

*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

Email: reverik23@yahoo.com

Parish Administrator: Debra Kluetz

Email: felc_deb@yahoo.com

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

Church Council:

Officers:

President: Nina Dittmar

President-Elect: Sharon Hunter

Past President: Reese Aarthun

Treasurer: Marla Zumann

Recording Secretary: Erin Radke

Council Members:

Mike Alters

Paula Aschbrenner

Bonnie Grau

Sandi Hiller

John Motl

Susan Oberbeck

Cindy Petzke

Earl Zabel

Kathi Zoern

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

Over the years, I've found that these newsletter articles are much like sermons. Sometimes the words just seem to flow out of my mind, into my fingers, and onto the computer screen. ... Other times those words just seem to get stuck.

As I write this 'Pastoral Thoughts' article, this is one of those 'stuck' times. I can't really think of much to say. So, I will highlight some of the things coming up this month at First English.

On May 8, the Youth of our church will take over the worship service. The last time we had a Youth Service was 3 years ago – waaay back in 2019. Please make a special effort to worship on May 8 and support our kids!

On May 13 & 14, our East Central Synod will meet in Assembly in Oshkosh. Something else we haven't done in-person since 2019. Deb Kluetz, Reese Aarthun, and I will be in attendance. Please keep the Synod in your prayers on these days.

On May 22, 5 of our young people will affirm their baptisms. This is a very important day in their lives of faith and in the life of First English. We have all supported these kids as they grew up here and learned more about God's amazing love, grace, and forgiveness. Please keep Abigail Schumacher, Addison Fochs, David Kramer, Ella Radke, and Gracin Dittmar in your prayers as they prepare for this day.

Finally, starting on May 29 after worship, I will be taking a week of vacation. I'll probably do some projects around the house. Then Jess and I get to go be Grandpa and Grandma the first weekend in June. (Can't wait!!!)

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

Peace and Prayers!

Pr. Erik

May Worship...

May 1: 3rd Sunday of Easter
Worship at 9:00 a.m.

May 8: 4th Sunday of Easter
Worship at 9:00 a.m. (Youth Sunday)

May 15: 5th Sunday of Easter
Worship at 9:00 a.m.

May 22: 6th Sunday of Easter
Worship at 9:00 a.m.

May 29: 7th Sunday of Easter
Worship

Thursday Evening Worship

May 5, 12, 19 & 26
6:00 p.m.

2022 ECSW Synod Assembly...

will be held May 13-14 at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel & Convention Center under the theme, *"To Live Among God's Faithful People"*

Along with Pastor Erik, Reese Aarthun and Deb Kluetz will attend as our voting delegates,

Committee Night...

The next Committee Night is **Tuesday, May 10, 6:30 p.m.**

We gather as a large group in the sanctuary after which we go to our separate committees.

We are returning to this format of committee meeting to stay better informed with each other and gives us a "more working together" feeling. New members on any committee are always welcome!

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has Given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

1 Peter 1:3

Treasure Sale Update...

Mark your calendars for our 2022 Sale!

August 25, 26, and 27

Our Treasure Sale is only about 4 months away. Many wonderful items have come in already, but more are needed.

-- Clothing of all sorts are always good selling items...men's, women's, children's, and infant...from underwear to outerwear.
-- Purses, shoes and boots also sell well.
-- Books of all sorts, magazines, craft items, holiday things, houseware and decorative items, jewelry (even broken) and linens. Almost anything...and in clean and good condition!

Please bring your items to the "treasure room" near the library or large items such as furniture directly to the basement.

We now have enough quart bags, thank you! Treasure Sale shoppers always say ours is the best church sale ever. Let's make this on a real sale-a-pa-looza!

Any questions call Karen Zumann at 715-675-7402 or LeRoy Stark at 715-848-0266.

Thanks to all and keep your treasures coming! It's such a good fundraiser!



The Lawn Mowing Schedule...

is on the narthex table for those who would like to mow our church lawn this spring and summer. If you are interested and willing, stop and take a look at the sign-up sheet in the narthex and indicate which date works into your schedule. In observance of **No Mow May**, the schedule begins the week of June 5.

No Mow May is a conservation initiative first popularized by Plantlife, an organization based in the United Kingdom, but which is gaining traction across North America. The goal of No Mow May is **to allow grass to grow unmown for the month of May, creating habitat and forage for early season pollinators.**

We encourage you to observe this at home as well.

Worship Servants...

**Acolytes – Greeters – Lectors –
Ushers – Communion Servers –
Communion Set – Worship Assistants -
Communionware Washers**

To all worship servants: if you are unable to serve on the Sunday you are scheduled, please try to switch with someone or find a sub – then give Deb a call in the office to let her know of the change. Thanks!

ACOLYTES:

May 1: Liz Baumgardt
May 8: Emma Race
May 15: Ella Radke
May 22: Nicholas Schumacher
May 29: Gracin Dittmar

June 5: Eli Akey
June 12: Georgia Dittmar
June 19: Kendall Sherfinski
June 26: Nicholas Schumacher

GREETERS:

May 1: Sharon Carlsson / Jenny Blaschka
May 8: VerJean Detert / Linda Kittel
May 15: Todd & Paula Aschbrenner
May 22: LeRoy & Eunice Stark
May 29: Lynne Santangelo / Roger Thorpe

June 5: Mike & Connie Vaningan
June 12: Jenny Blaschka / Lowanne Brokaw
June 19: Cody & Mandy Herning
June 26: Bill Schrubba / Sharon Carlsson

LECTORS:

May 1: Karen Briggs
May 8: Bonnie Grau
May 15: Sharon Hunter
May 22: Sue Juedes
May 29: Dawn Kramer

June 5: Sherry Larson
June 12: Bobbie Levine
June 19: Russ Michalski
June 26: Karen Otto

USHERS:

Like in the past if you cannot usher, please call one of the subs or switch Sundays with another team or person.

May 1: Todd & Paula Aschbrenner
May 8: LeRoy Stark / Steve Wendorf
May 15: Neil & Sue Juedes
May 22: Gene & Lynn Schulz
May 29: Matt & Lori Heyne

June 5: Mike & Connie Vaningan
June 12: Scott & Deb Kufahl
June 19: Amy Abitz Akey / Deb Kluetz
June 26: Sharon Hunter / Jenny Blaschka

Subs: Amy Abitz Akey, Matt & Lori Heyne, Sharon Hunter, Neil & Sue Juedes, Deb Kluetz, Clarissa Krueger, Scott & Deb Kufahl, John Motl, Earl Zabel

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

May 1: Pat Seivert
May 8: Reese Aarthun
May 15: Connie Vaningan
May 22: Lynne Santangelo
May 29: --

June 5: Pat Seivert
June 12: Reese Aarthun
June 19: Connie Vaningan
June 26: Lynne Santangelo

COMMUNION SERVERS:

May 1: Bill & Tryphine Schrubba
May 8: Gene & Lynn Schulz
May 15: Pat Seivert / Lynne Santangelo
May 22: Connie Vaningan / Sharon Hunter
May 29: Joan Heahlke / Scott & Deb Kufahl

June 5: Lette Becker / Jenny Blaschka
June 12: Cody & Mandy Herning
June 19: Bill & Tryphine Schrubba
June 26: Pat Seivert / Sharon Hunter

COMMUNION SET-UP:

May 1: Dawn Kramer
May 8: Joan Buckmaster
May 15: Deb Kluetz
May 22: Dawn Kramer
May 29: Joan Buckmaster

June 5: Deb Kluetz
June 12: Dawn Kramer
June 19: Joan Buckmaster
June 26: Deb Kluetz

COMMUNIONWARE WASHERS:

May 1: Deb Kluetz
May 8: Lonnie & LeAnn Lewis
May 15: Sue & Neil Juedes
May 22: Bob & Pat Seivert
May 29: Larry & Jan Wiederhoeft

June 5: Lowanne Brokaw
June 12: Joan Buckmaster
June 19: Deb Kufahl
June 26: Dawn Kramer

Summer Church Office Hours...

Beginning Tuesday, May 31

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

(Closed for lunch: Noon – 1:00 p.m.)

Deadlines:

Bulletin: Wednesday afternoon

Lantern: 20th of the month

**The church office will be closed on
Memorial Day, May 30.**



*"God of life and love, thank you for the mothers
who gave us life and for all women with
mothering hearts."*

A mother is a person who, seeing there are only
four pieces of pie for five people, promptly
announces she never did care for pie.

—Tenneva Jordan

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, when we are still hesitant of
being together in person...they would love and
appreciate to hear from their church family with
a card, note or phone call.

- ✓ **Athenian Living LLC**
716 Caroline St. Athens, WI 54411
- Mary Stone #310
- ✓ **Cady Home**
1805 N. 6th Ave., Wausau 54401
- Michelle Detert
- ✓ **Mount View Care Center**
2400 Marshall St., Wausau 54403
- Ron Wolfe
- ✓ **Mountain Terrace Senior Living**
3402 Terrace Ct. #116, Wausau 54401
- Lydia Rachu
- ✓ **Our House Senior Living**
210 W. Campus Dr., Wausau 54401
- Marion Madden
- ✓ **Sylvan Crossings on Evergreen**
1605 Evergreen Rd., Wausau 54403
- Dolores Hintz (Room #13)
- Delbert Barttelt 1109 N. 1st Ave.,
Wausau 54401
- Ila Barttelt 4602 Barbican Ave. #206
Weston 54476
- Carol Henke 540 E. Thomas St. #23
Wausau 54403
- Beverly Myrick 1016 Grand Ave. #107
Wausau 54403
- Delphine Saeger 151700 Fern Ln.
Wausau 54401

Lutheran World Relief Health Care Kits Update...

"Many thanks to all who have donated towels, soap, and money towards the Health Kits so far. I have a great start to the project. I will continue to be collecting these items through June, as I like to be finished by July. I appreciate your support! Lori Heyne"

Dark Colored Bath Towels and Bars of Soap (4 oz. size). There is a basket available in the narthex for your donations.

Parish Records: April

Baptism: *"...child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever."*

April 24: Zachary Austen Rosicky
son of Andrew & Sarah

New Members: On April 10, we welcomed these new members into our family of faith at First English:

- **Bryan & Jacque Bailey**
1435 Sumner St., Wausau 54403
 - **Rob & Jamie Meyer**
153321 Bay Park Ct. Wausau 54401
 - **Andrew & Sarah Rosicky and Zachary**
150089 Thunderbird Ln. Wausau 54401
-

To ACH Offering Givers...

The new 'special' envelope packets are here. These are for the 2nd Quarter of 2022 (April, May and June). In the packet are:

- Lutheran Disaster Response (*April, May & June*)
- Food Pantry (*April, May & June*)
- Building Improvements Fund (*April, May, & June*)
- Lent/Maundy Thursday/Good Friday/Easter
- Missions -- Anniversary

Packets are available in the church office and in the narthex.

Teachers and Helpers Needed...

We are looking for members who may be interested in assisting during the Education Hour. First English has adopted a multi-level education series which is easy to follow and has several activities that target various ages.



First English has been blessed with many volunteers, but we want to increase the number of teachers and helpers to reduce the burden on one person or group. We have a great group, so please reach out to our Sunday School Superintendent, VerJean Detert at church or at 715-845-8655. Thank you!

Open Door Update...

Thank you to all who so generously donated winter items for the Open Door clients. Watch for closeouts on winter items such as long johns, and warm gloves for next year.

Summer needs are coming up: men's jeans, summer shorts, caps and jackets. Sizes needed most are 30 and 32 inch waists.

Rain gear, boxer shorts, wallets & coin purses and blankets are always needed.

"What you have done onto the least of these, you have done onto me."

Any questions call Karen Zumann at 715-675-7402.

Natalie Streveler and
Karen Zumann
Open Door Closet Coordinators

Our thanks...

to these members and friends who have designated First English as the recipient of their Thrivent Choice dollars for April...

- Jim Kraft
 - Bill Schrub
-



I know that my Redeemer lives!

This Easter, many of us will be able to gather in person for glorious celebration of our Lord's resurrection. But the first Easter was in a cemetery, surrounded by tombstones. The women and then the men disciples came to see what had happened to their Lord. They expected to find a dead body, but instead they found God's defiant answer to death.

St. Paul writes in Corinthians, "*Death has been swallowed up in victory. Oh, death, where is your victory? Oh, death, where is your strong?*"

I know now that we're entering the third year of this pandemic, and we see the signs of stress and incivility, even the signs of war and disease in Ethiopia and Sudan, in Europe. It might seem like death still has sway, but we can declare confidently on this Easter and all times what Job said, "I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh, I shall see God."

Centuries ago, the Russian Orthodox developed this beautiful poem, the Kontakion of the Departed. It's often used at gravesites:

"Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting. You only are immortal, the creator and maker of humankind, and we are mortal, formed of the earth and to the earth shall we return. For so you did ordain when you created a thing. You are dust and to dust you shall return. All of us go down to the dust. Yet even at the grave we make our song. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia."

Blessed Easter, dear church.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton,
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Getting rid of 'all the crap'

Jesus said, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." (Luke 12:15)

The father of small children was commiserating about how hard it is to keep the house clean with energetic, active, creative kids at home.

"What really gets to me about cleaning the house," he said, "is all the crap."

Crap. Not just the toys and stuffed animals that overflow from toy bins, under beds and closets. The adult stuff, too – the gadgets crowding the kitchen, the cleaning products jammed under the sink, the stuff crammed in the medicine cabinet, the yard junk all over the lawn, and on and on.

The crap factor comes to mind in Jesus' parable of "the rich fool" in Luke 12:17-20. The fool has so much stuff, he wants bigger barns to hold it all. The parable strikes a chord with us in America, where accumulation is such a problem that self-storage (our "bigger barns") is booming business.

A man of few possessions, Jesus kept everything simple. He must have known how hard it is to focus on godly living when our lives are cluttered with stuff. Jesus' parable talks about possessions, but the same principle applies to the mind and heart's clutter of ideas, loyalties, and desires that distract us from God.

How cluttered is your house? Your mind? Your heart? Your soul?

For the month of May, consider a house cleaning to get rid of unneeded, unnecessary stuff. And prayerfully consider what "clutter" may be in your mind, heart, and soul as well. What needs to be tossed out, recycled, or donated in order that your house and your spirit can focus on what's truly important? That is - the things of God.

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JAMES F. VENINGA
Lecture on Religion and Society



The Rev. Dr. Jennifer Veninga
Citizen as Witness:
A Theology of Grief and
Solidarity for a Wounded
World



WIPPS is excited to continue the Veninga Lecture on Religion and Society this May. We hope you can join us for:

Tenth Veninga Lecture on Religion and Society:

“Citizen as Witness: A Theology of Grief and Solidarity for a Wounded World.”
Monday, May 23, 2022 at 7 p.m.
UW Center for Civic Engagement
Veninga Theater, Wausau, WI

The Rev. Dr. Jennifer Veninga, daughter of the late Dr. Jim Veninga, will speak on “Citizen as Witness: A Theology of Grief and Solidarity for a Wounded World.” Drawing on research for her current book project and her recent experience as a hospital chaplain, she will discuss how we are called to bear witness to the historical and present collective trauma and suffering of others.

Attention, 2022 Graduates...

We want to publish in the June Lantern the names of our 2022 graduates from area high schools, plus any college grads.



Parents, if your son/daughter is one of these honored individuals, please let us know. Or adult members, if you are a grad of higher education, we want to know that, too. Contact Deb in the office by phone or email at felc_deb@yahoo.com. There will be a sheet in the narthex for your information as well. Give us your name, high school/college/technical college, and your degree. If you wish to add any future plans, include that too. Thank you!

Church Council Meeting Minutes April 11, 2022

Members present: Reese Aarthun, Michael Alters, Paula Aschbrenner, Nina Dittmar, Bonnie Grau, Sandi Hiller, Sharon Hunter, John Motl, Susan Oberbeck, Pastor Erik Olson, Cindy Petzke, Erin Radke, Kathi Zoern, Earl Zabel, and Marla Zumann. Members absent: Sharon Hunter led the opening devotions.

REPORTS:

Minutes: The minutes of the March meeting were approved via email.

Financial Reports: Marla Zumann reported nothing new or needed to be addressed. The March Secretary’s Report was provided.

PASTOR’S REPORT:

Pastoral Acts: Nursing Home Services: March 16 at Wausau Manor; March 28 at Primrose

Easter Sunday Service: Offering plates will still be in the back of the church, communication will be done as it was prior to COVID.

Prayer Vigils for Ukraine: Weekly Wednesday noon services continue with different churches hosting. FE hosted on March 16 and will again on April 27.

New Members: As I emailed last week, we had 7 new members join Sunday, April 10: Bryan & Jacque Bailey; Rob & Jamie Meyer; Andy & Sarah Rosicky and son, Zachary (will be baptized April 24). I hope you got a chance to meet them – or will soon. Request to add members’ phone numbers when added to the “master” list.

Administrative Professionals Day: is coming up on Wed., April 27th. I am planning on taking Deb out to lunch the next day, April 28. These past 2+ years have not been easy for church workers, so it would be good for the church council to recognize all her work in keeping this church running well.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

First English Bounce Back: No meeting in April

Parish Ed: Meeting April 12

Stewardship: Meeting April 12

Worship & Music:

Met on April 10. Reese Aarthun communicated there was lots of discussion on summer services, potential ideas for Christmas in July, June – patriotic songs, August polka service and additional ideas of solos, duets, etc.

Choir is looking for ways to recruit new members, Deb will be contacted to add request in the Lantern and bulletins seeking more choir members.

Thursday Night services: are currently being streamed; this will gradually stop along with the recording. No date was given at this time.

Communion Updates: we will be going back to the “normal” procedure prior to COVID with the following exception: All assistants will be required to wear a mask, maintain social distancing, and no intinction at this time. Reese Aarthun recommended the Worship & Music Committee to meet monthly.

Church in Society/Evangelism: Meeting April 12

Property: Meeting April 12

Youth: Youth Gathering July 16-20, 2024

Wage & Policy: Meeting April 12

Fair Stand: Communication (Google Docs, Sign-up Genius) discussion on utilization. Next Meeting May 10. Wisconsin Valley Fair is August 2-7, 2022

Bounce Back: No meeting currently scheduled.

OLD BUSINESS:

Synod Assembly: Reese Aarthun and Deb Kluetz have volunteered to attend.

Church Survey/Google Docs/Survey Monkey: Nina will get moving forward this week on the purchase and setup.

Crop Walk: All funds raised will be donated to the Ukraine refugees (Lutheran World Federation), we will be walking as a congregation on April 24. It was requested for the church credit card to be used for donations that come in via check and cash, perhaps making it easier for donations to be added to the First English account.

Updated Constitution – Reese sent out the update via email. Most revisions were specific to language. Nina will send Deb a note for the bulletin that it will be available to members who are interested.

NEW BUSINESS:

Policy Modification/Change in Inclement Weather:

Example being schools closed on March 20, 2022 due to road conditions, communication, or policy change? Deb can email the group, facebook post, Pastor Erik has access codes to the local news channels for updates and will utilize that format when appropriate. Mass text messages, texting app? Nine to research and look to see what is available for that option.

Gigi's Playhouse: Mike Alters will provide the information to the Endowment Committee. Per Council request, Erin will get a breakdown of all items that are included in the basket. Council recommended the sponsorship of a basket of \$250 for new parents through GIGI'S with the Endowment funds.

Endowment Fund: Request from the Synod Assembly for \$250 for a twin bed and quilt. These will be going to the Afghan refugees being placed within the Synod.

Kitchen Protocol: Revisit and verify. Certain protocols need to be met, are gloves required when prepping prior to cooking? Nina will do some follow-up and obtain the protocols from First Presbyterian Supper protocols. She will email the Bounce Back team and get some input from them regarding baked goods. Council recommends baked goods can be baked at home and brought into church vs. pre-wrapped prebaked at church.

New Members: Nina asked who facilitates sending thank you cards, etc. Reese reached out to Kathy Kieper on what

types of cards she sent out. Kathy made her own cards and sent personal notes to visitors, new members.

National Youth Gathering: July 16-20, 2024, in New Orleans. More info to come as it becomes available.

Notice from the City of Wausau: A letter was sent regarding street maintenance. It will be paring and our church may be affected. “No Parking” signs will be placed on North Cedar St. No other information was sent. Work will be done on north Cedar St. between 3rd & 4th Ave.

Elevator Repair Fund: Earl Zabel stated we have a member that wants to donate to the fund. Nina stated that if a member wants to donate, they need to specify it is for the Elevator Repair Fund. Nina will send a bulletin update to Deb.

Church Secretary Title: Discussion on Deb's title, committee agreed to the change. Deb's title has been updated to Parish Administrator. Pastor Erik will communicate the change to Deb. Motion was approved and carried.

Closing devotions: Sharon Hunter

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Next meeting: Monday, May 9, 2022

Erin Radke, Recording Secretary

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.

