



First English Lutheran Church

NEWSLETTER

October 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

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





Notes from Pastor Cheryl



September 24, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Did you know that the first Sunday of October is always World Communion Sunday since the 1930s when a Presbyterian church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania celebrated it as such?

It began as a day for congregations to figuratively break bread together as a reminder there is only one body of Christ and of Jesus New Commandment: to Love One Another. It is a time to reflect on those things that bring us together rather than separate us across national, ethnic, historical, and theological divisions.

We are that one body. Not just here in First English or Zion Lutheran. Not just in the ELCA church or Lutheran churches. But we, all believers of Christ, are the one body of Christ wherever we live and whatever church or denomination we attend. We all say the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed on Sundays. We come together to confess our sins and hear the words of forgiveness. We come forward to receive the bread and wine and trust in the words of promise... *given for you... shed for you...*

Ephesians 4:3 – "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

I just read an interesting blog from September 2, 2025 by Nicole Vogel entitled *How Shared Ministry Transforms Churches*. In her writing, she explained there were four pastors in Pennsylvania with similar challenges (much like our congregations) who faced dwindling youth group numbers and low attendance in their children's ministry programs.

The four pastors of five congregations were within 15 miles of each other and came together to discuss how they could share in ministry. They first decided they needed to get to know each other and instead of program development, to start with relationship building. So they started by talking about what a shared ministry could look like for combined youth groups, shared confirmation classes, joint bible studies, community service projects, joint services, and the like.

They began with shared meals where each church hosted an evening and ate together to know each other's names, their stories, and what similarities there were – which turned out to be a lot more things they had in common than they realized.

They began with shared Lenten Bible study, Advent Festival, and even shared Christmas Day and New Year's Day worship services. Confirmation students grew in faith and area teens found their youth group a place to connect and serve. The work of sharing, of being the body of Christ together, continued for several years and collaboration has drawn them together by celebrating life events and sharing big projects and small.

Vogel states, "Shared ministry hasn't erased our differences — it's helped us see them as a gift. Each church's culture brings something unique to the table. And the table is much bigger than any one of us could have built alone. Most importantly, we've watched God use this ministry to open hearts. In a time when the world feels increasingly divided, these partnerships have given people a living example of unity in Christ. Relationships have grown where there once might have been suspicion. Understanding has replaced assumptions. And joy has replaced isolation."

Romans 12:5 – "So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

Reading it made me think about how much has been accomplished since approving your partnership agreement and how much more there can be as you continue. When we see only differences and refuse to be open to finding common ground, we limit ourselves and our mission in Christ.

It is when we recognize that the Spirit binds believers into one body, not separating us, that we see differences as gifts to the whole so as when one is weak in an area, another can lift it up and assist as Ecclesiastes 4 tells us:

⁹ Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: ¹⁰ If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. ¹¹ Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? ¹² Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

In the past two years, you have had a combined confirmation and youth program between First English and Zion. There have been shared services at Lent, Thanksgiving and Holy Week. It's worked out well and our youth have grown in faith.

Now there are discussions of how to share a children's ministry program. It may look different than it does now. We may not all like it. But we must be willing to share ideas, listen to others, and try new things. We need to let go of the past as many of our parents and grandparents did... and their parents and grandparents did before them. We live in an ever-changing world as they did and we must step up and share in this important ministry, our children of First English and Zion Lutheran, even if it looks different.

Our difference can make us better as Proverbs 27:17 tells us: *"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another,"*

Vogel concluded with, "Shared ministry hasn't erased our differences — it's helped us see them as a gift. Each church's culture brings something unique to the table. And the table is much bigger than any one of us could have built alone."

Paul writes: *⁴Just as each of us has one body with many members, and not all members have the same function, ⁵so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.* (Romans 12)



Gratefully Rejoicing in Christ for You!

~ Pastor Cheryl

Zion/First English Partnership Council Meeting:

September 8, 2026 – First English Lutheran Church

Council: Jon Anderson, Ellie Helgeson, Becky Parker, Steve Winther, Sara Tollakson, Judy Reupke

Others: Pastor Cheryl, Beth Fladhammer, Nancie Haukos

The meeting was called to order by President Jon Anderson who introduced our new Youth Director, Nancie Haukos. Nancie is hired for 20 hours per week and tomorrow is her first Wednesday youth night activity. Ronda Thielke assists her. At this time her primary responsibility is the older youth, but we hope that in time we can expand those duties to take advantage of her experience with the other age groups.

The future of Sunday school was discussed as both congregations struggle with getting people to volunteer to help teach. Individuals from both Christian Education Boards from the congregations met prior to this meeting. At our partnership meeting the following was discussed:

- Importance of keeping young families engaged but the challenge of how to do it.
- Sharing curriculum
- the possibility of having a Wednesday Kid's Club (proposed location at First English)
 - question was 1-6th grade or 3-6th grade?
- having a Bible School like event on a Saturday once per quarter. (proposed location to be at Zion)
- No one really thought giving up Sunday school in lieu of these other programs made sense.
- Nancie had lots of input from her experience and depending on time and availability could provide some guidance.
- The importance of good communication between congregations, especially around youth activities, was stressed.
- Sunday School will remain as is until the end of the year with implementation of some of these events possibly starting in January.

Signage at the ball fields was discussed again with final decisions to be decided by each congregation's councils. There was confusion around whether we have separate signs which needed to be clarified by the councils. Thank you, Steve, for all your work on this.

The Partnership Agreement was discussed and after the first two years, it is an ongoing document that can be amended or terminated with 6 months' notice by either congregation. Neither congregation indicated any changes at this time but if there are any, they should be brought to the 4th quarter meeting.

Pastor's report:

- Shared the calendar
- There are 33-35 confirmation students
- 8 individuals are being confirmed, and they all have their work completed
- Vacation the weekend of MEA (Oct 18) with Archer Dorry providing pulpit supply
- Visitation is now Pastor's responsibility with the hiring of a youth director and Pastor Dave's resignation

Next meeting is scheduled for December 1 at 5:30 pm at Zion.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Parker

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH BOARD MEETING – September 9th, 2026

Members present: Jon Anderson (president), Ellie Helgeson (vice president) and Lay Ministry, Emily Sigler – Lay Ministry, Cody Teske – Lay Ministry, Marla Strei - Evangelism, Jane Debner - Evangelism, Darin Ehrenberg - Stewardship, Beth Fladhammer – Christian Education, Mari Athey – Youth & Family, 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 August Minutes as presented – Marla, Darin **MSP**.

Approval of Treasurer's Report – The partnership with Zion is keeping us in the black – Jane, Cody **MSP**.

Board of Lay Ministry – Emily Sigler reported – There were no reports to approve this month. The board plans to do staff interviews now and have them done by the end of October. Archer Dorry is going to lead the October 18th service. The large front Christmas Trees are set up by the Altar Guild and can go up for the Hanging of the Greens service (Nov. 29th).

Board of Evangelism – Marla Strei reported – There were no transfers in/out. Hymn Sings have been highly successful with 22-24 people coming. There will be one more in September, but it's difficult to get organists during the school year. There have been cookies ordered for New Member Sunday. There are two families pending. Someplace Safe will be the Mission Emphasis on November 8th and a special offering will be collected for them. Evangelism does not want to continue to chair the Just For the Love of It dinner.

Christian Education – Beth Fladhammer reported – Only a small group will help with the muffin making/delivering. Zion & FELC Christian Education met to discuss sharing of Sunday School. There was discussion of Kid's Club coming back in January with Nancie leading it. Sunday School starts at the refuge on Rally Sunday, with a 10 am Sunday School on September 27th. In October there will be early dismissal again. Marilyn Chindvall has been working on the Christmas Program. It was difficult to get kids together to practice and so there may not be any singing from the kids during service. The board is waiting to get a date for the Pumpkin Patch joint activity as there are no dates of when those patches will be open.

Youth & Family – Mari Atthey reported – The board is in charge of the ditch walk and Ronda Thielke will help. The vests are around and ready to be used. Bryson Karels will join the board. The Christian Ed board meeting time may change to Sunday after church. The summer youth nights went well. There was a little less attendance than previous years, (but baseball games & rain may have hindered that). Kids loved it and want it back next summer. The mini mission trip was small but mighty, maybe 10 kids made it. Hopefully there will be more notice next year. Youth Group started tonight. There will also be Youth Group on early out nights with supper afterwards at 5. The board wants to get and present a welcome basket to Nancie during her installation. Fundraising has been going well, so the board will continue with what has been working. The board wants to table the question about non-Zion/FELC youth going with to the ELCA National Youth Gathering. The board will do the Jr High Youth Gathering in November. Some of the freshmen want to attend the Senior High Gathering (9th-12th grade allowed) in the spring. In the past, FELC allowed 10th-12th graders to go because of chaperone concerns.

Stewardship – Darin Ehrenberg reported – Becky is going to buy muffin mixes, and the board plans to make up to 8 dozen so there will be some leftover for the potluck. Evie Johnson wants to help too. The plan is to deliver muffins to the hospital, FWV for workers, Police Department, and to the Ambulance Garage. The auction will be open soon on Zielsdorph's site/app. Pickup of items will be September 22nd or 23rd. When items are getting bid on, we could put a notice out that smaller items can be brought to the church. The Stewardship Drive theme will be "Let the Spirit be your guide." Barbara has been asked to make an image of a compass with the Holy Spirit Dove symbol in the center. Becky has worked on a letter. Someone will read it out in November at a Temple Talk. The board wants to be able to pack the envelopes next month at the council meeting. The board discussed inviting the Swansons to the church, but council consensus was to do nothing extra for them.

Church Properties – Dale Price reported – The board is charge of the food/supply drive and some of the boxes have already been filled and removed, so it's doing well so far. We are not able to use the bell in the bell tower. The lights in the sanctuary have been updated to LEDs. Some of the dimmer switches have issues, so they will need updating. The board of properties would love to hear any and all comments on the lights. TKE sent us a 5-year contract request at \$1700 a year to inspect the hydraulics of the elevator that we have chosen to sit on because the state is wondering why TKE wants to do that every year. The air conditioner in the lower level is dying. The replacement cost is \$9,200. There was consensus to wait until spring to re-evaluate putting that new air conditioner in. We need to find a snow removal replacement for Dean. The parking lot is covered by an outside agency. The salting, sanding, and blowing snow off of sidewalks and stairs have been taken care of by Dean who gave notice months ago that he would not do this any longer. Nancie has said she wants to save money and does not need to buy a new laptop. She still does not have shared folder access. Barbara was told to call Advanced Technologies Inc (ATI) to get her shared folder access and change the TruVision to record only motion-detected moments.

Pastor's Report – Everyone received a copy of the Pastor's Report. It's also available on our website. Nash's interview is at 4 pm on the 21st.

Other Council Items: Lay Ministry wants Pastor Cheryl to use the pastor@firstenglish.net email address rather than a personal one. After Pastor Denise retired, all pastor@firstenglish.net emails were forwarded to the secretary address and Barbara forwarded any important emails to Pastor Cheryl when she started. Pastor Cheryl was receiving those emails but was not using the account to send emails. She will start using this one.

COUNCIL ACTIONS:

- Council consensus that boards should not be assigned God's Work, Our Hands tasks in the future.
- Approval to change the council meeting time to 2nd Mondays at 6 pm. Jane, Mari **MSP**.
- Approval to buy two (FELC/Zion combined) signs for a total of \$400 (for FELC) and put one sign at the baseball and one sign at the softball field and going forward paying \$200/yr. Darin, Jane **MSP**.

Next Council Meeting scheduled for: Monday, October 12th, at 6:00 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

October Newsletter for Youth

September has been busy with Confirmation, youth group, Rally Sunday, and the youth led service. The youth at both churches did an excellent job during the youth led service! If you haven't listened to Bryson's sermon, take a listen. That is good stuff. Thank you to all that helped with the ditch walk during Gods Work, Our Hands Day.

October:

- 7 - All classes
- 14 - No classes
- 18 - No Sunday school
- 20 - ELCA National Youth Gathering deposits due
- 21 - Early out Confirmation classes will run at the earlier time Youth group plans to be decided
- 28 - All classes

Thank you to the youth for my installation during the youth led service. Also, to Pastor Cheryl for all her work on that as well.

Have a joy filled Fall,

Nancie



Be watching for God's Creation calendars that will be coming in October. This is a fundraiser for our youth.

Calling all 7th – 8th – 9th Graders for the SW MN Synod Jr High Youth Gathering

Join youth from throughout the SW MN Synod with other Jr High Students to strengthen your faith through Youth-Led worship, singing, student faith talks, relationships building, faith building, and hanging out with other youth. Enjoy a time of nightlife fun and fellowship featuring swimming, games, food, dancing, service projects and SO Much More! Dr. Michael J. Chanis is the speaker for the Mass Gatherings.

Sign up by 4 pm THURSDAY, October 8th with Pastor Cheryl. You will need a \$50 deposit with registration form, a completed participant form, and signed covenant. Contact Pastor Cheryl for these forms.

Hotel cost approximately \$30 with students sharing a room which can be taken out of your points at First English and with fund raising at Zion. Hotel costs are \$144.13 for a standard (limited 5 students) and \$199.57 for a suite to sleep 6-7.

The service project for the year will be making LWR School Kits. Items needed are: 4—70-sheet notebooks; wide or college ruled; 1—30-centimeter ruler or ruler w/centime on one side & inches on the other; 1—pencil sharpener; 1—pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors w embedded steel blades); 1—5 unsharpened #2 pencils w/eraser; secured w/rubber band; 5—black or blue ballpoint pens (No gel) secured w/rubber band; 1—box of 16 or 24 crayons; 1—2 1/2” eraser. Members can donate items by leaving them with Pastor Cheryl. Contact Pastor Cheryl for more information as well as registration and scholarship forms at pastor@firstenglish.net or text: 605-237-1501.

7th—8th—9th Graders
Jr High Youth Gathering

November 20—November 21

Wilmar Conference Center
Wilmar, MN

Registration Cost is \$95
\$45 has been donate for each student attending
Your Cost per youth: \$50
Plus Money for Friday & Saturday evening meal & snacks
\$50 Deposit by October 11th
May apply for \$25 scholarship



2026 JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GATHERING Tentative SCHEDULE:

FRIDAY PM November 21st - SATURDAY AM November 22nd

Evening

4:00-6:30 pm Registration & Check-In at Hotels
6:30 pm Pre-Gathering Music
** Before 7pm: Supper on your own
7:00-8:30 pm Mass Gathering #1
8:45-11:15 pm Nightlife!
8:45-9:15 pm Female Adult Leader Meeting
9:25-9:55 pm Male Adult Leader Meeting
** 10pm: Pizza Orders Due (& Paid) to the Green Mill Catering Office (located across hall from the Dance)
11:30 pm Mass Gathering #1
12:15 am Congregational Devotion Time
1:00 am In Your Own Rooms
1:30 am Lights Out

Morning

9:15-10:15 am Breakfast Buffet
10:30 am Mass Gathering #3: Closing Worship
12:00 pm Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!
Travel back to Ortonville

Service Project: LWR School Kits

Items that will be collected

- 4—70-sheet notebooks; wide or college ruled
- 1—30-centimeter ruler or ruler w/centime on one side & inches on the other
- 1—pencil sharpener
- 1—pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors w embedded steel blades)
- 1—5 unsharpened #2 pencils w/eraser; secured w/rubber band
- 5—black or blue ballpoint pens (No gel) secured w/rubber band
- 1—box of 16 or 24 crayons
- 1—2 1/2” eraser

Scholarship Application

Contact Pastor Cheryl for an application form to receive a \$25 scholarship to cover the remaining cost of the \$50 individual registration fee.

Youth to Register for National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN

Registration is due by October 20th for those youth from First English and Zion Lutheran to attend the *Imagine More* National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN June 28 – July 2, 2027.

Every three years, thousands of high schoolers in grades 8th through 12th come together for the ELCA National Youth Gathering in various locations throughout the US. For this coming year the event will be held at the US Bank Stadium in Minneapolis, MN.

The 4-day event includes inspiring speakers, experiential learning and transformative connections for young people to experience the church in bold and unforgettable ways as faith ignites among thousands of young people and the stadium filled community comes alive.

This year’s theme, which speaks to every story and every season of faith, offering assurance of God’s deep love, grace and presence, is grounded in Ephesians 3:20, “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,” Young people will be invited to imagine more love, more welcome, more grace, more joy and more courage to discover they belong and that God is calling them to carry hope into the world.

Registration is \$450 per youth plus \$100 for the service project day for a total of \$550. This fee does not cover housing (approximately \$200), meals or travel which youth will fund raise toward. A nonrefundable deposit of \$175 per youth is required by October 20th to register when priority registration opens on October 21.

Financial assistance is available by application beginning October 1st through the 16th of up to \$275 per youth which may be provided to cover registration fees (except for the deposit.) Assistance is offered based on the financial need of the youth participant and their family, not the financial status of the congregation or local community. Contact Pastor Cheryl to apply.

The Gathering is not just an event but a movement in which participants share a unique faith experience through high-energy worship and powerful storytelling. There they have an opportunity to ask big questions, grow in faith and be part of something bigger than themselves.

Registration forms are available from Nancie and Pastor Cheryl.

For financial assistance, contact pastor.

National Youth Gathering Schedule

Monday, June 28

All Day Gathering Registration
9 am—4 pm Serve
4—7:30 pm Community Life
8:30 pm Mass Gathering

Tuesday, June 29

9 am Worship at Bank Stadium
10:30 am—12:30 pm Engage Block 1
2—4 pm Engage Block 2
4—7:30 pm Community Life
8:30 pm Mass Gathering

Wednesday, June 30

9 am Worship at Bank Stadium
10:30 am—12:30 pm Engage Block 3
2—4 pm Engage Block 4
4—7:30 pm Community Life
8:30 pm Mass Gathering

Thursday, July 1

10:30 am—12:30 pm Engage Block 5
2—4 pm Engage Block 6
4—7:30 pm Community Life
8:30 pm Mass Gathering

Friday, July 2

9 am—Depart

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.

October 2026

Designated Funds

Building (please specify) \$ _____
Operating Fund \$ _____
Other Project Christmas \$ _____

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

Parish Nurse Article for October

ANGER

Anger per se is neither good or bad. It is how people use their anger that makes it positive or negative. Ideally, anger was given to humans by God as a tool to help build relationships. In its pure form, anger is an emotional signal that tells a person something needs to change. It was intended to be a positive motivator to be used in giving one another feedback about how life can be lived more productively.

Since God is holy, we must understand His anger as His righteous response to human sin and rebellion. Yet repeatedly we also read that God is "compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love, forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin." (Exodus 34:6-7)

God's Word doesn't say that all anger is sin. However, it does set limits for us. "In your anger, do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold" (Eph.4:26-27).



Here are some helpful hints:

- *Admit feeling angry
- *Think before you speak. Once the words are out, you can't take them back.
- *Confront and propose a solution.
- * Check your stress level.
- *Yield your temper to the control of the Holy Spirit
- *Resist Satan and the spirit of anger.
- *Choose to forgive.
- *Accept your circumstances from God-they may not change.
- *When losing your temper causes you to say or do something inappropriate, immediately take responsibility
- *Pray for wisdom.

REJECTION

To reject someone means to refuse to grant that person recognition or acceptance. Rejection is a painful experience no matter what the cause. Have you ever been rejected? Tell the Lord how you feel. Also if you can, share with a trustworthy friend who will pray with you. Both are important to your emotional and spiritual health. Jesus knows how rejection makes us feel. He has been there.

Isaiah 53:3 *He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity, and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.*

He will comfort us and give us value and use our pain to help others.

We are all special in God's eyes. When we trust in Him and establish a relationship with Him, He accepts us with arms wide open


CIRCLE FOUR



Meets in the Church Lounge on Wed.,
October 7th at 9:00 am.
Hostess & Lesson: Arlene Volmer



CHURCH & COMMUNITY NEWS

Recognition of New Members Sunday will be October 5th. 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.

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!



Congratulations and God's Blessings to Austin & Shelby Schoon on the baptism of their daughter Libbie Josephine on September 13th. Her sponsors are Logan & Gina Schoon.

The Church Benefit Auction went well. Thank you so very much to the donors and the buyers!! The board of Stewardship will get the financial report together by the Council Meeting and pass that info along then. **If you did not receive giving envelopes last year,** but would like some giving envelopes for 2027, or if you *did* receive envelopes, but don't want to any longer, please let someone in the office know.

Noisy Offering will be moved to October 18th so as not to have it during our Confirmation service.

The Endowment Fund Committee Meeting will be October 4th. Please get any request forms turned into their mailbox in the library by Friday, October 2nd.

Pastor Cheryl will be taking time off in October, from the 16th to the 18th. Archer Dorry will be leading our October 18th service. We won't be having communion that day, but the last Sunday of the month will have communion since that is Reformation Sunday when we have the Affirmation of Baptism for our confirmands.

Trinity Lutheran in Ortonville is having their Ol' Settlers Supper on October 4th from 5-7 pm with take out available. The menu is Roast Beef, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Sausage, Sauerkraut, Glazed Carrots, Pickles, Breads, Pies, Coffee, and Kool Aid. Call 320-305-0353 or 839-3422 for takeout or more info.

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church is having their 71st annual Smorgasbord in Benson at 4:30-7:30 pm on Wed. October 28th. The Menu includes: Rømmegrøt, Søtuppe, Lefse, Blod & Potato Klub, Rullepølse, Flatbread, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Meat Balls, Roast Pork, Cole Slaw, Relishes, Deviled Eggs, & Assorted Fancy Cookies. You can dine in or pick up. The cost is \$20 for adults, \$10 for children 7-12, 6 and under are free. Proceeds help support their local & foreign missions.

Altar Guild: Let's have a get together on Sunday, 10/11/2026, following worship, at the front of the church. If anyone is interested in becoming a member of this group, we welcome you to join us. I want to hear what is going well and where we may need to make changes. Please plan to attend if you can. It would be great if we could get a couple more in our group to lighten the load, so if you think of anyone, reach out to them and invite them for this meeting.



There is a box of stuffed animals that someone allowed to be used by VBS one year. If these are yours, you can find the box in the pickup room. Please pick it up ASAP. If it is not picked up soon, it will be donated to charity.

Pastor-Parish Relations Committee - Part of the Board of Lay Ministry's job description says that the board is to: Ensure that a pastoral relations committee is active and that it offers verbal encouragement and/or directions to the pastor(s). Current members of this committee are Josh Wollschlager, Kristi Ehrenberg, and Ethel Swenson. Our Vice President, Ellie Helgeson, is the committee facilitator. If any congregant has an issue and doesn't feel they can talk directly to the Pastor, they are invited to speak to one of the committee members. Please consider this an open invitation; both negative and positive comments are welcome. The committee generally meets with the Pastor twice each year, April and October, and more frequently if necessary.

KDIO BROADCASTS

... (September 6th) was sponsored in honor of Jon & Kim Anderson as they celebrate the countless blessings over their 51 years of marriage.

... (September 13th) was sponsored in memory of Don and Joyce Koch from Kathy Haukos and family.

... (September 20th) was sponsored by your gifts to the Endowment Fund.

... (September 27th) was sponsored in memory of Don & Corinne Tiegs in celebration of what would have been their 75th wedding anniversary from their children Richard, Elizabeth, and Ross and families.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING and COMFORT for Matt Carlson, Pat Collins, Gail Olson, Burt Pansch, Nancy Pierzina; Monty Athey, Corin Dale, Alvin Dexter, Dustin Hanson, Larry Helgeson, Courtney Jorgensen, Barb Jorgenson, Mary Ross, Jerry Stotesbery, and Gwen Zimmerman. 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.



FALL BACK

REMEMBER TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR OCT 31st - NOV. 1st for Daylight Saving Time.



All Saints Sunday, November 1st



Come join us at 9:00 am for our All Saints Sunday Service. All Saints Sunday is a special day on which we rejoice in the many ways so many people have let Christ's light shine through them and give thanks to God for the saints we have been blessed to know. As a part of this service, not

only do we name the people dear to us who have died in the last year and light a candle in honor of each one, we also remember the newly baptized as part of the community of saints on earth.

The children taking First Communion classes in October will be receiving their First Communion during this November 1st service as well.



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.'

Gifts & Memorials

(Received between June 27th – September 22nd)

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT (including Elevator Funds)

In memory of Arlen LaCombe: Ronald & Ginger Athey, Terry Block, Ardell LaCombe, James & Ranet Schmeichel, Erls Sis, and Dean & Karen Strand.

Gayla Athey; Lois Bergeson; Terry Block in memory of Galen Gottschalk, Nola Lockwood, Kate Heinecke, and Roger & Barb Nornes; Jyla Dahle; Darin & Kristi Ehrenberg; Marilyn Hanson; Eldon & Carol Knutson; Jerry & Kathy Longhenry; Gale May; Greg Peterson; Glenda Reiffenberger; Judith Roberts; Stolpman Insurance; and Garry & Ethel Swenson.

ELCA SW MN SYNOD

Darin & Kristi Ehrenberg.

ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Arlen LaCombe: Kevin & Becky Backstrand and Adeline Burgess.

Marilyn Chindvall, Liz Ketz, and Sharon Smith.

FAMILIES IN NEED

Marilyn Chindval, Dave & Debbie Ellingson, Sharron Johnson, Liz Ketz, and Sharon Smith.

FOOD SHELF

Eldon & Carol Knutson.

KDIO

Jon & Kim Anderson in honor of 51 years of marriage; Lois Bergeson in memory of Ray Bergeson; Kathy Haukos in memory of Larry Haukos, in memory of Don & Joyce Koch, in memory of Gale & Ann Haukos; Evelyn Johnson in memory of Gary Johnson and all service men and women, remember "Freedom isn't free"; Burt Pansch in memory of departed ones; Rob & Kathy Randall in honor of their 49th wedding anniversary and thanksgiving for family; Kathy Stolpman in memory of Donny Stolpman; Richard & Marla Strei in honor of their wedding anniversary; Garry & Ethel Swenson in memory of Arlen LaCombe; Richard Tieg in memory of Don & Corinne Tieg; and Rita Verheul in memory of Dick Verheul.

OPERATING

Gayle Anderson, Ron & Ginger Athey, Rick & Dawn Barnhardt; Terry Block; Cheryl Carl; Jyla Dahle, Randy & Jane Debner, Melvin & Jackie Domine, Darin & Kristi Ehrenberg, Dave & Debbie Ellingson; Kris & Nikki Evje, Glenn & Deb Henningson, Evelyn Johnson, Garry & Ethel Swenson, Evie Swigerd; Russ & Ronda Thielke, and Clara Zeek.

SENIOR CHOIR

In memory of Arlen LaCombe: Jon & Kim Anderson; Judith Beckman; Lois Bergeson; Cheryl Carl; James & Neva Foster; Ardell LaCombe; Darlene Mikkelsen; Jerry & Becky Parker; and Glenda Reiffenberger.

SOMEPLACE SAFE

Burth Pansch and Sharon Smith.

SQUARES

Ronald & Ginger Athey in memory of Galen Gottschalk; Marilyn Chindvall, Liz Ketz, and Sharon Smith.

TECHNOLOGY/COMPUTERS

Rob & Kathy Randall in memory of Roger Sandler, Chris Petersen's dad.

YOUTH FUND

Evie Swigerd in memory of Arlen LaCombe.



ALTAR GUILD TEAMS – October

Sacristy, Sanctuary, Surplices:

Banners:

Flower Committee:

Marla Strei & Amy Adelman
Julie Hipple & Jocelyn Schowalter
Kris Redfield



SCHEDULING

KEYBOARD/ORGANIST

Oct. 4: Amy Adelman
Oct. 11: Carol Ydstie
Oct. 18: Kathy Haukos
Oct. 19* (3 pm FWV): Marilyn Hanson
Oct. 25: Lisa Berdan
Nov. 1: TBD
Nov. 8: TBD
Nov. 15: TBD
Nov. 16* (3 pm FWV): TBD
Nov. 22: TBD
Nov. 23* (Thanksgiving 6:30 pm): TBD
Nov. 29: TBD

LECTOR

Oct. 4: Kristi Ehrenberg
Oct. 11: Becky Parker
Oct. 18: Marge Dragseth
Oct. 25: Confirmands
Nov. 1: Brent Zahrbock
Nov. 8: Lois Bergeson
Nov. 15: Jim Schmeichel
Nov. 22: Liv Wollschlager
Nov. 29: Kelsey Kaye

ACOLYTES

Oct. 4: Katelyn & Isaac
Oct. 11: Mya W. & Liv
Oct. 18: Hayden & Tessa
Oct. 25: Lexi & Brandon
Nov. 1: James & Sailor
Nov. 8: Justice & Coby
Nov. 15: Gibson & Dawson
Nov. 22: Mia K. & Nash
Nov. 29: Bryson & Bennett

LAY ASSISTANTS

Oct. 4: Kirsten & Bryson Karels
Oct. 25: Confirmands
Nov. 1: Sara Mattison & Amanda Stattelman
Nov. 15: Lori Strei & Sara Wollschlager

FWV Neighborhoods

Oct. 4: Marilyn Chindvall & Julie Hipple
Oct. 11: Paula Reisdorph
Nov. 1: TBD
Nov. 8: Dick & Marla Strei
Nov. 29: TBD

GREETERS

Oct. 4: Emily Sigler & Riley S.
Oct. 11: Michelle Bauer & Katelyn H.
Oct. 18: **Mentor/Mentee TBD**
Oct. 25: Nancie Haukos & Mia K.
Nov. 1: **Mentor/Mentee TBD**
Nov. 8: **Mentor/Mentee TBD**
Nov. 15: **Mentor/Mentee TBD**
Nov. 22: **Mentor/Mentee TBD**
Nov. 29: **Mentor/Mentee TBD**

SOUND SYSTEM

Oct. 4: Liz Ketz & Liam Johnson
Oct. 11: Matt Karels & Bryson Karels
Oct. 18: Marge Dragseth & James Hodenfield
Oct. 25: Kim Anderson & Cameron Anderson
Nov. 1: Liam & Drew Johnson
Nov. 8: Cody Backstrand & James Hodenfield
Nov. 15: Matt & Bryson Karels
Nov. 22: Kim Anderson & Marge Dragseth
Nov. 23* (Thanksgiving 6:30 pm): Liz/Liam/Drew
Nov. 29: Cody Backstrand & Cameron Anderson

USHERS

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
Nov. 1: Ev Johnson, Ron Athey, & Jon & Kim Anderson
Nov. 8: Warren Wiese, Dave Ellingson, Art Vollmer, & Brent Zahrbock
Nov. 15: Dean Longnecker, Josh Wollschlager, Marla & Dick Strei
Nov. 22: Tami Lundberg, Paula Reisdorph, Jackie & Mel Domine
Nov. 29: Ev Johnson, Brent Zahrbock, Marilyn Chindvall, & Ron Athey



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
October 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 pastor@firstenglish.net. Pr. Cheryl is at Zion Tuesdays	1 3:40 pm 1st Communion Classes (grades 2 - 3) 4:40 pm 1st Com. (grades 4 - 5)	2 9:00 am Bulletins Printed Endowment Fund Request Forms due.	3
NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION SUNDAY 4 Before Service Coffee – Visit w/Pastor 9:00 am Worship Service - Communion – Halen Erickson Baptism – Broadcast on KDIO & FB Live 9:30 – 10:15 am Sunday School 10:00 am Visit with New Members & Endowment Meeting 10 - 11 am Fellowship Hall reserved 10:30 am Fairway View Service (pre-recorded) No Cantata Practice 	5 11:00 am Staff Meeting	6 8:30 am Day of Love 4-5 pm Bible Study at FWV / Donnie's Diner	7 9:00 am Circle 4 (Church Lounge) 9:30 am TV Broadcast 3:30 pm Confirmation (7-8) 4:30 pm Confirmation (9) 5:00 pm Finance Work Group Mtg. 5:30 pm Youth Group (7-12) & TV Broadcast 6:30 pm Cantata Practice 7:15 pm Senior Choir	8 3:30 pm Evangelism Mtg 3:40 pm 1st Communion Classes (grades 2 - 3) 4:40 pm 1st Com. (grades 4 - 5)	9 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	10
PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY 11 Before Service Coffee Visit w/Pastor 9:00 am Worship Service – Tech Desk Dedication – Broadcast on KDIO & FB Live 9:30 – 10:15 am Sunday School 10:00 am Altar Guild Meeting 10:30 am Fairway View Service (pre-recorded) 3:15-6:00 pm Cantata Practice	12 11:00 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Council Board Meetings ~6:30 pm Council Voting Meeting COUNCIL MEETING	13 8:30 am Day of Love 4-5 pm Bible Study at FWV / Donnie's Diner	NO CONFIRMATION / YOUTH 14 9:30 am TV Broadcast 5:30 pm TV Broadcast 6:30 pm Cantata Practice 7:15 pm Senior Choir	15	16 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	17  Pastor Cheryl is taking time off through Oct 18th.
Before Service Coffee 18 9:00 am Worship (w/Archer Dorry) – Noisy Offering – Broadcast on KDIO & Facebook Live NO Sunday School 3:15-6:00 pm Cantata Practice 	19 11:00 am Staff Meeting 3:00 pm Fairway View Worship Live w/Pastor Cheryl & communion 	20 8:30 am Day of Love 4-5 pm Bible Study at FWV / Donnie's Diner	EARLY OUT 21 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	22	23 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	24
CONFIRMATION AND REFORMATION SUNDAY 25 Before Service Coffee Visit w/Pastor 9:00 am Worship Service – Communion – Broadcast on KDIO & FB Live 9:30 – 10:15 am Sunday School 3:15-6:00 pm Cantata Practice 	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 26 11:00 am Staff Meeting	27 8:30 am Day of Love 4-5 pm Bible Study at FWV / Donnie's Diner	28 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	29	30 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	31 DST ENDS TONIGHT  HALLOWEEN