

*First English Lutheran Church is  
a congregation of the*



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

*“Sharing the Light of Christ”*

**STAFF AND CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Pastor Erik Olson**

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Minister of Music: Dan Larson

Pianist: Hal Osborn

Handbell Choir Director/Thursday Worship

Pianist: Chris Berenz

Senior Choir Director: Alan Sexter

Custodian: Dawn M. Kramer

Sunday School Superintendent: VerJean Detert

Missionary in South Africa: Rev. Alex LaChapelle

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**Church Council:**

**Officers:**

**President:** Reese Aarthun

**Vice-President/President-Elect:** to be filled

**Past President:** Lette Becker

**Treasurer:** Marla Zumann

**Recording Secretary:** Joan Heahlke

**Council Members:**

Paula Aschbrenner

Susan Oberbeck

Karen Briggs

Cindy Petzke

Alison Jordan

Pat Seivert

Michael Klapperich

Earl Zabel

Joe Kramer

*Your comments, questions and concerns are  
important to us. Feel free to talk to any member of  
our staff or Church Council.*

*“How long, O Lord? Will you forget us forever?  
How long will you hide your face? How long must  
we bear pain in our souls and have sorrow in our  
hearts all day long? ... Consider and answer, O Lord!  
Give light to our eyes!” - Psalm 13*

How long, O Lord?!?! As I write this, Covid cases in Marathon County are slowly declining. ... But I've seen this decline before. And so, I am trying not to get my hopes up too high. I've been praying, you've been praying, we have all been praying that this pandemic would end – and soon. Yet, Coronavirus is still hanging on. I still wear my mask. I have received both of my vaccine shots. I tell people in the daily devos to keep up all the safe health practices, including getting the vaccines. Yet, Coronavirus is still hanging on. How long, O Lord?!?

I read an article saying that “Languishing” is the latest Covid buzzword as people feel stuck in the lingering days of the pandemic. I know languish! We can almost see the end, the light is slooowly getting brighter, but then there are setbacks as cases increase. It seems like a vicious cycle. Where is our hope???

You probably know how I am going to answer that question, right? Our hope is in Jesus. We have a Good Shepherd who walks with us through dark, shadowy, pandemic-y valleys. We have a God who fills our hearts and lives with the gift of faith and the presence of the Holy Spirit. It is sometimes easy to forget this, especially when we are bombarded with all the negative news. We can still shout and cry, “How long, O Lord?” But we also remember the promises of Jesus, “Lo, I am with you always. ... Come to me, you who are weary, and I will give you rest. ... I am the Good Shepherd, I know you and you know me, Abide in my love.”

Christ is Risen! **Christ is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!**

Peace and Prayers!

Pr. Erik

## May Worship...

Please carefully and prayerfully read the article included in this Lantern from our First English Bounce Back Team regarding where we are at this point in time.

The article is printed on the back of the Lantern cover page.

To those who are able and wish to do so, please continue to tune in to our worship services on Sunday morning on our Facebook page on our website ([www.firstenglishwausau.org](http://www.firstenglishwausau.org)) or on the YouTube Channel. If you tune in online, check your email on Friday or Saturday for the 'Order of Worship' so you can follow along with the readings, prayers, etc. If you don't have access to the internet, let Deb or Pastor Erik know and we'll mail you a copy of the service to read at home. We offer online communion on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month. Join us for worship!



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## 2021 ECSW Synod Assembly...

will be held May 14-15. It will be a virtual assembly under the theme, "God in the Empty Spaces."

Along with Pastor Erik, Lette Becker and Reese Arthun will 'attend' as our delegates.

## Sunday, May 16th, 2021 10:30 AM

Synod-wide Worship Service with the installation of Pastor Asher O'Callaghan. We will be streaming a live worship service that everyone in the East-Central Synod of Wisconsin is encouraged to participate in! Pastor Asher will be the new Assistant to the Bishop.

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## Gifts have been given by...

Building Fund: Karen Briggs in memory of Kip Voigt; Oren & Cindy Hermel in memory of Kip Voigt

Food Pantry: Lette Becker in memory of Kip Voigt

## Parish Records...April

- **Funeral:** "...in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to almighty God..."

April 9: Jim Marth

April 30: Kip Voigt

- **Wedding:** "...and the two shall become one."

April 10: Sherry Leitz and Bruce Watson

- **Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation):**  
"I do, and I ask God to help and guide me."

April 18: Spencer Michael Lee Radke

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## First English Fair Stand News...

We are currently waiting to hear from the Marathon County Fair Board with news and information on whether or not there will be a Wisconsin Valley Fair this year and if so, what things will look like. That being said, our FELC Fair Stand Committee would like to get an idea of how many members would be interested in volunteering to work at our Stand.

**There will be a meeting for the Fair Stand**

**Committee members on Sunday, May 2, 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room.** The meeting will be about the changes we are thinking about making to the Fair Stand and having an idea of how many workers we'll have will determine what the Stand will look like.

If there is a Fair this year and if you'd be interested in volunteering your time by working at our Fair Stand, please let us know. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Library area outside the church office or you can call Neil Juedes (715-573-2681) or Scott Kufahl (715-370-3036). Thank you!



## Stewards of our elders' wisdom...

*"Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you." (Exodus 20:12)*

This month and next, as our culture celebrates Mother's Day and Father's Day, God's people can make the occasions much more substantive than just greeting cards, gifts, and dinners for a few select relatives.

Instead, we can lift up the knowledge, wisdom and perspective that we possess from not only the mother and father figures in our own circles, but all the older men and women who have enriched our communities with their lives and experiences.

The wisdom of the past has helped people of every age to navigate the challenges of their times. Many communities in the world honor, respect, and value as "elders" their oldest members. It is something we surely can use in 21<sup>st</sup> century North America. Ours is a time of unprecedented change – both in the sweep of change and in the speed at which things are changing.

Our older members can give us perspective and patience and wisdom. Here are some ideas:

- Engage elders about issues facing you, your congregation and community. Listen deeply. Take notes.
- Enter into their thought world: How do they frame issues? What are their underlying assumptions? What sources help inform and inspire them?
- Compare their approaches to seeing the world and navigating challenges with your own. What is helpful? What can assist you?

Learning from our elder mother and father figures may be the best way to not only honor them, but also help us find our own way in life.

*--Rob Blezard*

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## Community Suppers...

**First English is scheduled to serve four more times in 2021: April 18, June 20, October 17 and December 19.**

It would be wonderful if someone would volunteer to host the June, October and December suppers since members of Shalom Circle have done several recently. It's take-out only, easy to serve. Money is available. There will be no problem getting advice or helpers. Call Lynne at 715-551-9321 for information.

*At our April 18<sup>th</sup> supper, Matt & Lori Heyne and their crew served 77 hungry guests a take-out meal of beef stew, buttered rolls, and pudding.*

*Thank you for this important community outreach!*

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## Learning in the Time of Covid...

**Here are some interesting online resources recommended by your friendly Church in Society Committee:**

- Go to [pbswisconsin.org](http://pbswisconsin.org) and search Hmong History Month. You will find a series of short videos and 2 longer pieces covering history, personal stories, food and needlework.

- Also on [pbswisconsin.org](http://pbswisconsin.org), search *Why Race Matters* with Angela Fitzgerald. She has an ongoing series on issues facing African Americans in Wisconsin. A new 15-minute program is added every Wednesday.

-Concerned about refugee children at our southern border? Lutheran Immigration ([lirs.org](http://lirs.org)) has information about the needs and how you can help.

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## A Prayer for Mom

A young boy had been misbehaving, so his mother sent him to his room. Sometime later, he came out and told his mom he'd prayed about the matter. "That's good," she replied. "If you ask God for help to not misbehave, God will help you." "Oh, I didn't pray for help behaving," said the boy. "I prayed for God to help you put up with me."

## Crossways Camps News...

This Spring, Crossways has been blessed by groups of people tackling camp projects and sharing their generosity with donations!

These gifts are an important part of the ministry of camp and enriches the experience of all who visit.

If you are interested in being a part of the camp experience, check out our wish list on our website: [www.crosswayscamps.org](http://www.crosswayscamps.org) or contact the Camp Directors to set up a project for your family or group! Crossways would love to have you!



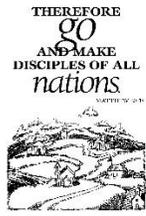
The camp kitchen is an energetic, enjoyable place to spend your summer making a difference! June through August, the Pine Lake Camp Kitchen Manager will show God's love by feeding the sheep, in this case Crossways camper sheep! On-site housing is available in Waupaca, if needed, but the work hours end in the early afternoon (typically 2pm Monday - Friday) with weekends off.

Put your skills to great service in the Pine Lake Camp Kitchen!

Email [Ben@crosswayscamps.org](mailto:Ben@crosswayscamps.org) for more information.

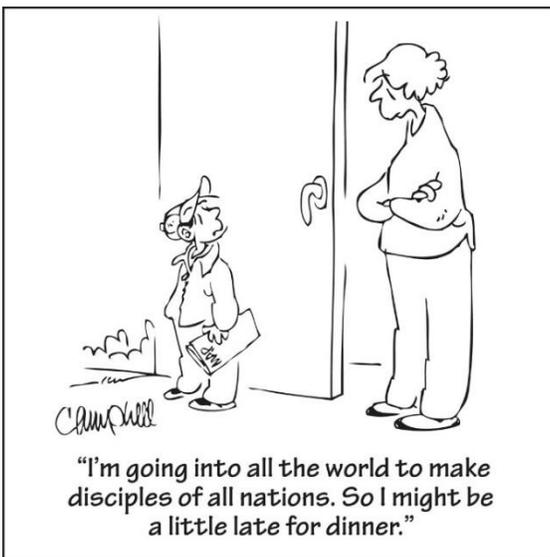
## The Ascension Challenge...

Ever wonder what it might have been like to be a disciple when Jesus ascended into heaven? He gave them the monumental task of making disciples of all the world. Plus, they'd have to do it without relying on Jesus' physical presence, as they had until then. Were the disciples overwhelmed, uncertain, afraid? Maybe, yet they went on to spread the gospel throughout the world nonetheless. They rose to the challenge because they fixed their gaze above as they watched Jesus disappear into the clouds. When we follow that example, offering ourselves as willing servants and keeping our eyes trained on Jesus instead of our circumstances, there's no limit to what God can accomplish through us.



## Financial Report...

| Month Ending March 2021  |                     |                     |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
|  | Actual              | 2021 Budget         |
| <b>Income</b>  |                     |                     |
| From Pledges   | \$ 74,429.95        | \$ 60,500.00        |
| Other Income   | \$ 4,097.20         | \$ 4,163.75         |
| <b>Total Income</b>  | <b>\$ 78,527.15</b> | <b>\$ 64,663.75</b> |
| <b>Expenses</b>  | <b>\$ 59,722.74</b> | <b>\$ 64,904.00</b> |
| <b>Balance</b>   | <b>\$ 18,804.41</b> | <b>\$ (240.25)</b>  |
| <b>Loan Balance:</b>   | <b>\$ 92,845.30</b> |                     |
| <b>Building Improvement Fund</b>   |                     |                     |
| Building Savings Acct Balance  | \$ 8,637.21         |                     |
| Building Fund Acct #2618   | \$ 925.00           |                     |
| <b>Total of Both Accounts</b>  | <b>\$ 9,562.21</b>  |                     |
| <b>Building Fund Acct #2618</b>  |                     |                     |
| All Building Fund donations are entered in this account before they are transferred to the Building Savings Account. |                     |                     |
| Transfers to the Building Savings will be completed in April.  |                     |                     |



*"I know not the way God leads me, but well do I know my Guide." -- Martin Luther*

## Let us remember...

those in our congregation who are confined to their homes or are in nursing home or assisted living facilities due to illness or are just unable to attend worship or fellowship activities. Especially now during the COVID-19 pandemic, when they can't have visitors, they would love and appreciate to hear from their church family with a card, note or phone call during this Easter season.

- ✓ **Benedictine Living Community**  
1821 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. Wausau 54401  
- Carol Viegut
- ✓ **Cady Home**  
(1805 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., Wausau, WI 54401)  
- Michelle Detert
- ✓ **Mount View Care Center**  
(2400 Marshall St., Wausau, WI 54403)  
- Ron Wolfe
- ✓ **Mountain Terrace Senior Living**  
(3402 Terrace Ct. #116, Wausau, WI 54401)  
- Lydia Rachu
- ✓ **Our House Senior Living**  
(210 W. Campus Dr., Wausau 54401)  
- Marion Madden
- ✓ **Primrose Retirement Center**  
(2100 Townline Rd., Wausau, WI 54403)  
- Mary Stone
- ✓ **Sylvan Crossings on Evergreen**  
(1605 Evergreen Rd., Wausau, WI 54403)  
- Dolores Hintz (Room #13)

- Delbert Barttelt 1109 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Ave.,  
Wausau 54401  
- Ila Barttelt 4602 Barbican Ave. #206  
Weston 54476  
- Wayne Detert 805 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. Wausau 54401

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## "A Mother's Love" by Helen Steiner Rice

A mother's love is something  
that no one can explain,  
it is made of deep devotion  
and of sacrifice and pain.  
It is endless and unselfish  
and enduring come what may,  
for nothing can destroy it  
or take that love away.  
It is patient and forgiving  
when all others are forsaking,  
and it never fails or falters  
even though the heart is breaking.  
It believes beyond believing  
when the world around condemns,  
and it glows with all the beauty  
of the rarest, brightest gems.  
It is far beyond defining,  
it defies all explanation,  
and it still remains a secret,  
like the mysteries of creation.  
A many splendored miracle  
we all cannot understand,  
and another wondrous evidence  
of God's tender guiding hand.

*We wish all mothers, grand-mothers, great-grandmothers, and those special women in our lives a very Happy Mother's Day!*

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## Summer Church Office Hours...

Beginning, Tuesday, June 1  
Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
(Closed for lunch Noon - 1 p.m.)  
**The church office will be closed on  
Memorial Day, May 31.**



## A Prayer for Memorial Day

We remember, O Lord, all those people throughout the years who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country, for liberty, for us. Whenever we breathe the air of freedom or claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship, fill us with gratitude for those who selflessly gave the last full measure of devotion — their very lives — for our benefit.

May these brave men and women now know the joy of eternity and your presence. And may the families of the fallen receive comfort and peace amid their grief. Help us as we minister to their needs. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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## Remember our members in the Military...

*Erik Larson (Navy Reserves)  
Patrick Witz (US Marines)*

Let us remember to keep all the men and women serving our country in our thoughts and prayers.

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## FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

April 19, 2021 (Virtual Meeting)

Members Present: Reese Aarthun, Lette Becker, Joan Heahlke, Karen Briggs, Cindy Petzke, Mike Klapperich, Pastor Erik Olson, Marla Zumann, Susan Oberbeck

Members Absent: Pat Seivert, Paula Aschbrenner, Joe Kramer, Earl Zabel, Alison Jordan

Cindy Petzke led the opening devotions.

**Opening Comments:** Reese Aarthun welcomed Susan Oberbeck who has agreed to complete Sherri Bagby's term on council.

**Introductions:** Reese Aarthun asked council members to express what needs/wants they felt the council should address this year. Feedback included looking at possibly downsizing the number of council members needed, committee membership

recruitment, outreach to our church's neighborhood and school, using the bells and/or more special music at church services, Sunday School direction/plan for fall, air conditioning, a celebration as a precursor to opening up again, and an outreach census--find a way to bring in more people.

### Reports:

Joan Heahlke reported that the minutes of the March 15 virtual meeting were approved via email. The March 15 minutes stand approved.

Reese Aarthun reported that due to the rise in COVID numbers reported by the Marathon County Health Department, via email on April 9, the First English Bound Back Committee moved to temporarily suspend church activities including church services, quilting, and book club. Council member Paula Aschbrenner seconded the motion. An email vote was taken: Nine ayes; one no; one abstain. Motion carried.

**Financial Reports:** Marla Zumann advised that the January, February, and March financial reports have been approved by the Audit Committee.

Marla Zumann moved to accept the Endowment Committee's 1st Quarter recommendation for distribution of funds. Motion seconded by Mike Klapperich. Pastor Erik added that the 30 percent distribution for education option is for confirmation camp which was normally funded by the fair stand in the past. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Reese Aarthun called the Council's attention to the Financial Secretary's Report. Giving has been steady.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Erik submitted a written report via email. He presided over the funeral of James Marth, the wedding of Bruce Watson and Sherry Leitza, and the affirmation of baptism for Spencer Michael Lee Radke. Pastor Erik also provided a COVID-19 update from the Marathon County Health Department who posts updated numbers on Facebook. Since a low number of active cases on March 29, numbers have risen. In-person worship for Palm Sunday and Easter went pretty smoothly overall. Bells were included in the Easter worship. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday were online services only. Online daily devotions continue. It is Administrative Professionals Day this Wednesday and Deb Kluetz's dedication and work

this past year should be recognized. Confirmation class is winding down; Synod Assembly is scheduled for May 14 and 15.

### **Unfinished Business**

Constitution Update: Pastor Erik has received some information from the Synod and will provide an update at the next meeting.

### **New Business**

Finding a Vice President: Discussion was held and Reese Aarthun volunteered to approach some past presidents who have knowledge of what the job entails and would be amenable to sit on a two or three member committee to recruit potential candidate(s) to fill the open Vice President position. The Vice President also sits on the Endowment Committee.

Discussion of concerns about closing church to give direction to the First English Bounce Back committee: Reese Aarthun asked for input/direction from the Council to pass on to the Bounce Back Committee. Lette Becker provided and went over written information she compiled. Mike asked for a clarification on what the Bounce Back Committee is recommending as a standard of reopening and if there is any merit in changing that standard. Reese explained we are currently using the Wisconsin Council of Churches recommendation--Close, Safer,

Safest (Red, Yellow, Green), and there is a percentage that they use to determine that. Karen Briggs offered that the positivity rate should be under 10, and we were at 4.9 when we decided to reopen. As of Friday we are now four times higher--21.7 cases per 100,000 in Marathon County. We were at a positivity rate of 2.6 and up as high as 8.8. Michael Klapperich suggested a need to come up with a better, detailed but easy-to-understand way to keep our congregation informed--including a quick visual graphic. Getting information out to the congregation by posting it and including it in the weekly bulletin announcements. The Council came up with a recommendation that the Bounce Back Committee explore what the ELCA does and discuss whether we want to continue to use their recommendations, and discuss whether we take into consideration in any way the fact that vaccination numbers are going up, and then come up with a clearer, more informative way to explain to our members why decisions are being made the way they are.

### **Committee Reports by Council Liaison**

Parish Ed: Reese Aarthun offered they are looking at curriculum for fall Sunday School and the need for committee members and teachers.

Stewardship: Karen Briggs offered current members include herself, Connie Vaningan, and Pastor Erik. They are continuing to use a theme of year-round stewardship and thanking people who serve.

Worship & Music: Reese Aarthun offered the current members include Kathy Ellis, Pat Seivert, and Allen Sexter. They report they want to look at ways to increase their committee membership, increase choir members, continue on a regular basis the hymn of the month, use different liturgies, and increase membership of the church by attracting people through music.

Church in Society/Evangelism: Cindy Petzke provided a written report. It's a busy committee. Talked about the Food Pantry, the Treasure Sale, jail/prison concerns, the April 24 highway cleanup, discussion between equality and equity, Marathon County Board's "No Hate/Community for All" resolution, outreach to Grant School for any needs our church could meet for them, and We Care weekend. Next meeting is scheduled for April 22.

Property (Earl Zabel and Joe Kramer): No report.  
Youth (Alison Jordan): No report.

Wage & Policy: Marla Zumann advised the committee usually does not meet on a regular basis. They meet when working on a new budget or if there is a personnel issue.

Fair Stand: Reese Aarthun advised she was informed that the committee will be meeting to come up with a plan for how the fair stand will look in the future.

Closing Prayer: Cindy Petzke

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: May 17, 2021  
Devotions for May: Earl Zabel

Joan Heahlke, Recording Secretary

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# PUZZLE



## A lasting promise

Before ascending into heaven, Jesus speaks a final promise to the disciples.

**Directions:** Use the picture clues to find the letters. Then write that word below to complete Acts 1:8, NIV.

Find a letter that's in  but not in . \_\_\_\_\_

Find a letter that's in  but not in . \_\_\_\_\_

Find a letter that's in  but not in . \_\_\_\_\_

Find a letter that's in  but not in . \_\_\_\_\_

Find a letter that's in  but not in . \_\_\_\_\_

"But you will receive \_\_\_\_\_ when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

ACTS 1:8, NIV

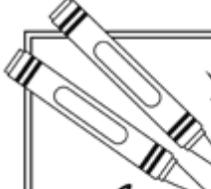
Answer power

## Ruth — a Pentecost story?

The disciples were celebrating Pentecost, originally a Jewish festival, when the Holy Spirit descended on them and birthed the church. Pentecost, which began as a harvest festival, had come to commemorate the giving of the law. The book of Ruth became integral to festival worship.

Why Ruth? This short story doesn't mention the law, let alone God giving it to Moses. Yet in Ruth's devotion to her mother-in-law ("Where you go I will go .... Your people will be my people ... " [Ruth 1:16, NIV]), she fulfills not just the letter but the spirit of the law: lovingkindness — all the more remarkable because she's a foreigner. Boaz, too, demonstrates exorbitant kindness to Ruth.

As Christians celebrate the Spirit bridging differences in Jerusalem, uniting all nationalities by making the gospel message intelligible to all people, we too can remember Ruth's story. For in it, God unites two enemy peoples for his grand purpose: Boaz and Ruth's marriage leads to King David and, ultimately, to King Jesus. Today, the Holy Spirit continues to unite all categories of people under Christ's reign for the good of the world.



# PUZZLE

## A mother's love

At age 12, Jesus was left behind in Jerusalem. His parents later found him in the temple, discussing Scripture. What did Mary, Jesus' mother, think about this?

**Directions:** Fill in the blanks with the correct vowels to complete the Bible verse.

A E I O U Y



B \_ t M \_ r \_ \_ tr \_ \_ s \_ r \_ d  
 \_ p \_ ll th \_ s \_ th \_ ngs  
 \_ nd p \_ nd \_ r \_ d th \_ m  
 \_ n h \_ r h \_ \_ rt.  
 L \_ k \_ 2:19, NIV

Answer: But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. Luke 2:19, NIV