

*First English Lutheran Church is
a congregation of the*

*"To everything, turn, turn, turn
There is a season, turn, turn, turn
And a time to every purpose under heaven."*



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

~ Roger McGuinn of The Byrds

"Sharing the Light of Christ"

STAFF AND CHURCH COUNCIL

Pastor Erik Olson

Email: reverik23@yahoo.com

I am writing this on the day that Summer officially turns, turns, turns, into Autumn. The leaves on the trees are turning beautiful shades of reds and yellows and oranges. The temperatures are getting cooler. The daylight is decreasing slowly every day. The season is changing.

Parish Administrator: Debra Kluetz

Email:

Debra@firstenglishwausau.onmicrosoft.com

Seasons change in our life as well. We are all getting older day by day. We might experience new aches and pains in muscles we didn't know we had. We find bruises on our legs and wonder what we did to make them appear. We make groaning noises when we sit down or try to get up. (At least I've experienced all these things. Maybe you too?)

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

The season of Autumn brings about a slow movement into Winter when the earth sleeps and gets ready to Spring forth again in March. Life and Death and Life again. It is the pattern of creation, and it is the pattern of our lives in God. We live, we die, and we are raised again. And this doesn't just pertain to our lifetime. As Martin Luther writes in his Small Catechism: *"We die each day to sin and our old selves; and we rise anew each day to follow Christ and serve our neighbor."*

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

Susan Oberbeck

Paula Aschbrenner

Cindy Petzke

Bonnie Grau

Earl Zabel

Sandi Hiller

Kathi Zoern

John Motl

So, as you observe and enjoy the changing colors, cool temps, and changing season – find some way (and maybe new way) to serve your neighbor, serve your church, and serve your God.

See you in worship - either online or in person!

Peace & Prayers!

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

Pastor Erik



October Worship...

October 2: 17th Sunday after Pentecost
Worship at 9:00 a.m.

October 9: 18th Sunday after Pentecost
Worship at 9:00 a.m.

October 16: 19th Sunday after Pentecost
Worship at 9:00 a.m.

October 23: 20th Sunday after Pentecost
Worship at 9:00 a.m.

October 30: Reformation Sunday
Worship at 9:00 a.m.

(Come to worship wearing something for the color of the day which is RED!)

Thursday Evening Worship

October 6, 13, 20, 27

6:00 p.m.

Worship held in the sanctuary.

Did you know???

First English has a Good Samaritan Fund. This fund was set up in late 2019 through the generous donation of one of our members. Since then, this fund has helped over 55 people – mostly with tanks of gas. People needing gas can get help 2 times per year.

With the high gas prices of earlier this year, the Good Samaritan Fund was used heavily and the amount in the account has decreased substantially. Please prayerfully consider donating to the First English Good Samaritan Fund.

Coffee Hours...

Volunteers are needed to host our after-worship coffee hours. There is not a lot of work involved, simply provide some treats and a beverage to share. There is always someone around to help you make coffee.

We ask that you use hand sanitizer when handling utensils etc. and be mindful of safety procedures. The schedule sign-up sheet is on the narthex table. Thank you!



To All Committee Members...

At the September Church Council meeting it was voted to hold All Committee Night on the Tuesday prior to the Church Council Meeting.

The October Committee

Night will be on Tuesday, October 4 at 6:30 p.m. Please put this date of your calendars. See you on Oct. 4.

Thank you for serving on a First English committee! New members are always welcome!



Adult Forum...

There are some Adult Forum sessions coming in October that could be very beneficial for members and anyone you may know.

On Sunday, Oct. 2, Reese Aarthun will do a

presentation on Advanced Directives and on Sunday, Oct. 9, Pastor Erik will discuss Funeral Planning.

Plan to stay after worship on these 3 Sunday for important and informative discussions.



Our Thanks...

to our lawn mowers and trimmers this summer. We appreciate your time and effort!

We thank *John Motl, Russ Michalski, Gary Treu, and Brent Teske.*

Another thanks to John for planting and taking care of the beautiful outdoor flowers!!



Parish Records...Aug./Sept.

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

August 28: **Carolyn Marie Teske**, daughter of Brent and Jana and big brother, Wyatt.

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

September 19: Janice Voigt

Financial Report...

Month Ending August 2022		
Income	Actual	2022 Budget
From Pledges	\$ 168,408.62	\$ 166,066.64
Other Income	\$ 10,654.83	\$ 11,103.36
Total Income	\$ 179,063.45	\$ 177,770.00
Expenses	\$ 185,798.55	\$ 179,490.80
Balance	\$ (6,735.10)	\$ (1,720.80)
Loan Balance:	\$ 53,208.14	
Building Improvement Fund		
Building Savings Acct Balance	\$	17,474.51
Building Fund Acct #2618	\$	395.00
Total of Both Accounts	\$	17,869.51
Building Fund Acct #2618		
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 September.		

Cultivating our life's harvest

Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10:10)

Fall harvest provides a wonderful analogy for how, as stewards of our lives, we are responsible for making the most of our time on earth.

Farmers plant, water, fertilize and harvest, but they do not actually *create* the life that produces crops. Life comes only from God. Farmers *manage and optimize* the properties and processes of life that God engineered into their plants.

Smart farmers know what soil is best, what fertilizer, and how much water to give each particular plant. By nurturing their plants with care and attention, farmers generate the best and most productive harvests.

So it is with us! God created and engineered us to thrive! Our task is to manage and optimize our lives so we can experience the abundant life Jesus talks about in John 10:10. We have the rich soil of family, friends, and church community relationships. We have the water of God's Word, love, forgiveness, salvation, and grace. We have the fertilizer of wholesome, nourishing food.

How can we cultivate our lives? We can:

- Water our faith through prayer, worship, scripture, generosity, love and service.
- Tend the soil of relationships by loving our families, neighbors and church community.
- Optimize our physical health by eating right, exercising and getting enough sleep.
- Nourish our intelligence and wisdom through education, reading, exploring and continually learning.

Farmers reap plentiful harvests by caring for plants in ways that God ordained would provide the best growth. By caring for ourselves in ways that God designed for us, we can enjoy the life abundant that Jesus promises.

-Rob Blezard

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October is Clergy Appreciation Month. So in recognition of pastors everywhere...

Dear Pastors,

THANK YOU...

For the early Sunday mornings and the late night meetings.

THANK YOU...

For the seeds you plant and disciples you nurture.

THANK YOU...

For the sermons you preach and the prayers you lift up.

THANK YOU...

For your wise counsel and words of encouragement.

THANK YOU...

for your dedicated service.

Thank you, Pastor Erik, for the gifts you give to our First English family! You are a blessing to us!

First English Mission Statement

As a community of Christian believers at First English Lutheran Church, our mission is to:

- *Grow in faith by God's grace through worship and education*
- *Reach out in loving service through evangelism and stewardship*
- *Encourage and support one another through Christian fellowship*

Quilts and Kits Report...

- we thank our quilters and their many hands for fashioning hope into beautiful quilts, and our gratitude to those who donated fabric and supplies, especially John Motl's sister, Patty, and the families of Kathy Lampe and Benita Flora.

- we thank all who donated items for this year's Health Kit Project. A special thanks to Lori Heyne for her leadership in this project!

We thank Mark Dittmar and his crew for the use of a truck and delivering our donations to the loading site.

THANK YOU, ALL!

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 and give Deb a call in the office of the change. Thanks!

ACOLYTES:

October 2: Addison Fochs
October 9: David Kramer
October 16: Georgia Dittmar
October 23: Lizzie Baumgardt
October 30: Abigail Schumacher

November 6: Nicholas Schumacher
November 13: Emma Race
November 20: Eli Akey
November 27: Addison Fochs

GREETERS:

October 2: Sharon Carlsson / Linda Kittel
October 9: Todd & Paula Aschbrenner
October 16: VerJean Detert / Lois Stasko
October 23: Deb Kufahl / Roger Thorpe
October 30: LeRoy & Eunice Stark/Steve Wendorf

November 6: Jenny Blaschka / Bill Schrubka
November 13: Cody & Mandy Herning
November 20: Gene & Lynn Schulz
November 27: Mike & Connie Vaningan

COMMUNION SET-UP:

October 2: Joan Buckmaster
October 9: Deb Kluetz
October 16: Dawn Kramer
October 23: Joan Buckmaster
October 30: Deb Kluetz

November 6: Dawn Kramer
November 13: Joan Buckmaster
November 20: Deb Kluetz
November 27: Dawn Kramer

COMMUNION SERVERS:

October 2: Jessica Olson / Connie Vaningan
October 9: Lette Becker/Jenny Blaschka/Joan Heahlke
October 16: Lynne Santangelo / Pat Seivert
October 23: Bill & Tryphine Schrub
October 30: Sharon Hunter / Roger Thorpe / Jessica Olson

November 6: Joan Heahlke / Sharon Hunter
November 13: Pat Seivert / Cody & Mandy Herning
November 20: Scott & Deb Kufahl
November 27: Connie Vaningan / Lette Becker

COMMUNIONWARE WASHERS:

October 2: Lynne Santangelo
October 9: Bob & Pat Seivert
October 16: Deb Kluetz
October 23: Sue & Neil Juedes
October 30: Larry & Jan Wiederhoeft

November 6: Deb Kluetz
November 13: Dawn Kramer
November 20: Lynne Santangelo
November 27: Deb Kufahl

LECTORS:

October 2: Bobbie Levine
October 9: Karen Otto
October 16: Russ Michalski
October 23: Lynne Santangelo
October 30: Pat Seivert

November 6: Connie Vaningan
November 13: Karen Briggs
November 20: Sheri Fochs
November 27: Russ Michalski

LECTORS: (Thursday worship)

October 6: Bobbie Levine
October 13: Maralee Moellendorf
October 20: Cheri Breneman
October 27: Sandi Hiller

November 3: Barry Levine
November 10: Bobbie Levine
November 24: Maralee Moellendorf

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

October 2: Pat Seivert
October 9: -
October 16: Connie Vaningan
October 23: Lynne Santangelo
October 30: -

November 6: Pat Seivert
November 13: -
November 20: Connie Vaningan
November 27: Lynne Santangelo

USHERS:

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

October 2: LeRoy Stark / Steve Wendorf
October 9: Neil & Sue Juedes
October 16: Gene & Lynn Schulz
October 23: Matt & Lori Heyne
October 30: Mike & Connie Vaningan

November 6: Scott & Deb Kufahl
November 13: Amy Abitz / Deb Kluetz
November 20: Sharon Hunter / Jenny Blaschka
November 27: John Motl / Kathi Zoern

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

ALTAR GUILD:

October: Jane Schalow
November: Joan Buckmaster

Celebrate World Food Day...

with the ELCA World Hunger Program and host, Rick Steves on **October 16 at 4pm Central Time**. There is no registration required. Simply visit ELCA's Facebook or You Tube page. If you are tied up at that time, a recording will also be available at both sites after the event.

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
- ✓ **Rennes Health and Rehab Center**
4810 Barbican Ave. Weston WI 54476
Kathie Peterson Room 211
Diane Zuelke
- ✓ **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

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES – September 12, 2022

Members Present: Mike Alters, Nina Dittmar, Bonnie Grau, Sandi Hiller, Sharon Hunter, Susan Oberbeck, Pastor Erik Olson, Cindy Petzke, Earl Zabel, Kathi Zoern, Marla Zumann

Members Absent: Reese Aarthun, Paula Aschbrenner, John Motl, Erin Radke
Sandi Hiller led the opening devotions.

Reports:

Minutes: The minutes of the August meeting were approved via e-mail. The August minutes stand approved.

Financial Reports: Marla Zumann reported on July financials. The financials were approved by the audit committee. Weekly pledges are down and expenses are up. Nina questioned whether or not it is possible to allow online giving. Sharon Hunter confirmed that there are multiple ways to donate online. Stripe.com is one of several online payment platforms. Scott Kufahl presented a look at the 2022 proposed budget that addresses some of the current deficit. Scott also noted that donations to the Building Fund are down. He recommended that we remind members to remember giving to the fund.

Pastor's Report:

-- During August Pastor Olson led worship services at Primrose on August 29, and Benedictine Manor and Sylvan Crossing on August 31. He also celebrated the baptism of Carlyne Marie Teske on August 28.
-- Pastor Erik thanked everyone who donated to and helped with the Treasure Sale. The sale has a reputation in the community for being well organized with extremely polite and helpful workers. This year there was more time between the Fair Stand and the Treasure Sale, so the set-up could be a bit more relaxed.
-- The Pet Blessing service had to be cancelled because of bad weather. We'll try again next year.
-- Sunday School and Confirmation started on Sunday, September 11 with a Sunday Funday. Marcia Schumacher led Bible Jeopardy. We had a large group of students which was great to see.

Fall activities officially started on September 6. Quilters, choirs, book club, WELCA groups, etc. all resumed their regular meetings.
-- Pastor Olson is looking forward to Sunday School and Confirmation classes continuing; Synod-sponsored Anti-Bias Training on September 20; and the wedding of Olivia Brandt and Adam Grandlic in Oshkosh on September 24.

Committee Reports:

FEBB – Bonnie Grau reported that Covid is still here. Marathon County is currently in the medium range.

Parish Education – Sandi Hiller reported that we need teachers to fill spots on Sundays. Nina said that she will reach out to a few members for help. It was the consensus of the committee that more activities are needed for older students.

Stewardship – Susan Oberbeck reported on the results of the Committee Night survey that was given on Tuesday, September 6. The results of the survey supported the continuation of Committee Night where all First English Committees meet to do the work of the church. With that in mind, Susan Oberbeck moved that the Stewardship Committee recommends that Committee Night be held at 6:30 p.m. on the Tuesday prior the Council meeting. Kathy Zoern seconded the motion. A discussion followed on the importance of attendance at Committee Night. The motion carried.

Worship & Music – Reese Aarthun reported via email that Worship and Music met earlier. Al Sexter reported on the choir activities. The Committee will be meeting five times in the next year: the second Sunday of October, December January, March and first Sunday in May.

Church & Society & Evangelism – Cindy Petzke reported that the committee discussed the reopening of the FELC pantry and the highway cleanup. Younger volunteers are encouraged to attend meetings. They also discussed possible future adult forums. There are opportunities available to work with refugees. The Community Clubhouse closing was addressed. Biography information was received on our missionaries, Dr. Stephen and Jodi Swanson.

Property – Earl Zabel discussed the proposed locking system and cameras on the parking lot doors. Two quotes have been received, but they quote different services. The committee is

holding off on any action until our petitions are addressed by the City.

Youth – Nina Dittmar reported that the ELCA Youth Gathering will be held July 16-20, 2024 in New Orleans. We have the potential for 10 students to attend the gathering. The students will be encouraged to do activities outside of church to come together as a group.

Wage & Policy – The committee did not meet.

Fair Stand – Scott Kufahl and Neil Juedes attended at the request of the Council. They reported that Lori Heyne will share the final fair stand numbers at the breakfast on Sept. 18. This year's profits were approximately \$15,000.00. However, that amount needs to cover the rental for the kitchen and the trailer. It also needs to cover the \$3,000.00 for start-up for next year. With the expenses listed previously, there will be approximately \$10,000.00 remaining for disbursement. Other issues include the need to replace dated, failing equipment and the loss of food product suppliers. At this point, no one has expressed interest in chairing the fair stand. Nina noted that we have members who want to work there, but finding someone to run it is difficult. Members will be allowed to give their opinions at the Sept. 18 breakfast. A decision should be made by November. The lease is due January 1. If we don't proceed, the kitchen will have to be emptied and equipment removed. A special congregation meeting will be held after an upcoming service to make a final decision. Pastor Erik requested costs for replacing the steam table and the water heaters.

Old Business:

Church Survey: The majority of the responses were positive. People are asking for special music such as bands and special singers. Many like the idea of a welcome center. Currently there are no volunteers to head it up. Members also feel that we need to be more intentional with our visitors. The coffee hour is popular.

City of Wausau Parking Issue: Virgil Voigt put together a petition to reject the parking situation that was forced by the City. Sharon Hunter, Deb Kluetz, Virgil Voigt and Sherry Abitz took the signed petitions to City Hall.

The petitions had 103 signatures. Our request will be put on the October 13 (5:15 p.m.) CISM (Capital Improvement & Street Maintenance) Committee meeting agenda. It will then be forwarded to the full council for the November meeting. Virgil Voigt, Bonnie Grau, Sandi Hiller, LeRoy Stark, Sharon Hunter, and Sherry Abitz will attend the meeting.

Clear Stream: Nina requested that the option of obtaining information for Clear Stream be included on the Stewardship materials this fall. Members will be asked whether or not they want their contact info entered so that they can receive notifications (on a limited basis) by text.

New Business:

Rummage Sale: This year's sale made roughly \$12,000. Next year's event will be run by committee. One of the goals is to create a pricing list to help with consistency in pricing.

Fair Stand: The worker appreciation breakfast is scheduled for September 18 after the church service. Attendees will be given the opportunity to give their opinion on the future of the fair stand.

Church Directory: Nina reported that she spoke with Mandy Herning concerning the new directory. Mandy is available either November or March. The Council was in favor of early November, but March would also work.

Kathi Zoern moved to adjourn. Cindy Petzke seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Closing Devotions: Sandi Hiller

Next Meeting Date: Monday, October 10, 2022

Susan Oberbeck, Recording Secretary

Pillars of the faith...



Because Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses, or thoughts, to a church door in Wittenberg, Germany, on October 31, 1517, many Christians remember that day and the major changes, or Reformation, that resulted.

Luther's theses contained three main pillars, which have stood for over 500 years:

1. **Sola Scriptura (Scripture Alone)** - The Bible is the sole authority in matters of faith, life and conduct. *"All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness"* (2 Timothy 3:16, NRSV).

2. **Sola Fide (Faith Alone)** - Christians are justified, or declared righteous, only through believing in Jesus Christ as Savior. Although morality and good works are important, they alone cannot lead to salvation. *"A person is justified not by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ"* (Galatians 2:16, NRSV).

3. **Sola Gratia (Grace Alone)** - Grace is God's unmerited, or undeserved, favor. Salvation is a free gift from our gracious God. *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God - not the result of works, so that no one may boast"* (Ephesians 2:8-9, NRSV).

*Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the Lord God is my strength
and my might;
God has become my salvation.
-- Isaiah 12:2*