First English Lutheran Church
NEWSLETTER

December 2026



Unto Us a Child is Born

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*

Office: 839-2527
Email: felcort@firstenglish.net
Website: www.firstenglish.net

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

November 21, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I write this, we are approaching thanksgiving and Advent, the first Sunday of the new church year with lectionary B on the Gospel of Mark. Mark is concise, focused on Jesus as the suffering servant for our salvation. The readings begin with Isaiah's words to "*tear open the heavens and come down*." (64:1)

The people had waited a long time, as we have, for the world to be changed, as cruelty and oppression, violence and destruction, had forced the people of Israel into exile and they cried out with deep longing for God to restore them and their land.

It made me think of how much our world today feels that desolation and cries out with a similar plea. We long for God to "stir up" our hearts and change our wills to the ways of our Lord.

"*Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me*." (Psalm 51:10)

We pray our hearts and minds would be transformed to the will of God rather than of human desires asking Him to remove the old and give us new hearts so we seek the good work begun in us until the day of Christ. (Romans 12: 2 & Ezekiel 36: 26)

The world today can be a dark and desolate place of despair and even fear. But we don't have to live in that place. As Advent leads to the manger on Christmas Day, our hope comes in our trust of God's promise fulfilled and His promise of eternal salvation to come.

Isaiah emphasizes that renewed strength saying: "*But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint*" (40:31) and the prophet Jeremiah tells us God's plans are for our good in 29:11: "*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a future and a hope*."

When we live in disappointment and fear, our world is a cold and dark place. But living in hope… seeing the positive aspects of the world, rather than the negative ones and expecting the best of what is to come changes our outlook to be sunny and joy filled.

A hope filled attitude comes to us when we discover a new life through Christ Jesus and live for the hope that is to come. Then whatever this world provides has no impact on you, as you have the one thing that is imperishable, your eternal inheritance in the world to come.

When you know the most powerful force is God, you no longer struggle with anxiety over who has political or corporate control, or how corrupt leaders may take you in the wrong direction. For "***…***who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ***14***But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ***15***but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy..." (1 Peter 2: 13-14)

And when you live in hope your response to suffering is different, knowing Jesus suffered, and our suffering humbles us and makes our faith stronger, as Apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 12: "***8*** *Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me.* ***9*** *But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me*."

So as we look to the season of Christmas, the season of hope, faith, joy and love let us remember the candle in the middle of the Advent wreath is the Christ candle. And when we center our lives on that… we can center our lives on that hope is to come, live in the joy of our faith and know we are promised something beyond the dark days of this world, because of His love for us.

To live as Micah proclaimed, "*But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me" encourages patient trust in God."* (7:7)

So let the hope of Christmas remind us, Christ did not wait for us to come to Him, but He came to us as the suffering servant for our salvation.

"May the God of all hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." during this Christmas season.



Gratefully Rejoicing in Christ for You!

~ Pastor Cheryl

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
BOARD MEETING – November 9, 2026

Members present: Ellie Helgeson (Vice President and Lay Ministry), Becky Parker (Treasurer and Stewardship), Cody Teske and Michelle Bauer – *Lay Ministry,* Paula Reisdorph - *Evangelism*, Darin Ehrenberg - *Stewardship*, Beth Fladhammer – *Christian* Education, Jennifer Anderson – *Youth & Family*, Dale Price - *Church Properties*, Nancie Haukos – Youth Director, Pastor Cheryl, and Liz Ketz acting secretary.
Meeting was called to order by Vice President Ellie Helgeson at 6:37 pm. Pastor Cheryl led us in a devotion.

Approval of October Minutes as presented – Darin, Dale **MSP**.
Approval of Treasurer's Report – Funds are going down but we will hold steady as there were two larger bills and the Zion money helps out – Michelle, Paula **MSP.**

Changes to church use - Council consensus to make the changes proposed (additions concerning kitchen appliance use). Further discussion on charging members of the congregation a fee for using the church building for weddings. The consensus was not to charge a fee for the use of the building, but a custodial fee and tech fees are two areas that may need to be something we consider adding to the wedding handbook for a fee consideration.

Fundraising Policy The church does not initiate fundraising for individuals. This only happens if someone requests a need to do this for individuals. Becky will work on a draft of a statement to look at next month.

Pastor's Report – Everyone received a copy of the Pastor's Report. It's also available on our website. Confirmation and First Communion were held. There will be a First Communion class coming in the spring again. Pastor will be taking the last Sunday in December off. A lay leader will need to be found. Discussion on Pastor's visitation schedule.

Youth Director's Report – Nancie reported there are 10 youth and Sara Haukos along with Nancie will be attending. There will be a mentor meeting on Nov. 22nd. National Youth gathering this summer has 22 youth and 4 chaperones attending. Fundraisers for the youth gathering include a bake sale on December 13th and the Wall of Money board will be going up too. Youth groups have been running around 25 youth. A group of 15 youth helped Big Stone Therapy move boxes from their old building as a fundraiser. Zarbock's also had the youth group do some work for them and gave a donation. Kid's club has been tabled until the fall of 2027. Work still needs to be completed updating the job description.

Board of Lay Ministry – Michelle Bauer reported – There was no WAM or Finance Work Group report, the board approved the Endowment report. Staff interviews are done with some follow-up to come. Ellie will touch base with Liz and Becky on budget items. Ellie and Becky will line up a leader for December 27th. Annual meeting dates suggested the 24th/31st.

Board of Evangelism – Paula Reisdorph reported – Marilyn Hanson and Ethel Swenson were suggested as possible auditors for the internal audit. Budget will remain the same for 2027. Suggested dates for annual meeting of the 17th/24th. Still need someone to chair Just for the Love of It dinner on February 3rd. Emphasis Temple Talk from Someplace Safe was well received. $722.00 was raised to give to them. Giving Tree will go up following church service on the 22nd. Arlene Vollmer will play for hymn sings on December 9th and 18th.

Christian Education – Beth Fladhammer reported – Annual meeting dates suggested 24th/31st due to no school the weekend of the 17th which affects SS and people being in town. Combining Youth and Family with Christian Ed was not opposed to this. Expectations just need to be made clear in the Youth worker's job description and where the time needs to be spent. Christmas program work is in process. Looking at a mini VBS possibly in Feb and April. Zion will host the February one. Jan 10th joint roller-skating following the joint church service and Feb 21st Unity Swim.

Youth & Family – Jennifer Anderson reported – This board is not in favor of combining the Education and Youth and Family boards. Looking at having someone reach out to members who do not come to the meetings- thought maybe President or Pastor. Clay House gifts were given to the confirmation youth. Reiterated the information that Nancie discussed. (See Nancie's report)

Stewardship – Darin Ehrenberg reported –The theme is "Let the Spirit Be Your Guide," Becky shared the design that was created. Temple talks on the 15th and 22nd. Pledge presentation will be Jan 3rd. Benevolence and Pink Envelopes will remain the same for 2027. Becky will contact a company on the digital sign to find out about resolution and cost of placing one on the back of the church so it is visible from main street.

Church Properties – Dale Price reported – Dean was given the go ahead to get bids for cleaning the carpet in the narthex following discussion with the entire council. The church received a rebate for the lighting that was put into sanctuary. Snow removal we have Stacy Gustafson that has expressed an interest. We are asking him to put in a written explanation (with Dean) exactly what will be required and the cost associated with that. We have some water issues and Gunner's is supposed to be coming this week to get that fixed. This is not supposed to cost us anything. Larry's is finished with their work. The ethernet cord is still being worked on. The bells are being worked on. The large bell's electronic components must be updated and changed.

- The consensus was to schedule the annual meeting on January 24th with the 31st as the backup date.

Next Council Meeting scheduled for: Monday, December 14th, at 6:00 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Poinsettias & Christmas Flowers



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.

DECEMBER YOUTH NEWS

November has flown by. Youth group met weekly. Sunday school started practicing for the Christmas program. We had 9 youth go to the Jr High Youth Gathering in Willmar. We had a great time! Thank you to Sarah Haukos for being a chaperone.

I had mentor meetings at both First English and Zion.



We had a great time at the Jr. High Youth Gathering. Faith, friends, food, and not much sleep, filled our 24 hours away. Casey's, Culvers, Seven Brew, McDonald's, new friends, lots of laughter, and memories were made.

Psalm 46:1-2
Refuge in the chaos

Coming up for December:

2 - Confirmation meets
Youth group will be decorating the Narthex
9 - Confirmation meets
Youth group will be caroling at Fairway View
13 - First English Christmas program and Bake Sale
16 - Confirmation meets
Youth group Christmas party
20 - Zion Christmas program
23 and 30 - No Confirmation or Youth group
20 and 27 - No Sunday school

I hope you have/had a Happy Thanksgiving,
Nancie

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.

December 2026

Designated Funds

Building (please specify) $_____
Operating Fund $_____
Other ELCA Missionaries $_____

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 December

Greed

We all face the temptation to spend more than we should on things we don't really need. Will we ever be satisfied with what we have?

To be greedy is to never have enough. The love of money and the things it can buy makes us greedy for more, no matter how much we have. Love of money will hinder our growth to maturity because it keeps us from loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. That's why greed is called idolatry in Colossians 3:5.

Things we can do to overcome greed:

Place your hope in God, rather than wealth
Use money to build a treasure in heaven (share with those in need)
Be content with what you have

It's always faith building to see the many ways God has of replenishing
Let us pass it on to others.



WINTER WEATHER

Please note: The Church Council has put in place the following procedure for Sunday winter weather cancellations:



- The decision to cancel will be made by 7:00 am on Sunday morning.
- Jon Anderson will consult with the head custodian (Dean) and organists. All of our organists have a longer drive and we do not want them in danger because of trying to get here.
- An announcement to cancel will be called into KDIO Radio and put on our Facebook page if possible. We will also call Fairway View.
- We ask that when in doubt you err on the side of caution when deciding to come in during inclement weather.

Church & Community News

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!

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. ***NOTE: Checks should be 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.

The Endowment Committee will be meeting on December 13th. Please get your requests into their mailbox before then.

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***).



Youth bake sale - Join us on Sunday, December 13th for a Youth Bake Sale held before and after worship, the same day as the Christmas Program. All goodies will be available for free-will donation, with every dollar supporting the FELC National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in June. Thank you for your continued generosity to the FELC Youth! If you would like to donate baked goods, please contact Nancie.

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.



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

KDIO BROADCASTS

. . . (November 1st) was sponsored in memory of Gale and Ann Haukos from Kathy Haukos and family.

. . . (November 8th) was sponsored in memory of "Billy Thymian" from David & Debbie Ellingson and family.

…(November 15th) was sponsored by Kathy Stolpman in memory of Donny Stolpman who passed away 2 yrs. ago on Nov 11th, and whose birthday would have been on Nov. 19th, and in whose memory 'Donnie's Diner' at FWV is named.

. . .(November 22nd) was supposed to be sponsored by Kevin and Becky Backstrand in honor of Adeline Burgess whose 104th birthday was Nov. 16th and in Thanksgiving for Family and Friends.
NOTE: *We had technical difficulties (our FB live didn't stream so this wasn't broadcast on KDIO). Nov. 22nd will be covered by the Endowment Fund, and this Backstrand sponsorship will be Dec. 27th.*

….(November 29th) was sponsored by Pastor Cheryl in loving memory of her daughter, Sally Rondeau who passed away on December 1, 2022.



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.

Longest Night Service of Hope and Comfort
Blue Christmas December 20 at First English Lutheran

The Longest Night service is a service for those who grief a loss or struggle with sorrow during the Christmas Holiday season. The congregations of First English and Zion Lutheran of Ortonville, MN invite you to this a special service, often called Blue Christmas, to be held on Sunday, December 20th, at 4:00 PM in the sanctuary of First English Lutheran Church at 9 3rd St. NW.

The service is a dedicated time for those who find the joyous atmosphere of the Christmas holiday celebrations difficult to claim their feelings of grief, sadness and loneliness and still feel surrounded by the compassionate love of God.

This service, sometimes called the Longest Night Service, is a dedicated time for those who find the atmosphere of holiday celebration difficult due to grief, loss, or struggle. This year, the *Hope of the Angels* service offers hope, guidance, and a reminder of the good news of salvation.

For many, this wonderful time of year can be challenging, overshadowed by feelings of anguish, loneliness, and sadness. You may be struggling with:



- An empty chair at the table on your first holiday season after loss of a loved one.
- The pain of divorce, broken relationships, or family conflict.
- The stress of health issues, unemployment, or loss of business.
- Difficult emotions after a life-altering operation, trauma or loss of independence

The *Hope of Angels* remind us of Gabriels appearance to Mary and Joseph and in the sky over Bethlehem. In ancient times, angels served as messengers of God, agents between the divine and human realms.

Held near the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year, this service acknowledges that for some, this is the darkest time of the year. The angels remind us of the presence of God's grace in the world and Jesus' invitation to "*Come unto me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.*" Matthew 11:28

The Longest Night service provides a safe, quiet place to come as you are to find hope in the darkness, joining with others in shared experiences of loss and struggle; hear God's comforting Word of hope and healing; honor your loss in a gentle and encouraging atmosphere; and embrace God's promise of light that shines even in the deepest darkness, reassuring us in a message of hope and love.

This non-denominational service offers comfort and support to all. Whether your loss is recent or happened in years past, all are welcome to come and receive a moment of peace and remembrance.

You do not need to be a member to attend this Longest Night/Blue Christmas service on Sunday, December 20th at 4:00 PM at First English Lutheran Church, 9 3rd St NW, Ortonville, MN. All are Welcome.



CIRCLE FOUR



Meets in the Church Lounge on Thurs., December 4th at 9:00 am with their private Christmas party following the meeting at 11 am.
Lesson: Carol Bell

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.'

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!

BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR, PLEASE NOTE:

Please pick up your Stewardship enevelope (**and giving envelopes for 2027 if you requested them**). If you would like 2027 giving envelopes, but did not request them, we have some extras, so you can let someone in the office know and we'll get you a box.

Please return your completed opportunity sheets and pledges from your envelope. There is a box in the Narthex that says "Leave commitment cards and opportunity sheets here" on it. If the office is open, you can leave them with Barbara instead. It's important that they be turned in before the end of the year. The first Sunday January 3, 2027, we dedicate the pledges, and the opportunity sheets will be compiled into a list for the council in January.

ANNUAL MEETING: Annual Meeting of the Congregation of FELC will be held Sunday, January 24th (backup date: January 31st) at 10:30 am in the sanctuary.

Annual report information is due in the office by Friday, Dec. 18th . (Electronic files preferred but a hard copy for back up just in case is also appreciated!)

Organizations with financial reports should be into the office by January 6th (or as soon after as possible) for our internal audit of FELC books. Thank you!

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

ALTAR GUILD TEAMS – December

Sacristy, Sanctuary, Surplices:	Barb Wiese & Sara Mattison
Banners:	Julie Hipple & Jocelyn Schowalter
Flower Committee:	Neva Foster & Ranet Schmeichel

SCHEDULING

KEYBOARD/ORGANIST
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): Carol Ydstie
Dec. 27: Kathy Haukos
Jan. 3: TBD
Jan 10: TBD
Jan 17: TBD
Jan 18* (3 pm FWV): TBD
Jan. 24: TBD
Jan 31: TBD



LECTOR
Dec. 6: Becky Parker
Dec. 13: Sunday School Program
Dec. 20: Amanda Stattelman
Dec. 24* (2:30 pm): Archer Dorry
Dec. 24* (6:30 pm): Cali Longnecker
Dec. 27: Jon Ydstie
Jan. 3: Chris Petersen
Jan 10: Kathy Randall
Jan 17: Ellie Helgeson
Jan. 24: Miley Block
Jan 31: Sara Mattison



ACOLYTES
Dec. 6: Amelia Z. & Oliver
Dec. 13: Amelia K. & Lola
Dec. 20: Kimberly & Hartley
Dec. 24* (2:30 pm): Archer Dorry
Dec. 24* (6:30 pm): Cali Longnecker
Dec. 27: Brielle & Jace
Jan. 3: Cameron & Chase
Jan 10: Madilyn & Cali
Jan 17: Bryson & Bryant
Jan. 24: Miley & Meadow
Jan 31: Brandon & Lexi

LAY ASSISTANTS
Dec. 6: Marilyn Chindvall & Liz Ketz
Dec. 20: Marla Strei & Brent Zahrbock
Dec. 24* (2:30 pm): Adam & Marla Strei and Kirsten Karels & Bryson
Dec. 24* (6:30 pm): 2 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Jan. 3: Darin & Kristi Ehrenberg
Jan 17: Marge Dragseth & Jim Foster

FWV Neighborhoods
Dec. 6: Darin & Kristi Ehrenberg
Dec. 13: Marge Dragseth
Jan. 3: TBD
Jan 10: TBD
Jan 31: TBD

GREETERS
Dec. 6: Dale Price & Bryant
Dec. 13: Neva Foster & Cali
Dec. 20: Jim Schmeichel & Oliver
Dec. 24* (2:30 pm): VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Dec. 24* (6:30 pm): VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Dec. 27: Amy & Hartley
Jan. 3: Mentor/Mentee TBD
Jan 10: Sara Wollschlager & Kim, Mack & Weston
Jan 17: Austin & Jace
Jan. 24: Mentor/Mentee TBD
Jan 31: Mentor/Mentee TBD

SCREENS & SOUND SYSTEM
Dec. 6: Matt & Bryson Karels
Dec. 13: Liz Ketz & Liam Johnson
Dec. 20: Cody Backstrand & James Hodenfield
Dec. 24* (2:30 pm): Cody Backstrand & Liz Ketz
Dec. 24* (6:30 pm): Drew Johnson & Liz Ketz
Dec. 27: Kim Anderson & Cameron Anderson
Jan. 3: Liz Ketz & Bryson Karels
Jan 10: Drew Johnson & Liam Johnson
Jan 17: Matt Karels & James Hodenfield
Jan. 24: Marge Dragseth & Cody Backstrand
Jan 31: Kim Anderson & Cameron Anderson

USHERS
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
Jan. 3: Ev Johnson, Kim & Jon Anderson, Ron Athey
Jan 10: Warren Wiese, Art Vollmer, Brent Zahrbock, & volunteer needed
Jan 17: Dean Longnecker, Josh Wollschlager, Marla & Dick Strei
Jan. 24: Paula Reisdorph, Jackie & Mel Domine, & **TBD**
Jan 31: Ev Johnson, Brent Zahrbock, Marilyn Chindvall, & Ron Athey

***** 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 one or both of our two Christmas Eve Services. THANKS!

December 2026 ✝ ✝ ✝

First English Lutheran Church

Pastor Cheryl's Hours: Mondays (FELC Pastor Office 10 am to 4 pm), Tuesdays (Zion Lutheran 10 am to 4 pm), Wednesdays (FELC Pastor Office 10 am to 3:30 (and then teaching confirmation classes), & Thursdays (FELC Pastor Office 10 am – 4 pm (unless up at FWV/or visiting members) or by appointment. Contact her anytime via text (605-237-1501) or email at CMQRondeau@outlook.com.

Pr. Cheryl is at Zion Tuesdays

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HANGING of the GREENS **Nov 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) 4:00-5:300 pm Cantata Practice (6 pm closing)	**Nov 30** 11:00 am Staff Meeting	**1** 8:30 am Day of Love 4-5 pm Bible Study at FWV / Donnie's Diner 4:30 pm Joint Christian Ed. Mtg (at Zion) 5:30 pm Zion-FELC Joint Meeting (at Zion)	**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 – 8:30 pm Cantata Practice (FELC)	**3** 9:00 am Circle 4 (Church Lounge) & afterwards, private Christmas Meal 7 – 8:30 pm Cantata Practice (at FELC ***or*** Abbey of Hills)	**4** 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	**5** 2:00 pm Christmas Cantata at Abbey of the Hills 5:00 pm Christmas Cantata at Abbey of the Hills
6 Before Service Coffee – Visit w/Pastor 9:00 am Worship Service – Communion – Broadcast on KDIO & Facebook Live 10 - 11 am Sunday School (Xmas practice) 10:30 am Fairway View Service (pre-recorded) 3:00 pm Christmas Cantata at Abbey of the Hills	**7** 11:00 am Staff Meeting	**8** 8:30 am Day of Love & afterward, private Christmas Meal 4-5 pm Bible Study at FWV / Donnie's Diner	**9** 9:30 am TV Broadcast 3:30 pm Confirmation (7-8) 4:00 pm Christmas Hymn Sing at FWV 4:30 pm Confirmation (9) 5:30 pm Youth Group (7-12) & TV Broadcast 7:00 pm Senior Choir	**10**	**11** 9:00 am Bulletins Printed	**12**
13 Youth Bake Sale Before & After Service Before Service Coffee – Visit w/Pastor 9:00 am Worship – Sunday School's Christmas Program – Broadcast on KDIO & FB Live 10:30 am Fairway View Service (pre-recorded)	**14** 11am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Council Board Meetings ~6:30 pm Council Voting Meeting	**15** **NO DAY OF LOVE** 4-5 pm Bible Study at FWV / Donnie's Diner	**16** 9:30 am TV Broadcast 3:30 pm Confirmation (7-8) 4:30 pm Confirmation (9) 5:30 pm Youth Group (7-12) & TV Broadcast 7:00 pm Senior Choir	**17**	**18** 9:00 am Bulletins Printed 4:00 pm Christmas Hymn Sing at FWV	**19**
20 Before Service Coffee Visit w/Pastor 9:00 am Worship – Communion – Broadcast on KDIO & Facebook Live NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 4:00 pm Blue Christmas Worship Service For those who mourn	**21** 11:00 am Staff Meeting 3:00 pm Fairway View Worship Live w/Pastor Cheryl & communion	**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** **22** **NO DAY OF LOVE** 4-5 pm Bible Study at FWV / Donnie's Diner	**No Confirmation / Youth / Choir** **23** 9:00 am Sunday Bulletins Printed Early 9:30 am TV Broadcast 5:30 pm TV Broadcast	**Christmas Eve** **24** 2:00 pm Prelude Music 2:30 Candlelight Christmas Service (also on KDIO/FB Live) 4:30 pm Zion's Candlelight Christmas Service 6:30 pm FELC Evening Candlelight Christmas Service	**Christmas Day** **25** Merry Christmas **Office Closed**	**26** **Dedication Pledges & Opportunity Sheets** should be turned in before the end of the year.
27 Before Service Coffee Fellowship 9:00 am Lay-led Worship w/Favorite Hymns – Noisy Offering – Broadcast on KDIO & FB Live	**28** 11:00 am Staff Meeting	**29** **NO DAY OF LOVE** 4-5 pm Bible Study at FWV / Donnie's Diner	**30** 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	**New Year's Eve.** **31** 9:00 am Bulletins Printed Early	**New Year's Day** **Jan 1** Happy New Year 2027 **Office Closed**	**Jan. 2**

Pastor Cheryl will take vacation until December 31st.