First English Lutheran Church
9 NW 3rd ST; Ortonville, MN 56278
Rev. Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett, Pastor
Nancie Haukos, Youth Director
Lisa Berdan, Senior Choir Director
1st Sunday of Advent-Hanging the Greens
November 29, 2026 9:00 AM



PREPARATRION
Prelude, Bells
Welcome & KDIO Radio Broadcast
Peace:
P: The peace of the Lord be with you always… **C: And also with you.**

The Meaning of the Service

We begin the new church year by celebrating the season of Advent. ……. being through the birth of the Christ child and the new life we have been given through Christ Jesus.
Today - Let us celebrate the love of God that has come down to us...

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The Lord is our light and our help, calling us to look beyond the darkness to the promised dawn.

C: We wait in joyful hope for the dawn of a new day.

L: The world groans in darkness – yearning to give birth to a new dawn and eternal creation,

C: We wait in joyful hope Your face will shine upon us.

L: Overwhelmed souls and hearts hardened through suffering yearn for the warmth and touch of your love.

C: We wait in joyful hope for the revealing of God's love.

L: And as we wait in joyful hope, we ask God to bless and keep us:

C: We wait in joyful hope as we worship our Lord.

Lighting of the Advent Candle: (Significance & Lighting)

The lighting of an advent candle on the 4 Sundays of Advent helps us to focus on a new dawn…..The Advent Season will not be complete until

all four candles are lit, with the central pure white Christ candle burning brightly on Christmas Eve.

Lighting of the First Candle on the Advent Wreath

READER ONE: Every year we light candles as we prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ. More and more candles, more and more light, as we watch and wait for Jesus, the Light of the World.

C: God of Promise, come into our darkness. Renew your hope in us, for you alone bring life out of death.

READER TWO: Receive God's promise of hope from Psalm 33:
The eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love, to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine.

C: We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you.

Light the candle of hope

GATHERING HYMN: ***"Christ, Be Our Light" ELW 715 vs 1-4***

ADVENT PRAYER:
L: Let us pray, Lord Jesus, **C: we await your coming, We wait filled with hope, Knowing your light will shine in the darkness. We wait anticipating your peace, Believing that one day it will fill our world. We wait embracing your love, May we reach out to share it with our neighbors. We wait with joy, Bubbling us in expectation of your birth. Lord we wait, Come and fill us with your life. Amen.**

Hanging of the Wreaths: Significance of the Advent Wreath

L: In the Hanging of the Greens, …..need of repentance and the faithfulness and integrity that comes from God our maker and redeemer?

C: Let us hang garlands and wreaths as Hosea speaks the word of God:

Advent Wreath tradition

The tradition of the Advent Wreath is traced back to… in Psalm rejoices in the faithfulness of God in the midst of great loss and seeks restoration.

RESPONSIVE READING: PSALM 80: 1-7,17-19

L: [1]Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

C: [2]**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**

L: [3]Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

C: [4]**O Lord God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

L: [5]You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

C: [6]**You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

L: [7]Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

C: [17]**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,**
the one you have made so strong for yourself.

L: [18]And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

C: [19]**Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

HYMN ***"My Lord, What a Morning"*** **ELW 438**

(Refrain): **My Lord, what a morning; my Lord, what a morning; oh, my Lord, what a morning, when the stars begin to fall.**

1. You will hear the trumpet sound, to wake the nations underground, looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. (Refrain)
2. You will hear the sinner cry, to wake the nations underground, looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. (Refrain)
3. You will hear the Christian shout, to wake the nations underground, looking to my God's right hand, when the stars begin to fall. (Refrain)

Text & Music: African American spiritual

Hanging of Garland: Significance of the garland.

The evergreens are the most striking…..deepens the Advent theme of waiting for God's decisive, restorative action.

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 64: 1-9 OT PG 538

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

Special Music ***'I Wonder as I Wander'***

The Christmas Tree: Significance of the Christmas tree.

The Christmas tree is the center of our festivities…..reminder of the Gospel: the world's darkness and cold contrast with the light and life of Christ

GOSPEL LEAD-IN: "The King Shall Come" ELW 260 vs 1 & 4

GOSPEL: MARK 13:24-37 NT pg 39

The Holy Gospel according to Mark……. **Glory to you oh Lord**

The Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, oh Christ.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN "*Your Little Ones, Dear Lord* *ELW 286*

1. Your little ones, dear Lord, are we, and come your lowly bed to see; enlighten ev'ry soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.
2. With songs we hasten you to greet, and kiss the ground before your feet. Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night that gave you birth, our soul's delight.
3. Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord, and to us all your grace accord; true faith and love to us impart, that we may hold you in our heart.
4. Until at last we too proclaim, with all your saints, your glorious name; in paradise our songs renew, and praise you as the angels do.

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694-1764; tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845-1925, alt. Music: Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747-1800.

CHILDREN'S SERMON - *The story of the Nativity*
NATIVITY (Significance)

HYMN "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" ELW 276

8 Colors and Paraments: Significance of the colors and paraments Paraments are the liturgical adornments…… focus our longing for Christ's coming and the promise of redemption while we wait for the coming of the Christ child in eternal hope.

DIALOG:

L: Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming,

C: We wait filled with hope, knowing your light will shine in the darkness.

L: We wait anticipating your peace, believing that one day it will fill our world.

C: We wait embracing your love, may we reach out to share it with our neighbors.

L: We wait with joy, filling us in expectation of your birth.

C: Lord we wait, Come soon and fill us with your life. Amen.

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9 NT PG.127

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

HYMN "Rejoice, Rejoice Believers" ELW 244 Vs 1 & 4

1. Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear; the evening is advancing, and darker night is near. The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh. Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.

4.. Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear; arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere. With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free! Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907. Music: Swedish folk tune.

Bells of Christmas

Christmas Bells ring out joy, hope, celebration……. May our testimony be like a bell that rings out announcing the birth of Christ and call others to Jesus!

OFFERING/OFFERTORY: *"We Are Waiting for Jesus" ACS 905*

Offering Prayer:

L: Let us pray: **C: Gracious God, you reveal your Son to us as the scriptures are proclaimed. Open our hearts to receive him now as we give in grateful thanksgiving for your gift in Him. Make your home here in us to measure our wealth not by what we have, but what we can give away. Let us give away generously, in this offering, to bless your church, your people, your creation. Amen.**

A PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE AT THE BEGINNING OF ADVENT

God our caring Father, you who gave your beloved Son to ransom all people, see our human fears and love us anyway. *Silent reflection*
Each petition ends: Lord in your mercy, Response is: **C: hear us and change our ways.**
In the darkness that contains both our hopelessness and our hope, we watch for a sign of God's hope. For you are with us, O God, in darkness and in light. **C: Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

DEDICATION

God, we give you thanks….. remind us to live in hope, readiness, and faithfulness until Christ returns.

C: Accept these decorations which we offer in thanksgiving; may they serve to increase our vision of your glory, to remind us of your goodness, to radiate the hope of Jesus to all who are willing to receive it, and to support our calling to worship you in spirit and truth.

Bless these greens that now adorn our sanctuary. May they be for us a bold reminder of the story of Christ-child. To wake us to caring love we share with all who enter this house of worship and live among us. **Amen.**

COMMISSION AND BENEDICATION: *(based on 1 Corinthians 1: 7-9)*
God sends you from here …….and may the Holy Spirit strengthen your hearts in holiness, granting you peace. **Amen**

Pastor Leaves

Announcements

DISMISSAL:

Go in peace… awaked in God's love. **C: Thanks be to God. We will.**

<u>SENDING HYMN</u> **"Soon and Very Soon" ELW 439 vs 1-3**

Bells, Postlude

Music: All Rights Reserved. Reprinted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Copyright © 2006. Used by permission of Sundays and Seasons license#SB165499, CCLI License#2288422, & ONE LICENSE LICENSING PERMISSION: Reprinted / Podcast / Streamed with Permission Under One License #A-738935 and CCLI License #20063413.

Galatians 5:25 "If we live by the Spirit, we should also walk by the Spirit."

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.

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

KDIO Radio Broadcast is sponsored by Pastor Cheryl in loving memory of her daughter, Sally Rondeau who passed away on December 1, 2022. [2026 & **2027** Radio broadcast cards are available in the narthex; cost is $100/week].

November's pink envelope emphasis is for God's Work, Our Hands Service Projects. You can find special pink envelopes for designated giving in the Narthex

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



	October 2026	Year-to-Date 2026
Offerings/Gifts:	$20,102.00	$178,102.89
Zion Receivable:	$4,175.08	$ 35,211.67
Total Revenue:	$24,277.08	$213,314.56
Expenses:	$23,404.24	$207,626.57
Balance:	$ 872.84	$ 5,687.99

DONATE ELECTRONICALLY

If you would like to give a poinsettia or Christmas Flower to FELC during this advent/Christmas season, please bring or have it delivered to the church office *the week leading up to Christmas*. Don't forget to let us know who it is from and the memorial/in-honor-of information so that we can list it in our Christmas Eve bulletin. If you want your poinsettia back, please put your name on it.

The Board of Evangelism set up the 2026 Giving Tree on November 22nd. There are a variety of ways to help our community (via Day of Love, Someplace Safe, Trojan Takeout, Groceries, & Gas Cards.) Pick a tag and make a donation to the area listed on the tag ***(checks written to FELC).*** Donations may be dropped off in the church during the week, or in the wrapped gift box found in the Narthex on Sundays in December.

We are looking for special prelude music for the ***2:30 pm*** Christmas Eve service. Prelude music starts at 2 pm until the service at 2:30. It may be solo, group or instrumental. Gifts of special music has become a favorite tradition for our congregation. It you would like to be included, please contact the church office or Marilyn Hanson at (605) 880 - 0330 no later than December 20, 2026. We will need the title, author, credits, and the performance time of the piece. First English is required to check broadcast rights for the internet. In addition, we are also looking for special prelude music for the ***6:30 service***. if you would like to be a part, we'd love to have you at one or ***both*** of the services. Thank you!

God's Creations Fundraiser Calendars are in! If you'd like one, they can be bought in the office or in the Narthex following church! They're $8.00. You can bring cash or pay by check (please write checks for calendars out to ***FELC Youth***).

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!

CentraCare – Hospice will be offering an 8-week grief support group in the Orpheum Room at Fairway View on November 16, 23, 30, December 7, 14, 21, 28, & January 4th at 4 - 5:15 p.m.

Community Christmas Cantata Filled with Awe and Wonder

Enter the spirit of Christmas with a concert of inspirational music at the Abbey of the Hills! The concert features 80+ local singers and instrumentalists: Saturday, Dec. 5, at 2:00 and 5:00 and Sunday, Dec. 6, at 3:00 -- free will donation. Festive refreshments will follow each performance. There are no seats reserved, but you must register your concert preference online at abbeyofthehills.org or call 605-398-9200. Concert attendance is limited to 200 at each performance, so please register early!

Dawson-Boyd Arts Council presents- "The Looney Lutherans- Hold the Lutefisk: It's Beginning to Smell a lot Like Christmas" on Sunday, December 6th at 4:00 PM. See the poster in the kiosk for more information.

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at the Bellingham Community Center on Tuesday, December 8 from 12:30- 5:30 p.m. There will be regular and Power Red appointments available by calling Audrey at (320)568-2385. Goal is 26.

Our Redeemer's Church in Benson will be having an Advent Luncheon on Wed., Dec. 2nd from 11:30 am-1:30 pm. Free will offering and all proceeds go to the Swift County Food Shelf. See poster by the office for details.

A NOTE FROM THE DAY OF LOVE: On Tuesday mornings, you will hear a "buzz" in the church basement. There is a buzz, but, wow, the quilts that have been made and donated in the last couple of weeks is phenomenal. 113 quilts have ben donated just in time for the holidays. The quilts have been donated to Project Christmas, The Legacy in Clinton, Assisted Living at Fairway View, Children's Crisis, and three individuals who needed a bit of sunshine. We have also donated to other organizations during the year. Watch for our year-end report for a complete report. Thank you for your donations, whether it be monetary, or a donated of fabric, you have helped us create the stitches of love. Happy Holidays from the Day of Love



PRAYERS FOR HEALING and COMFORT for Angie Aschwege, Matt Carlson, Pat Collins, Owen Dorry, Keith Giese, Courtney Jorgensen, Gail Olson, Sawyer Olson; Monty Athey, Alvin Dexter, Dustin Hanson, Larry Helgeson, Barb Jorgenson, Mary Ross, Karen Saeger, Jerry Stotesbery, Barbara Wegner, and Gwen Zimmerman. AT FAIRWAY VIEW NEIGHBORHOODS: Ricky Anderson, Arvilla Bergseth, Adeline Burgess, Jim Hipple, Vivian Janssen, Evelyn Olson, Aletta Simonitch, Elaine Thielke; 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.

This Week's Ministry Assistants — November 29th

Organist: Carol Ydstie **Lector:** Kelsey Kaye
Acolytes: Brandon & Lexi **Greeters:** Amy Adelman & Brielle
Tech Desk: Cody Backstrand & Camerson Anderson
FWV: Jane Debner & Kim Anderson
Ushers: Ev Johnson, Brent Zahrbock, Marilyn Chindvall, & Ron Athey

Next Week's Ministry Assistants- December 6th

Organist: Kathy Haukos **Acolytes:** Amelia Z & Oliver
Lector: Becky Parker **Lay Assistants:** Marilyn Chindvall & Liz Ketz
Tech Desk: Matt & Bryson Karels **Greeters:** Dale Price & Bryant
Ushers: Gale May, Dean Strand, Dave Ellingson, & Vern Nickolauson
FWV: Darin & Kristi Ehrenberg

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sun – 11/29 Before Service Coffee Visit w/Pastor
9:00 am Worship Service – Hanging of
The Greens – Noisy Offering Broadcast on KDIO & FB Live
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
10:30 am Fairway View Worship (pre-recorded)
4:00-5:30 pm Christmas Cantata Practice *(6 pm closing time)*
(6 pm closing time)

Mon – 11/30 11:00 am Staff Meeting

Tues – 12/1 8:30 am Day of Love
4-5:00 pm Bible Study at Fairway View (Donnie's Diner)
4:30 pm Joint Christian Education Meeting at Zion
5:30 pm Zion/ FELC joint meeting at Zion

Wed – 12/2 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
7:00-8:30 pm Cantata Practice at FELC

Thurs – 12/3 9:00 am Circle 4 (Church Lounge) & afterwards, private Christmas Meal
7:00 – 8:30 pm Cantata Practice (at FELC ***or*** Abbey of Hills)

Fri – 12/4 9:00 am Bulletins Printed

Sat – 12/5 2:00 pm Christmas Cantata at Abbey of the Hills
5:00 pm Christmas Cantata at Abbey of the Hills

Sun – 12/6 Before Service Coffee Visit w/Pastor
9:00 am Worship Service – Communion – Broadcast on KDIO & Facebook Live
10:00 am - 11 am Sunday School (Xmas practice)
10:30 am Fairway View Service (pre-recorded)
3:00 pm Christmas Cantata at Abbey of the Hills