Jim Hipple, Vivian Janssen, Evelyn Olson, 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.



Designated Giving

There were some questions about funds and where the money actually goes when given to a specific fund. Some pink sheets have been placed around the church explaining those. One of those sheets is next to the generic pink Designated Funds envelopes in a basket in the Narthex. The others are hanging up in the kiosk bulletin board.



Although some people have given funds to the "Elevator Fund," there is not a specific "Elevator Fund." We have put that designated money into Capital Improvements (noting that it was for the Elevator) because that is where the money to pay for the Elevator upgrade came from. The Elevator upgrade bill was paid; we are now replenishing the money that was used with various fundraisers.

After the tech fundraiser for the new tech desk, our Technology Fund is pretty low these days as well. So continued donations to that fund are appreciated.

Bell Fund is for Bell tower fixing (materials and labor); **Big Stone Lake Area Food Shelf** donations go to our local Food shelf; **Capital Improvements** funds are for fixing and purchasing items that stay in the church proper (like the elevator), **Coffee Fund** helps to purchase items for coffee hour use; **Community Cantata** funds pay expenses related to the Christmas Cantata performed at Abbey of Hills; **Computer Fund/technology** money goes to pay for Computer and technology update and purchase of tech items like computers, monitors, USB drives, etc. for the church staff; **ELCA Missionary** funds are sent to SWMN for their missionaries; **Endowment Fund** money is used to fund KDIO and is the holding spot for Endowment disbursements as needed; **Giving Tree** holds money raised from Advent Giving Tree before it's sent to the designated areas; **Global Mission - Companion Synod** money is sent to SWMN for their Global Missions; **Just For the Love of It** funds pay for costs related to the Just For the Love Of It meal when held; **KDIO** funds are used for Radio Broadcasts of our services. **Library Fund** money is used to pay for materials for the library. **Local Benevolence** money distributed each Dec. from years offerings to local nonprofits like the food shelf, hospice, special Olympics, Big Stone Cancer, Ambulance Fund, and Prairie 5 help; **Men's Squares - Baptismal Chests** are funds to pay for baptismal chests given on baptism day to FELC members. **Narthex Carpet / Stained Glass** funds used to pay for upkeep of the Narthex carpet/stained glass. **Noisy Offering Money** Money raised during noisy offering to fund South African Students; **Operating Reserve** Money used for FELC operating expenses but is not subjected to the synod percent cut; **Organ-Piano Fund** Money for organ and piano replacement if needed; **Outdoor Digital Sign** Money to one day purchase a digital sign if so decided by council; **Parish Nurses** Money for supplies for Parish Nurse activities **Praise Band** Money for supplies and music for Praise Band; **Project Christmas** Funds given to Project Christmas for gifts for children and food boxes; **Sabbatical Fund** Money if Pastor would request a Sabbatical leave; **God's Work Our Hands** Money to purchase supplies for this day in September; **Someplace Safe** funds go to Someplace Safe, a nonprofit agency that works to assist victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sex trafficking, labor trafficking, and other crimes; **Special Lent Offering** "Money designated to special use during Lenten season. Decided upon each year by the council." **Special Needs Fund** Money used to help people in need as requests are received; **Sr. Choir Fund** Money to purchase music for the choir; **SWMN ELCA** Given to SW MN Synod; **Thanksgiving** "Money designated to special use at Thanksgiving; Decided upon each year by the council; **Thrivent Choice Dollars** Money donated by Thrivent members for use at FELC; **VBS** Money to assist with Vacation Bible School expenses as needed; **Theological Education** "A place to hold money to help FELC members go to Seminary; Currently empty and inactive"; **Youth** Used for FELC youth activities and items; **Altar Guild** Used for altar guild supplies, like banners, and paraments; **Camp Scholarships** Helps to pay for FELC children's camp stays; **Flower Committee** Used to pay for flowers and supplies for flowers; **Katie's Kicks** Funds used by Katie's Kicks for shoes & boots for children who need them. Lenten Meal Offering Helps to pay for Lenten Meals/Supplies

THE PINK ENVELOPES

for each month are for designated funds. You may designate your extra gift to any fund you wish. Our Board of Stewardship also designates a special emphasis for each month of the year. **September special gifts go to the Endowment Fund which helps cover the cost of the KDIO broadcasts when we do not have a weekly sponsorship.**

September 2026

Designated Funds

Building (please specify)	\$ _____
Operating Fund	\$ _____
Other _____ <i>Endowment Fund</i>	\$ _____
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..... | Project Christmas |
| November..... | God's Work, Our Hands/Service Projects |
| December..... | ELCA Missionaries |

Upcoming Stonecroft Ministries Sponsored By Women's Connection

Tuesday, September 15th at 5:30 pm
at Big Stone Tabor Methodist Church.

Ticket cost is \$6.00.

Speaker: Janie Krohn of Yankton, SD
with a talk titled:

“Finding the Magnificent in the Mundane”

~ Special Feature ~

Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW), Betty Reinke & Beth
Mueller talking about the Braille Production Center at
Trinity Church, Ortonville.

Music: Paula Rausch of Big Stone City
singalong accompanied by guitar.

FOOD WILL BE SERVED &

ALL/WALK-INS ARE WELCOME!

For reservations call Carol Karels (320) 487-2355

Prayer Coffee: 2 PM, September 9th
at 725 Highland Hwy.



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.'*



CIRCLE FOUR



Meets in the Church Lounge on
Wed., September 2nd at 9:00 am.

Hostess: Ev Johnson

Lesson: Carol Bell

FELC Online Auction September 11th – September 21st



First English Lutheran Church ONLINE AUCTION

9 NW 3rd Street, Ortonville, MN 56278
(320)760-9491(auction contact)

A wide
variety of
donated
items.

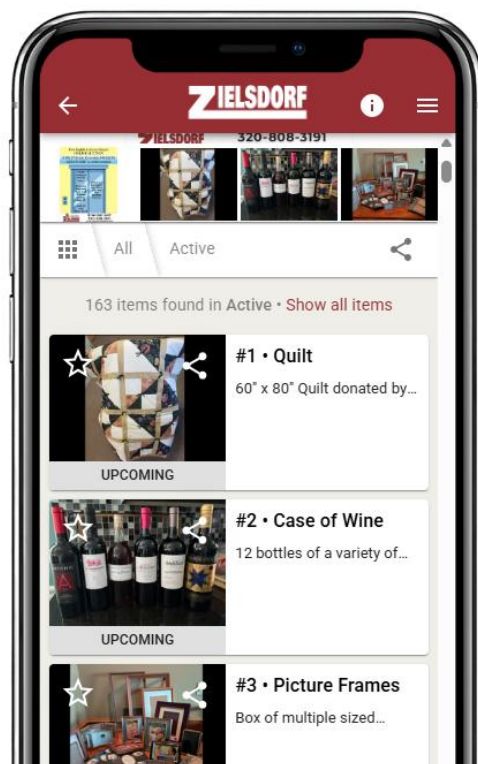
Bid online
beginning
Sept. 11 @
12:05 am
Through
Sept. 21

Load out
days
Sept. 22-23

PROCEEDS
TO REBUILD
THE FUNDS
USED FOR
THE
ELEVATOR
UPGRADE.



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ALTAR GUILD TEAMS – September

Sacristy, Sanctuary, Surplices:

Banners:

Flower Committee:

Mary Weber & Barb Wiese
Julie Hipple & Jocelyn Schowalter
Paula Reisdorph



SCHEDULING

KEYBOARD/ORGANIST

Sept. 6: Kathy Haukos
Sept. 13 (GWOH): Carol Ydstie
Sept. 20: Amy Adelman
Sept. 21* (3 pm FWV): TBD
Sept. 27: Lisa Berdan
Oct. 4: Amy Adelman
Oct. 11: Carol Ydstie
Oct. 18: Kathy Haukos
Oct. 19* (3 pm FWV): TBD
Oct. 25: Lisa Berdan



LECTOR

Sept. 6: Chris Petersen
Sept. 13: Kathy Randall
Sept. 20: Amanda Stattelmann
Sept. 27: Darin Ehrenberg
Oct. 4: Kristi Ehrenberg
Oct. 11: Becky Parker
Oct. 18: Marge Dragseth
Oct. 25: Confirmands

ACOLYTES

Sept. 6: Jordan & Riley
Sept. 13: Martino & Makiyah
Sept. 20: Liam & Sailor
Sept. 27: Bailey & Weston
Oct. 4: Katelyn & Isaac
Oct. 11: Mya W. & Hayden
Oct. 18: Liv & Tessa
Oct. 25: Lexi & Brandon

LAY ASSISTANTS

Sept. 6: Dave Ellingson & Becky Parker
Sept. 20: TBD Youth
Oct. 4: Kirsten & Bryson Karels
Oct. 25: Confirmands

FWV Neighborhoods

Sept. 6: Jim & Neva Foster
Sept. 13: Brent Zahrbock
Oct. 4: TBD
Oct. 11: Kristi & Darin Ehrenberg

GREETERS

Sept. 6: Dick & Marla Strei
Sept. 13: Lois Bergeson & Marge Dragseth
Sept. 20: Gary & Ethel Swenson
Sept. 27: Art & Arlene Vollmer
Oct. 4: Mentor/Mentee TBD
Oct. 11: Mentor/Mentee TBD
Oct. 18: Mentor/Mentee TBD
Oct. 25: Mentor/Mentee TBD

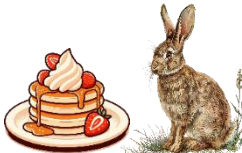
SOUND SYSTEM

Sept. 6: Matt & Bryson Karels
Sept. 13: Kim Anderson & Cameron Anderson
Sept. 20: Liz Ketz & Drew Johnson
Sept. 27: Cody Backstrand & James Hodenfield
Oct. 4: Liz Ketz & Liam Johnson
Oct. 11: Matt Karels & Bryson Karels
Oct. 18: Marge Dragseth & James Hodenfield
Oct. 25: Kim Anderson & Cameron Anderson

USHERS

Sept. 6: Ev Johnson, Ron Athey, Gale May, & Dean Strand
Sept. 13: Warren Wiese, Dave Ellingson, Art Vollmer, & Brent Zahrbock
Sept. 20: Dean Longnecker, Josh Wollschlager, Marla & Dick Strei
Sept. 27: Tami Lundberg, Paula Reisdorph, Jackie & Mel Domine
Oct. 4: Gale May, Dean Strand, Vern Nickolauson, & Dave Ellingson
Oct. 11: Darin Ehrenberg, Marilyn Chindvall, Ellie & Harley Helgeson
Oct. 18: Gale May, Warren Wiese, Russ Thielke, & Connie Newman
Oct. 25: Gale May, Jim Foster, Eugene Stotesbery, & Art Vollmer



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
September 2026 † † † First English Lutheran Church Daily Devotions are available @ www.firstenglish.net go to "Lutheran Faith" & then "Prayers, Study, & Devotionals."			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.				
Pr. Cheryl is at Zion Tuesdays							
Aug. 30 9:00 am Worship – Backpack Blessing – Noisy Offering – KDIO Broadcast & Facebook Live 10:30 am Fairway View (pre-recorded) 3:15-6:00 pm Cantata Practice 	Aug. 31 11:00 am Staff Meeting	1 8:30 am Day of Love 4-5 pm Bible Study at FWV / Donnie's Diner	2 9:00 am Circle 4 (church lounge) 9:30 am TV Broadcast 5:30 pm TV Broadcast 6:00 - 7:30 pm Confirmation Orientation (for parents/students) 6:30 pm Cantata Practice 7:15 pm Senior Choir	3	4 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	5 	
6 Before Service Coffee – Visit w/Pastor 9:00 am Worship Service - Communion – Broadcast on KDIO & FB Live 10:30 am Fairway View Service (pre-recorded) 3:15-6:00 pm Cantata Practice 	7 Office Closed LABOR DAY	8 Church office closes at 12 8:30 am Day of Love 3:30 pm Evangelism meeting in FELC Fellowship Hall 4-5 pm Bible Study at FWV / Donnie's Diner 5:30 pm Board of Ed Mtg. 6:30 pm Joint Partnership Meeting at FELC	9 9:30 am TV Broadcast 11:00 am Staff Meeting 3:30 pm Confirmation (7-8) 4:30 pm Confirmation (9) & Acolyte Training (7-8) 5:30 pm Youth Group (7-12) & TV Broadcast 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm Council Meeting 6:30 pm Cantata Practice 7:15 pm Senior Choir 	10	11 FELC Auction Opens 9:00 am Bulletins Printed September 11th REMEMBRANCE DAY 	12	
13 Before Service Coffee Visit w/Pastor 9:00 am Short GWOH Worship Service – Libbie Schoon Baptism – Broadcast on KDIO & FB Live 9:30 am GWOH Service Projects After Projects – Potluck Meal at FELC 10:30 am Fairway View Service (pre-recorded) 3:15-6:00 pm Cantata Practice 	14 11:00 am Staff Meeting	15 8:30 am Day of Love 4-5 pm Bible Study at FWV / Donnie's Diner	16 9:30 am TV Broadcast 3:30 pm Confirmation (7-8) 4:30 pm Confirmation (9) 5:30 pm Youth Group (7-12) & TV Broadcast 6:30 pm Cantata Practice 7:15 pm Senior Choir	17	18 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	19 	
 Rally Sunday 20 Before Service Coffee Visit w/Pastor 9:00 am Youth Led Worship – Communion –Broadcast on KDIO & Facebook Live 10 am SS Wildlife Refuge Activities 3:15-6:00 pm Cantata Practice 	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 21 11:00 am Staff Meeting 3:00 pm Fairway View Worship Live w/Pastor Cheryl & communion Auction Ends 	1st Day of Autumn  22 8:30 am Day of Love 4-5 pm Bible Study at FWV / Donnie's Diner	EARLY OUT 23 9:30 am TV Broadcast 1:45 pm Confirmation (7-8) 2:45 pm Confirmation (9) 4:00 pm Youth Group (7-12) 5:30 pm TV Broadcast 6:30 pm Cantata Practice 7:15 pm Senior Choir	24	25 9:00 am Bulletins Printed 	26 	
Before Service Coffee Visit w/Pastor 9:00 am Worship Service – Bible Presentation – Teacher Installation – Noisy Offering – Broadcast on KDIO & FB Live 10:00 am Sunday School 3:15-6:00 pm Cantata Practice 	27 11:00 am Staff Meeting	28 8:30 am Day of Love 4-5 pm Bible Study at FWV / Donnie's Diner	29 9:30 am TV Broadcast 3:30 pm Confirmation (7-8) 4:30 pm Confirmation (9) 5:30 pm Youth Group (7-12) & TV Broadcast 6:30 pm Cantata Practice 7:15 pm Senior Choir	30	Oct. 1 First Communion Classes Start today, after school	Oct. 2 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	Oct. 3