First English Lutheran Church
NEWSLETTER

November 2026

There's always SOMETHING to be THANKFUL for

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

October 29, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Confirmation and First Communion services are always some of my favorites. They bring us together in worship in a special way, as a faith family. We gather around those making their affirmation of faith or first communion with loving support and encouragement.

As a pastor I see the faces of the family members and the kneeling young people putting their trust in those surrounding them. They need that loving support and encouragement. A feeling that will stay with them for years, as so many first time, new experiences do.

Times you had support around you when broken or devastated or found support afterwards because your heart hurt or you needed to share that experience with someone else.

Support and encouragement are important parts in our life because we are made to be in relationship and live in community as Genesis 2:18 tells us, God said… *"It is not good for the human to be alone. I will make for him a suitable helper."* And Ecclesiastes 4: 9-10 says, "*Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them."*

Of course, we hear 1 Corinthians 12:12 each year for teacher and council installation reminding us that just as the body has many parts, so does the church, and all are important to the whole.

There has been a lot of recent research on how damaging COVID 19 was through lockdowns keeping us away from one another as well as studies on the negative impact of social media and how it has isolated young people from face-to-face contact and personal connections.

Young people feel alone and depressed through bullying and exclusion they encounter. We all face challenges or tough times in our lives and when we do, we need others around us to hold us up and encourage us through those dark days. The Apostle Paul wrote of such times to the Galatians in 6:2 saying, "*"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."* and to the Romans he wrote, *"That is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith." (1:12)*

It's not like the rural country school I went to when young, where everyone was in one room and could hear the response to class assignments to other students young and old and to know others were listening to you as much when you made a mistake. Or gathering together for neighbor card parties or even Sunday dinner at grandma's house where you learned the fine art of playing together, riding a bike as an older youth gave you instructions and a push done the street, or a neighborhood baseball game. Youth are often in front of a screen without the need for direct communication with others.

Through society's influence, we have developed habits of just wanting to go home and stay away, without connecting to others. Some have not learned to communicate, find it difficult and uncomfortable, and so they don't. So as Paul writes to the Corinthians in 12:26, *"If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it."* We no longer support one another when in need or encourage others to build them up, because we aren't there in that relational human need.

Another of my favorite parts of being a pastor and working with the youth is Youth Sunday's and having youth help with worship. They learn so much about our worship, the scriptures, Bible stories, and themselves during these services but more importantly they have stated they feel like they are part of the congregation. What a gift! Because they are and we want them to feel that way.

You see this excitement and happiness when they work together making sub sandwiches on Super Bowl Sunday, going to Fairway View to play games with the residents, joining together as the youth group to head down to lakeside park to clean up… because they are coming together. They laugh, they chatter, they have fun as they are together and enjoying each other and that time of community.

We need to learn from them. We need to mingle more and isolate less. We need to return to church gatherings, so we feel more like we are a faith community. We need to be in relationship with our faith family to feel more connected and willing to work together.

Just as the Hebrews writer suggest in 10: 24-25 *"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—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."*

And also *"…encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness." – Hebrews 3:13.*

We are all so busy, I hear it all the time. But didn't Satan manipulate us to believe that is more important than living as God has designed us to be – living in relationship with Him and one another.

God gave us the 2nd Commandment to remember the Sabbath day, to rest in the Lord and His word for our well-being. That is to be in relationship with Him, His Word, and His children. We are the face of Christ for others for others to see God through us. To be His living presence in this world until we are united with Him in the next.

Let's think about new, and maybe old ways, to take time to be together in community: in worship, in fellowship, in relationship with one another living as God created us to be, in a trusting relationship with Christ Jesusn encouraging spiritual growth, and a supportive faith family to surround you.

Gratefully Rejoicing in Christ for You!

~ Pastor Cheryl

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
BOARD MEETING – October 12th, 2026

Members present: Jon Anderson (president), Becky Parker (Treasurer) and Stewardship, Cody Teske – Lay Ministry, Marla Strei - Evangelism, Marge Dragseth - Evangelism, Paula Reisdorph - Evangelism, Darin Ehrenberg - Stewardship, Beth Fladhammer – Christian Education, Mari Athey – Youth & Family, Dale Price - Church Properties, Nancie Haukos – Youth Director, Barbara Wegner - Secretary, and Pastor Cheryl.

Meeting was called to order by President Jon Anderson at 6:35 pm. Pastor Cheryl led us in a devotion, and the council members thanked the Board of Stewardship for all the time spent on the auction fundraiser.

Approval of September Minutes as presented – Mari, Paula **MSP**.

Approval of Treasurer's Report – Generally our giving is down. The partnership with Zion is keeping us in the black. We do have over 26,000 in operating reserves – Cody, Marge **MSP.**

Pastor's Report – Everyone received a copy of the Pastor's Report. It's also available on our website. There are 7 confirmands. There are 6 FELC first communion students (5 families). There is a baptism on November 22nd. Jon Anderson volunteered to present the confirmands during the service. Pastor Cheryl tries to visit members on Thursdays and there was a hospital visit last week. This month's visits were a bit longer than usual, as she went to the assisted living people.

Board of Lay Ministry – Cody Teske reported – There was no WAM or Endowment report, the board approved the Finance Work Group report. Staff interviews are about halfway done. Cody was going to ask Dean more about the walkways snow removal in their interview. Rongliens removes snow from our parking lot as needed.

Board of Evangelism – Paula Reisdorph reported – Review of GWOH was tabled. Evangelism assigned the follow boards to help with Lenten Meals: Feb. 17th Evangelism & Lay Ministry, March 3rd Christian Ed. and Youth & Family, March 17th Stewardship & Properties. Persons are needed to head up the Just For the Love of It Dinner. Youth are available to help. It will only be put on if we get a leader. New Member Sunday Recognition was a great success. Someplace Safe will be the Mission Emphasis focus. Jenifer Henrich from SS will give a Temple Talk at the end of the service and a special offering will be taken for them. The Evangelism Committee will put up the giving tree on November 22nd. A list of beneficiaries of Giving Tree monies will be give in Nov. Publication costs for devotionals have risen and the board will keep an eye on that. There will be two Christmas Hymn Sings at Fairway View at 4 pm, December 9th and 18th (there may be 25-30 residents). The Evangelism board will meet next Nov. 3rd at Marge's house.

Christian Education – Beth Fladhammer reported – On November 1st several Sunday School teachers have children getting first communion, so there won't be Sunday School that morning. Oct. 27th 5 pm is the joint meeting (with Zion/Nancie) to plan for Sunday School / Kid's Club to start Jan 2027. The Board is okay with combining with the board of Youth & Family but would like there to be some separation between who is over Sunday School and older youth stuff. The board loves the youth-led services and would like to see it more often. The kids love the refuge for rally Sunday. The bible presentation went well, but there was one member who didn't get a bible that morning (and has since been given one). The Sunday School being let out early is going well, but some teachers miss getting communion and the last half of service. Nancie ordered confirmation cake. The pumpkin patch outing will likely not happen due to time constraints. The Christmas Program will be December 13th during church and Marilyn Chindvall has been planning this for a long while and every child will have a speaking part. There will be Board of Ed members there to watch the kids in the pews.

Youth & Family – Mari Athey reported – The board would still like to be doing older-youth related things, even if there was some combination with the Christian Education board. Youth Group is going well. There are 12 kids signed up for the Youth Gathering.

Stewardship – Darin Ehrenberg reported – The Elevator auction went okay with a little over $3500 raised. It was a lot of effort for that with some disappointing bids for what was available. This won't be an annual project. Other fundraising will be considered. We paid about $60,000 for the elevator, so we still have a large portion we want to refill. The Stewardship Drive letters & opportunity sheets are stuffed into envelopes. The theme is "Let the Spirit Be Your Guide," and Barbara helped to get a picture to go along with that.

Church Properties – Dale Price reported – For GWOH, Properties collected items and delivered them to the Food Shelf, Someplace Safe, and Mainstreet Industries. Each group thanked us for the donations. We received a Thank You card from Someplace Safe which was passed around. We have had Conroy look at the switched for the small bells. The large bell motor will not work. Conroy is in touch with someone in the Twin Cities to try to find a more appropriate motor. Larry's Refrigeration is working on the dampers to allow us to auto switch from cool to heat. The office AC has been cleaned and repaired. Last month the council had consensus to wait until Spring on the possibly $10,000 bill for A/C. An announcement will be put in the bulletin looking for leads on snow removal contract and Dean will help with instruction. We will need to know if it will be paid per one unit, one day, or for the whole season. Cody Backstrand was working on the ethernet cable that runs from the office and the tech desk and see if might need to hire a firm to get that cord connected. A couple of sinks downstairs needed plumbing repair due to leaks and damage. That was taken care of.

Barbara reported on the website and networking issue. We don't have access to the server for our website. Rural Solutions is in charge of that, so at times we need to rely on them to do things, but they are not always available and sometimes take months to get things done. There was council consensus to switch to a new website host. As for the networking issue, most computers were unable to get access to the "shared folder" on the secretary computer in the office. The network problem also led to those computers not being able to print on the network printer. There was council consensus to call ATI to have him look at the Midco Modem.

Other Council Items: We have about $5300 dedicated to getting an outdoor digital sign. There was council consensus to look into getting one because this should be enough to get one now.

COUNCIL ACTIONS:

- The audit must be done externally every 5 years. We can wait one more year to have it done externally. If so, we need to find someone to do this internal audit.
- The following confirmands are approved to be confirmed on October 25th: Lola Backstrand, Bailey Conroy, Martino Cochran, Liam Johnson, Bennett Karels, Nash Kindleberger, and Liv Wollschlager. Marge, Becky **MSP.**
- If council board groups are noticing that their members are not showing up, the Executive Board & Pastor can be made aware so that they can be asked individually to show up for their meetings.
- Approval of accepting all new members into our congregation: Kelsey Kuechenmeister, her son Halen was baptized here; Isaiah & Stacy Longnecker and children: Ellis, Calie, Bryant and Christopher; Taylor & Alicia Radermacher and children Leo, Lynden, and Joey; Courtney & Travis Jorgenson and children: Connor and Emmy; Jenny Gere and her daughter: Vivian. Marla, Darin **MSP.**

Next Council Meeting scheduled for: Monday, November 9th, at 6:00 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Youth News November

Youth group has been going great! Kids are showing up and we are enjoying our time together.

Sunday school has been going well. They will start practicing for the Christmas program soon. Volunteers are needed. Watch for sign ups on the youth Facebook page.

We had seven youth Confirmed from FELC and one from Zion on Sunday the 25th.

We have 10 youth signed up for the Jr High Gathering in Willmar on November 20-21st.

We have 22 youth signed up for the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Mpls. next summer.

God's Creation calendars are for sale for $8.00. Checks can be written to FELC Youth.

Coming up:

1st- First Communion

No Sunday school

4,11,18-Confirmation and Youth group meet

8,15, 22- Sunday school Christmas program practice

20-21- Jr High Youth Gathering in Willmar

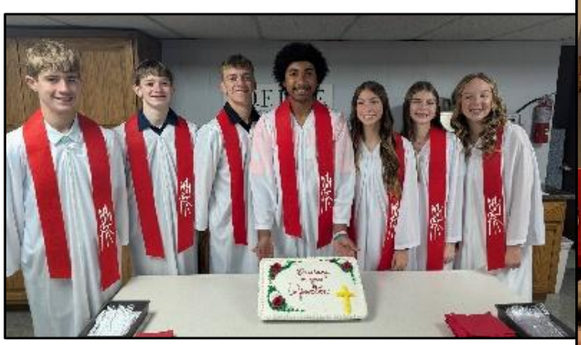
22- Mentor meeting at FELC at 10:00 am, Zion at 11:30 am

25- No classes

29- No Sunday school

Counting my blessings,

Nancie



Fall Mentor meetings are November 22nd

As part of the confirmation program, each young person has a mentor to be a guide and friend during their years of confirmation. In the fall, a time is set aside for mentor and mentees to meet and get to know each other or once again to connect with each other.

During the year they will serve together as greeters before a church service or go up to Fairway View to assist with a Sunday morning service there. This time provides an opportunity for the mentor/mentee to get to know each other and form a friendship. They can do additional projects as much as they want or just the minimum.

A confirmation mentor plays an important part in the spiritual formation of an adolescent during their faith formation years. Along with the parents and pastor, the mentor will form an important relationship with the student to encourage and support them in their learning and faith journey.

Meetings are set for Sunday, November 22nd following the worship service at each congregation: 10 am at FELC and 11:30 am at Zion.

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.

November 2026

Designated Funds

Building (please specify) $_____
Operating Fund $_____
Other GWOH $_____

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 November

Jealousy and Envy

Jealousy and envy are emotions we all feel from time to time. But if they are allowed to become dominant in our lives, they warp our perspectives, keep us from realizing our personal potential, and lead us into destructive behavior. Without question, jealousy and envy impede our growth to spiritual maturity.

Although we sometimes use jealousy and envy interchangeably. There is a difference. Jealousy can be used in a good sense. Its root is zelos, the same word from which we get zeal, or zealous. When the word is applied to God, saying He is a jealous God means He demands that we worship and love Him exclusively. In the bad sense, jealousy is a fear of being displaced by a rival in affection or favor. It can corrupt our motives thoughts and actions.

While jealousy can be positive, envy on the other hand, always has a bad meaning. Envy is defined as "a feeling of discontent and resentment aroused by another's desirable possessions or qualities, accompanied by a strong desire to have for oneself. Scripture reminds us" A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones" (Prov.14:30)

Overcoming Jealousy and Envy

*Recognize that you are envious or jealous.
*Choose with your will to get rid of it
*Confess it as sin and accept forgiveness
*Accept yourself as you are with gratitude
*Learn the joy of giving to others
*Set your heart on heavenly things

It's God's intention that our hearts and minds ought to be focused on new goals, and that our conduct should be controlled by new standards. We'll follow the Spirits leading for our own lives and choose to be grateful for everything God does for us.

Church & Community News

On October 5th we recognized our new members: Emily Rademacher and her children Brielle, Bronson, Braylon, and Briar; Elaine Thielke; Kelsey Kuechenmeister and her son, Halen Erickson; Isaiah & Stacy Longnecker and their children: Ellis, Cali, Bryant, and Christopher; Taylor & Alicia Radermacher and their children Leo, Lynden, and Joey; and Courtney & Travis Jorgenson and their children Connor and Emmy.

We also received two new members shortly after the recognition service: Jenny Gere and her daughter Vivian who will be baptized at FELC November 22nd.

Congratulations and God's Blessings to….

….Kelsey Kuechenmeister and Scott Erickson on the baptism of their son, Halen Jay Erickson on October 4th. His sponsors are Derek Kuechenmeister and Amanda DeJong; Kirsten Erickson; Miranda Bendel; and Aspen Bendel.

….our 2026 confirmands: Lola Kay Backstrand, Martino Zychon Cochran, Bailey Scott Conroy, Liam Robert Johnson, Bennett Matthew Karels, Nash Keith Kindelberger, and Livia Graham Wollschlager.

… those receiving their First Communion on November 1st: Kora Fladhammer, daughter of Erik & Beth Fladhammer; Connor Jorgenson, son of Travis & Courtney Jorgenson; Christopher Longnecker, son of Stacy & Isaiah Longnecker; Bryant Longnecker, son of Stacy & Isaiah Longnecker; Oakley Sigler, son of Cass & Emily Sigler; and Gia Jo Wollschlager, daughter of Sara & Josh Wollschlager.

There is a sign up sheet for greeters for youth and mentors on the bulletin board next to the office. Each mentor/mentee is asked to greet once per year. Please sign up!

Our 2026 Mission Emphasis Sunday will be on Sunday, November 8 during our 9am service at FELC. Jennifer Henrich from Someplace Safe in Ortonville will do a temple talk about the mission of Someplace Safe. A special offering will be taken for Someplace Safe as you leave church that morning.

Owen Dorry was injured in a car accident on 10/9/26. He was in the ICU in Sioux Falls with a spinal cord injury. He has transitioned to Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in Lincoln, NE (5401 South St, Lincoln, NE 68506). He will be there approximately 6 weeks. The family is facing unexpected travel expenses with gas, food, and lodging while traveling to be with Owen while he recovers. It is a long road ahead. Many have reached out wondering how to help financially. Donations of gift cards, gas cards, or Venmo can be sent to Kari Dorry @kari-dorry or left at the church office. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Ortonville FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes), a group of youth that meet during lunch at school every Wednesday, is looking for donations to continue providing Pizza and Pop to participating youth. If you have questions on how to donate contact Bryson Karels at 320-305-3333, or Venmo donations to him at brysonpkarels.

On October 11th we took time to dedicate the new media technology used for the sound, video, streaming and special booth built to hold it all. We thanked those at First English who have previously helped with their technical abilities: Marina Thomson, Charlie Thomson, Mikhail Thomson, Terry Kalberg, Dean Strand, Becky Parker.

We also thanked and recognized our current tech team for continuing this work by dedicating time through the project and volunteering each week: Liz Ketz, Matt Karels, Cody Backstrand, Kim Anderson, Marge Dragseth, Drew Johnson, Bryson Karels, Cameron Anderson James Hodenfield, and Liam Johnson.

When the project first started, an initial donation was made to get the project up and going but as projects often go, the property committee decided the better solution would be to update all, rather than piece-meal it, by raising the funds through donations. The total raised was $18,572.89 with another $3,378.00 from operating reserve for a total spent on the technology project of $20,107.03. A huge thank you to all who donated in small or large amounts. It was all appreciated.

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.'

We also thanked Art Vollmer for his excellent craftsmanship in making the tech desk and booth to fit precisely in the space available for the equipment. May this be a blessing for some time to come.

KDIO BROADCASTS

. . . . (October 4th) was sponsored by your gifts to the Endowment Fund.

. . . . (October 11th) was given by Ev Johnson in memory/honor of her husband Gary Johnson and all service men and women who have served or are serving in our military forces. Remember, "Freedom isn't free."

. . . . (October 18th) was sponsored in memory of Ruth Hanson from David & Anne Tonn.

. . . . (October 25th) was sponsored by Liz Ketz and family in honor of Liam Johnson and his classmates on their confirmation.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING and COMFORT for Matt Carlson, Pat Collins, Owen Dorry, Keith Giese, Courtney Jorgensen, Gail Olson, Nancy Pierzina, Jocelyn Schowalter; Monty Athey, Corin Dale, Alvin Dexter, Dustin Hanson, Larry Helgeson, Barb Jorgenson, Mary Ross, Karen Saeger, Anthony Schowalter, 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.

CIRCLE FOUR

Meets in the Church Lounge on Wed., November 4th at 9:00 am.
Hostess: Erylis Sis
Lesson: Sharon Smith

Due to changes to our snow removal, we are asking our members for input of companies or individuals willing to contract services.

This is for snow removal for all walking areas around the church.

The parking lot is already under contract. Please advise office staff if you know of any.

Upcoming Stonecroft Ministries
Sponsored By Women's Connection

Tuesday, November 17th at 5:30 pm
at Big Stone Tabor Methodist Church.
Ticket cost is $6.00.
Speaker: Steve Tadevich of Forest Lake, MN
with a talk titled:

"Diamonds are not Forever"

~ Special Feature ~
Orphan Grain Train of Milbank, SD
Linnea Schwandt & Joyce Kasuske

Music: Linda Brandt of Ortonville, MN
Soloist
FOOD WILL BE SERVED &
ALL/WALK-INS ARE WELCOME!
For reservations call Carol Karels
(320) 487-2355

Prayer Coffee: 2 PM, November 11th
at 725 Highland Hwy.

Hanging of the Greens is start of Advent Season

We begin each church year by celebrating the season of Advent and the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event. The synonym for advent is a dawn... a beginning… birth... or new development. Such as a coming into being. (Like the advent of pasteurization or personal cell phones.)

For most of us we understand advent to be a time of expectation and preparation before the birth of the Savior at Christmas. Often, we consider our time of preparation to be the time of Lent. But the preparation of advent is a time for joyful reflection and proclamation of God's love expressed in Christ humble birth in a stable, his sacrificial death on the cross, and his victorious resurrection.

This year we look at the weeks leading up to Christmas through the eyes of St Mark. To begin, the psalmist's pleas and Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out to a distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore the suffering people and world God loves.

We share that hope this advent of the arrival... the new dawn that has occurred... and celebrate this time ... as new life coming into being... through the birth of the Christ child... and the new life we have been given through Christ Jesus during our advent services beginning November 29th.

The Salvation Army is asking for

your help filling up their bell ringing calendar! Each year they raise about $11,000, and this money is typically distributed by late summer. Your help makes a big difference for those all around us, those who need help come from all backgrounds, young & old, men & women. They all share one common trait - they need your help. Ringing takes place every Friday & Saturday from Thanksgiving until Christmas at Hartman's Supervalu in Ortonville.

This money is used all across Big Stone County for:

- Gas to get to appointments
- Diapers
- Help paying bills
- Domestic Violence Victims
- So much more!

Sharing an hour of your time makes a big impact, this is a beautiful way set the standard for the season of grace and kindness to all.

Thank you for making this important choice this season!

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Hl4TV0JolrxhfrOmSoe12ctXNsEYb6XYqloAfb5cLnA/edit?gid=0#gid=0

SIGN UP WITH THIS LINK / QR LINK

THE SALVATION ARMY
DOING THE MOST GOOD

Thanksgiving Worship service at First English Lutheran Church

Do you know what 9 men and a goat have to do with Thanksgiving? Well, if not – you may want to be at worship on Monday evening, November 23rd to find out.

The combined Thanksgiving service this year will be held at First English Lutheran Church at 6:30 pm with videos of youth lead interviews of memories of thanksgiving and past traditions that taught how to be thankful and show gratefulness. You are encouraged to bring an item or two for the Food Pantry.

All I Want for Christmas is…

1. Spaghetti sauce & noodles are frequently donated, **other pasta shapes** and **Alfredo sauce** are also appreciated.
2. **Coffee** and **tea** don't stay on the shelf for long.
3. We offer peanut butter but often have no **jelly** to go with it.
4. Families love **treats** such as fruit snacks, granola bars, crackers, etc.
5. **Condiments** of all kinds disappear quickly from the shelves.
6. **Pickles** are a hot commodity!
7. Offering **baking items**, especially during the holidays, is helpful: flour, sugars, baking chips, mixes, pie filling, etc.
8. Shoppers enjoy **cereal** options (other than Rice Krispies, Corn-flakes, Toasted Oats, & Oatmeal) as well as pancake mix and syrup.
9. Canned fruit- especially cranberries, pineapple, and mandarin oranges are popular.
10. **Household** , **hygiene**, and **paper products** help stretch food budgets.
11. **Any food** or **monetary donation** is always appreciated to help support neighbors in need.

Prairie Five Community Action
Helping People. Changing Lives.

Big Stone Lake Area Food Shelf/Graceville Satellite Food Shelf
125 NW 2nd St. ◊ Ortonville, MN 56278 ◊ Phone: 320-839-2111

ALTAR GUILD TEAMS – November

Sacristy, Sanctuary, Surplices:	Lori Strei & Jen Wiik
Banners:	Julie Hipple & Jocelyn Schowalter
Flower Committee:	Paula Reisdorph and Carol & Connie Newman

SCHEDULING

KEYBOARD/ORGANIST
Nov. 1: Marilyn Hanson
Nov. 8: Carol Ydstie
Nov. 15: Amy Adelman
Nov. 16* (3 pm FWV): Kathy Haukos
Nov. 22: Lisa Berdan
Nov. 23* (Thanksgiving 6:30 pm): Amy Adelman
Nov. 29: Carol Ydstie
Dec. 6: Kathy Haukos
Dec. 13: Amy Adelman
Dec. 20: Lisa Berdan
Dec. 21* (3 pm FWV): Kathy Haukos
Dec. 24* (2:30 pm): Carol Ydstie
Dec. 24* (6:30 pm): Marilyn Hanson
Dec. 27: Kathy Haukos

LECTOR
Nov. 1: Brent Zahrbock
Nov. 8: Lois Bergeson
Nov. 15: Jim Schmeichel
Nov. 22: Liv Wollschlager
Nov. 29: Kelsey Kaye
Dec. 6: Barb Wiese
Dec. 13: Sunday School Program
Dec. 20: Amanda Stattelman
Dec. 24* (2:30 pm): **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
Dec. 24* (6:30 pm): Cali Longnecker
Dec. 27: Jon Ydstie

ACOLYTES
Nov. 1: James & Sailor
Nov. 8: Justice & Coby
Nov. 15: Gibson & Dawson
Nov. 22: Mia K. & Nash
Nov. 29: Bryson & Bennett
Dec. 6: Amelia Z. & Oliver
Dec. 13: Amelia K. & Lola
Dec. 20: Kimberly & Hartley
Dec. 24* (2:30 pm): **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**
Dec. 24* (6:30 pm): **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**
Dec. 27: Brielle & Jace

LAY ASSISTANTS
Nov. 1: Lori Strei & Amanda Stattelman
Nov. 15: Lori Strei & Sara Wollschlager
Dec. 6: Marilyn Chindvall & Liz Ketz
Dec. 20: Marla Strei & Brent Zahrbock
Dec. 24* (2:30 pm): Marla & Adam Strei and **2-3 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Dec. 24* (6:30 pm): **2 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

FWV Neighborhoods
Nov. 1: Dick & Marla Strei
Nov. 8: Ranet Schmeichel
Nov. 29: Jane Debner & Marge Dragseth
Dec. 6: Darin & Kristi Ehrenberg
Dec. 13: Jackie & Mel Domine

GREETERS
Nov. 1: Kayla Minder & MaKiyah
Nov. 8: Matt Karels & Isaac
Nov. 15: Eldon Knutson & Dawson
Nov. 22: Carol & Connie Newman and Gibson
Nov. 29: Amy Adelman & Brielle
Dec. 6: Dale Price & Bryant
Dec. 13: Mentor/Mentee TBD
Dec. 20: Mentor/Mentee TBD
Dec. 24* (2:30 pm): **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**
Dec. 24* (6:30 pm): **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**
Dec. 27: Mentor/Mentee TBD

SCREENS & SOUND SYSTEM
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
Dec. 6: Matt & Bryson Karels
Dec. 13: Liz Ketz & Liam Johnson
Dec. 20: Cody Backstrand & James Hodenfield
Dec. 24* (2:30 pm): Cody & **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
Dec. 24* (6:30 pm): **2 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**
Dec. 27: Kim Anderson & Cameron Anderson

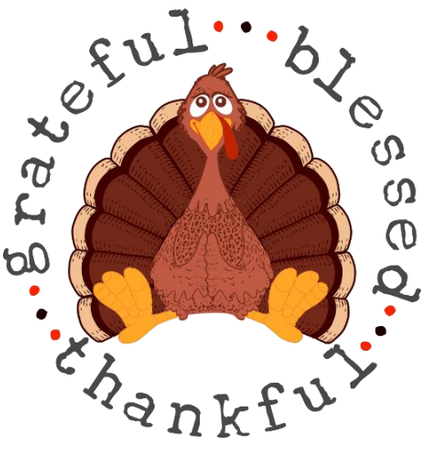
USHERS
Nov. 1: Ev Johnson, Ron Athey, & Jon & Kim Anderson
Nov. 8: Warren Wiese, Dave Ellingson, Art Vollmer, & Brent Zahrbock
Nov. 15: Dean Longnecker, Josh Wollschlager, Marla & Dick Strei
Nov. 22: Tami Lundberg, Paula Reisdorph, Jackie & Mel Domine
Nov. 23* (ThanksGv 6:30 pm): VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Nov. 29: Ev Johnson, Brent Zahrbock, Marilyn Chindvall, & Ron Athey
Dec. 6: Gale May, Dean Strand, Dave Ellingson, Vern Nickolauson
Dec. 13: Darin Ehrenberg, Marilyn Chindvall, Ellie & Harley Helgeson
Dec. 20: Gale May, Warren Wiese, Russ Thielke, & Connie Newman
Dec. 24* (2:30 pm): **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**
Dec. 24* (6:30 pm): **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**
Dec. 27: Gale May, Jim Foster, Gene Stotesbery, & Art Vollmer

***** We have **TWO Christmas Eve services**, Wed. at 2:30 & 6:30 pm.

Please contact the office if you would like to volunteer to help with these services.

THANKS!



November 2026 ✝ ✝ ✝

First English Lutheran Church

Daily Devotions are available @ www.firstenglish.net
go to "Lutheran Faith" & then "Prayers, Study, & Devotionals."

Pr. Cheryl is at Zion Tuesdays

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.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ALL SAINT'S SUNDAY **1** Before Service Coffee – Visit w/Pastor 9:00 am All Saints Worship – 1st Communion – Broadcast on KDIO & FB Live ***NO SUNDAY SCHOOL*** 10am-12:30pm Fellowship Hall Reserved 10:30 am Fairway View (pre-recorded) 4:00-5:30 pm Cantata Practice (6 pm closing)	**2** 11:00 am Staff Meeting	**3** 8:30 am Day of Love Evangelism Mtg *(at Marge's house)* 4-5 pm Bible Study at FWV / Donnie's Diner	9:00 am Circle 4 (church lounge) **4** 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 7:00 pm Senior Choir	**5**	**6** 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	**7**
Before Service Coffee – Visit w/Pastor **8** 9:00 am Worship Service – Mission Emphasis: Someplace Safe – Broadcast on KDIO & Facebook Live 9:30 – 10:30 am Sunday School (xmas practice) 10:30 am Fairway View Service (pre-recorded) & Christian Ed Mtg in Library 4:00-5:30 pm Cantata Practice (6 pm closing)	**9** COUNCIL MEETING 6:00 pm Council Board Meetings ~6:30 pm Council Voting Meeting	**10** 8:30 am Day of Love 4-5 pm Bible Study at FWV / Donnie's Diner	9:30 am TV Broadcast **11** 3:30 pm Confirmation (7-8) 4:30 pm Confirmation (9) 5:30 pm Youth Group (7-12) & TV Broadcast 7:00 pm Senior Choir VETERAN'S DAY	**12**	**13** 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	**14**
Before Service Coffee – Visit w/Pastor **15** 9:00 am Worship – Communion – Stewardship Temple Talk – Broadcast on KDIO & FB Live 9:30 – 10:30 am Sunday School (xmas practice) 4:00-5:30 pm Cantata Practice (6 pm closing)	**16** 3:00 pm Fairway View Worship Live w/Pastor Cheryl & communion	**17** 8:30 am Day of Love 4-5 pm Bible Study at FWV / Donnie's Diner	9:30 am TV Broadcast **18** 3:30 pm Confirmation (7-8) 4:30 pm Confirmation (9) 5:30 pm Youth Group (7-12) & TV Broadcast 7:00 pm Senior Choir	**19** NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	**20** 9:00 am Bulletins Printed Jr. High Gathering	**21** in Wilmar, MN
Before Service Coffee Visit w/Pastor **22** 9:00 am Worship – Vivian Gere Baptism – Stewardship Temple Talk – Broadcast on KDIO & Facebook Live 10 - 11:00 am Sunday School (xmas practice) 10 am Mentor / Mentee Meeting & Giving Tree put up by Evangelism Board 4:00-5:30 pm Cantata Practice (6 pm closing)	**23** 11:00 am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Zion-FELC Combined Evening **Thanksgiving Service** *(at First English Church)*	**24** ***NO Day of Love*** 4-5 pm Bible Study at FWV / Donnie's Diner	**No Confirmation, Youth Gr, Choir** **25** 9:00 am Bulletins Printed Early 9:30 am TV Broadcast 5:30 pm TV Broadcast	**26** Thanksgiving **Office Closed**	**27** **Office Closed**	**28**
HANGING of the GREENS **29** Before Service Coffee Visit w/Pastor 9:00 am Worship Service – Noisy Offering – Broadcast on KDIO & Facebook Live ***NO SUNDAY SCHOOL*** 10:30 am Fairway View (pre-recorded) 4:00-5:30 pm Cantata Practice (6 pm closing)	**30** 11:00 am Staff Meeting	**Dec 1** 8:30 am Day of Love 4-5 pm Bible Study at FWV / Donnie's Diner 4:30 pm Joint Christian Ed. Meeting (at Zion) 5:30 pm Zion-FELC Joint Meeting (at Zion)	**Dec 2** 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 7:15-9:00 pm Cantata Practice (FELC)	**Dec 3** 9:00 am Circle 4 (Church Lounge) & afterwards, private Christmas Meal 7 – 8:30 pm Cantata Practice (at FELC or Abbey of Hills)	**Dec 4** 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	**Dec 5** 2:00 pm Christmas Cantata at Abbey of the Hills 5:00 pm Christmas Cantata at Abbey of the Hills