



August 2026

The Messenger

First English Lutheran Church

Connected in Christ, we grow in faith, live with hope, and reach out to share God's love with others.

Dear Friends in Christ,

On February 1, 2016, I joyfully became the 20th pastor of First English Lutheran Church in Wisconsin Rapids. It was finally God's time for me to serve God and God's people as an ordained pastor in the ELCA. I was 61 years old and hopeful that I could serve First English for at least 10 years.

We reached that goal in February, and now we have another goal to reach: the next 18 months. For many personal reasons, I have decided to retire January 31, 2028. By then, I will have been your pastor for 12 years.

They have been such good years! You helped me become a pastor and welcomed both Horace and me into your friendship and love. It will be very difficult to leave you. However, I will be 73 and Horace will be 87, and it will be time for us to enjoy a more leisurely life together.

I'm informing you of my retirement 18 months early so that we can work as a congregation to prepare for the transition to come. There are still goals for FEL's ministry that we can reach together. We already know that we're a good team.

Jeremiah 29:13 has brought hope to my life for 46 years. Let's make this our verse as we move from where we are right now to wherever God will be leading us next.

"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 hope and a future."

With love and gratitude from both of us,

Pastor Cheryl Davis and Horace

About FELC...

First English Lutheran Church

440 Garfield St, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 715-423-2840 www.felwisrapids.org

Office Hours: 8am-3:30pm M-Th, Closed Fridays

Sunday Worship: 9:30am w/Communion, also FB Live, and YouTube

~Every Sunday We Celebrate Resurrection~

The Staff at FELC...

Pastor Cheryl Davis	920-809-1326	cdavis002@luthersem.edu
Administrative Assistant	Janet Grackowski	715-423-2840 fel@felwr.org
Financial Secretary	Sherri Krutzik	715-818-5691 Sherri@felwr.org
Bookkeeper	Val Elliot	715-423-2840 Val@felwr.org
Property Manager	John Lory	715-423-2840 John@felwr.org
Ministry Assistant	Rhonda Felton	715-818-5692 Rhonda@felwr.org
Musician	Tammy Parszewski	715-423-2840 fel@felwr.org

Services are televised Sunday at 11am on W.R. Community Media, Charter 985, & Solarus Ch3.

For inclement weather and church closings please tune to TV Channel 7 WSAW.

Birthday, Anniversary, & Baptisms...

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/2	Sylvia Lau	8/25
8/4	Carl Lemke	
8/6	Lois Christensen	8/27
8/11	Bette Kohnen	
	Linda Whittaker	
8/12	Richard Bronson	8/30
8/13	Ann Girlinghouse	
8/14	Andrew Edwards	
	Kale Clark	
8/15	Barb Savich	
	Madilyn Stultz	
8/16	Mary Krutzik	
8/17	Ted Moskonas	
	Kim Shields	8/14
8/18	David Christensen	
8/19	Scott Jackan	
	Stacy Bronk	8/19
8/21	Don Knoll	8/21
8/22	Susan Reinke	
	Tanya Cronce	8/22
8/23	Carole Prochnow	8/25
8/24	Alan Panek	8/28

AUGUST BAPTISMS

8/13	Levi Clark
8/29	Easton Edwards

AUGUST ANNIVERSARY'S

8/5	Randy & Rhonda Kehrberg
8/6	Scott & Sue Jackan
8/8	Brian & Ashley Tessmer
8/13	Neil & Linda Francis
	Don & Noeella Knoll
8/14	Horace & Cheryl Davis
	Jeremy & Kelly Maciejewski
	Dave & Teri Mueller
8/19	Jaimes & Evelyn Kitowski
8/21	Jenni & Troy Vetrone
	Dave & Sue Ullrich
8/22	Jeramie & Heather Malecki
8/25	Bruce & Alida Gross
8/28	Tom & Dotty Ho



Writer's Corner...

Two “Golden Rules”?

By Dave Mueller

I came across this disturbing comparison in an online article by an Episcopal bishop from North Carolina, who proposed that we must choose between two “Golden Rules.”

From Rt. Rev. Sam Rodman, the XII Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina:

There are two versions of the Golden Rule. You know them both: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you,” which is Jesus’ version. And the other version: “The one who has the most gold makes the rules.” I am not sure who this latter version is attributed to, but all too often it feels like this version of the Golden Rule has the upper hand. <https://episdionc.org/2024/07/22/disciple-two-golden-rules>

The complete article reflects on the hard questions we face in a society worldwide that increasingly separates the haves and the have-nots. The primary example used is from Luke 16:19-31, which illustrates the eternal consequences of neglecting the needy. In the story, Lazarus, a beggar, suffers at the rich man's gate, and after both die, their fortunes are reversed in the afterlife.

Jesus came to earth to walk among us and show us the way of love for our fellow man (the Biblical Golden Rule) and to reject the pagan golden rule. When we see humanity being lost in the greed of world leaders and their penchant to assert their power through dictates and wars, we feel helpless to do anything about it. But Jesus invites us to become apostles in the movement Rev. Rodman calls “Become Beloved Community.”

Rev. Rodman borrows a prayer he found on Facebook, a powerful adaptation of the Serenity Prayer:

“God grant me the patience to accept the systems I cannot change, today, the courage to strategically enact progress when I know I can, and the wisdom to know that despite structural oppression, I can make a difference.”

By showing our love to all people including those most in need, we can bring about change and become the change we need to see in our community and the world.

Happenings...

Sunday, September 20th



RALLY SUNDAY

Welcome back from summer fun!
Join us for Rally Sunday, September 20th.

Confirmation Mtg
Acolyte Training
9:30am Worship
Sunday School Begins
1st Graders get their Bibles
Teacher Installation

**Please prayerfully consider being a
Sunday School Teacher or Helper.**

The sign-up sheet is hanging on the bulletin board.

Help Needed...



Stuff the Bus

We will be collecting items until
Wednesday, August 5th bring in your items by
3:30pm.

**Thank you for helping with
Stuff the Bus!**



Worship in the Park

Sunday, August 9th at Robinson Park
10:30am Service

Lunch to follow

Beloved Hymns sung by all with
Pastor Cheryl Davis & Dave Davies

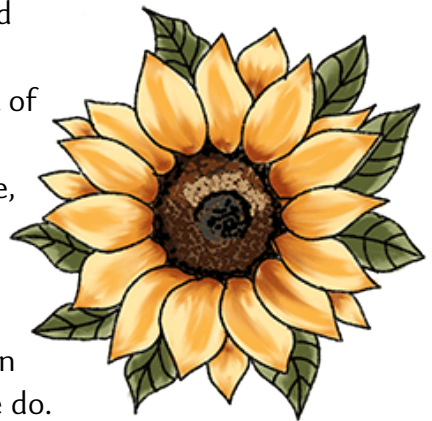
All are welcome – bring a friend!

Sign up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area.

SUNFLOWER — The sunflower, a symbol of faithfulness and devotion, represents a life turned toward God. Just as the flower follows the sun, believers are called to seek the light of Christ and remain focused on Him.

Its bright bloom reflects the joy and glory of God's presence, while its steady growth points to a life rooted in faith. The many seeds of the sunflower can also symbolize spiritual fruitfulness.

In Christian symbolism, the sunflower reminds us to remain steadfast, to seek God daily and to reflect His light in all we do.



From: ChurchArt.com

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday

Sunday, September 13, 2026, at FELC

SIGN UP ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE GATHERING AREA

Worship at 8am

Off to worksites at 9am

Back to FELC for lunch at Noon.

Prayerfully consider being a leader for one of our groups at GWOH's

LWR School Kits

(Items Needed)

4 – 70 Sheet Notebooks

1 – 30cm Ruler

1 – Pencil Sharpener

5 – #2 Pencils UNSHARPENED

1 – Scissors blunt safety

5 – Pens black or blue

1 – Crayons box of 16 or 24

1 – 2 ½" Eraser

Monetary donations for specific
Draw String Bags.

LWR Health Kits

(Items Needed)

1 – Bath Towel - dark 20"x40" – 52" x 27"

2-3 – Bar Soap - original wrapping

1 – toothbrush – adult size

1 – Comb – sturdy remove pkg

1 – metal nail clippers – remove pkg

Monetary donations – make checks
payable to FELC and mention
Health Kits or School Kits.

FELC Quilters

(Items Needed)

Boxes – 20"x20"xTall

Cotton Fabric twin size or larger

thrivent®

Members

Please sign up for the
Thrivent Action Team Dollars

For the following...

LWR Health Kits

LWR School Kits

Quilters – batting, material, boxes

**Thank you to everyone who
participates in
God's Work, Our Hands!**

August 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 9:30a Worship	3 Pastor Off	4 7a Yoga	5 10a W Bible Zm 2:45p BIBLE-RR Last day for Stuff the Bus!	6 7a Yoga	7 8a M Bible Zm OFFICE Closed Pastor works at home 6p W. Shower set-up	8 8a-2p Wedding Shower Bethlehem Rm
9 10:30a Worship/Park w/picnic @ Robinson Park Prayer Ministry Mtg	10 Pastor Off	5 7a Yoga	12 10a W Bible Zm 12p Finance Mtg 1p Quilters 1:30p SHINE-W	13 7a Yoga	14 8a M Bible Zm OFFICE Closed Pastor works at home	15
16 9:30a Worship	17 Pastor Off	18 7a Yoga 5:30p Christ Ed 6:30p Council Mtg	19 10a W Bible Zm 10:30a SHINE-AV 2:45p BIBLE-RR	20 7a Yoga	21 8a M Bible Zm OFFICE Closed Pastor works at home	22
23 9:30a Worship	24 Pastor Off	25 7a Yoga	26 10a W Bible Zm 1p Quilters 1:30p SHINE-W	27 7a Yoga	28 8a M Bible Zm OFFICE Closed Pastor works at home	29
30 9:30a Worship	31 Pastor Off					

Activity Page...



Make a postcard PUZZLE

Summer is full of little moments that remind us that God is guiding each step. Like a puzzle, he brings every piece together in his time.

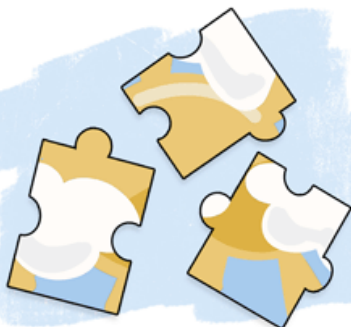
What you need:

- A postcard or printed picture
- Scissors
- Pencil (optional, for guiding your cuts)
- Envelope or small bag (for storing pieces)



What you do:

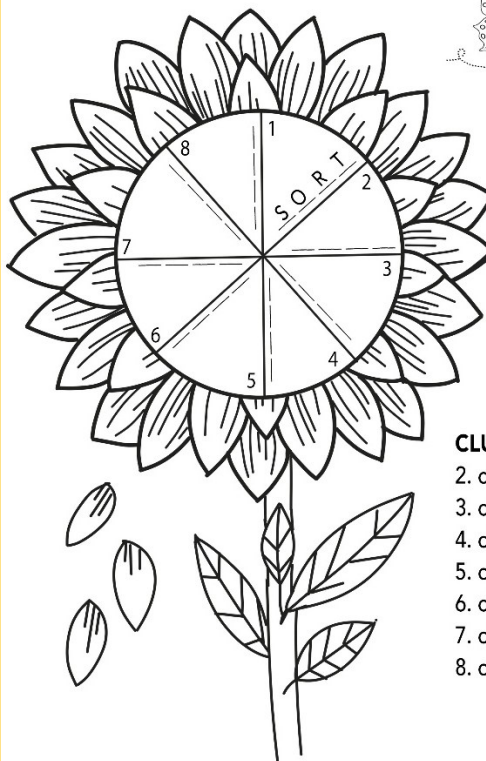
1. Flip your postcard over and lightly draw puzzle shapes or cut freely.
2. Cut the postcard into a mix of big and small pieces.
3. Mix up the pieces and try to put the picture back together.
4. Store the pieces in an envelope so you can use it again later.



THE LOVE CYCLE

In 1 John 4, God instructs us to love other people. Where does our love come from?

Directions: Starting at #1 and going clockwise, solve each clue to create a new four-letter word. Then write the eighth word in both blanks below to complete 1 John 4:19, NIV.



We _____
because [God] first
_____ d us.

1 John 4:19, NIV

CLUES

2. change 1 letter: a tent to play in
3. change 2 letters: a crease in paper
4. change 1 letter: a precious metal
5. change 2 letters: a beautiful dress
6. change 1 letter: opposite of up
7. change 2 letters: a type of bird
8. change 1 letter: God is this (see 1 John 4:16).