



NOVEMBER 2025

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.

This Place Makes a Difference!

If First English Lutheran Church in Wisconsin Rapids ceased to be, would our community miss us? Do we make a difference at this time and in this place? Our Stewardship Team asked themselves this question as they pondered the direction for our Stewardship Campaign this year.

After reflection and discussion, the seven-member team agreed that First English does indeed make a difference. Members, attendees and visitors within our church building and online receive spiritual nourishment every week. Friendships and community are nurtured and maintained. People use their abilities and spiritual gifts to build up the strength of our Christian community and encourage one another in the faith.

But that's just the beginning, for as we receive the love of Christ, we want to share God's love with those outside our First English friendship circle. Through many service and evangelistic activities, we reach into areas of need within our community. We also share with global organizations to meet worldwide needs.

God makes a difference through each of us, so it follows that **THIS PLACE MAKES A DIFFERENCE**. That's why we share our time, talents, and financial resources. What a privilege to give of ourselves to further God's love in Jesus Christ with our world!

Each Sunday in November, members of our congregation will be sharing how First English has made a difference to them. We hope you'll be present in the worship services to hear their testimonials. Each has an interesting story to tell.

And so do you. Why are you here? What difference has First English made in your life? Send us an email and let us know.

In Christ,

Pastor Cheryl



About FELC...

First English Lutheran Church, ELCA

440 Garfield St, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494 715-423-2840

www.felwisrapids.org

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

Worship is at 9:30am w/Communion & FB Live, YouTube @ 11:15am



~ Every Sunday We Celebrate the Resurrection ~

The Staff at FELC...

Pastor	Cheryl Davis	715-818-5690	pastorcheryl@felwr.org
Administrative Assistant	Janet Graczowski	715-423-2840	fel@felwr.org
Financial Secretary	Sherri Krutzik	715-818-5691	Sherri@felwr.org
Ministry Assistant	Rhonda Felton	715-818-5692	Rhonda@felwr.org
Bookkeeper	Val Elliot	715-423-2840	Val@felwr.org
Property Manager	John Lory	715-423-2840	John@felwr.org
Musicians	Dave Mueller & Tammy Parszewski	715-423-2840	fel@felwr.org

Services are televised Sunday at 11am from the previous Sunday on
W.R. Community Media & Charter 985, Solarus Ch 3.

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

Birthday, Anniversary, & Baptism...

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/1	Joe Fraundorf	11/21	Amalia Maher
	Steven DeMunck	11/22	Rhonda Kehrberg
11/2	Leanne Pearson	11/25	Andy DeWitt
	Rochelle Grossbier		Delilah Zelin
11/6	Dale Tracy	11/26	Keith Olson
11/7	Trent Waltenberg	11/29	Dave Ullrich
	Ellie Look		Dave Graczowski
11/9	Aaron Zelin	11/30	Josh Hafermann
	Ainsley Barnett		
11/10	Jaimee K-Dallman		
11/12	Marilyn Herzberg		
	Amy Hafermann		
11/13	Nate Koch		
11/16	Jean Leslie		
11/18	John Engelien		
	Sue Ulrich		
	Neil Statz		
11/19	Dave Alft		
11/20	Luke Hafermann		
	Jacob Barnett		

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11/3	John & Jordan Chambers
11/14	Dave & Janet Graczowski
11/22	Dave & Lois Christensen

NOVEMBER BAPTISMS

11/?	Charlie Maciejewski
11/26	Daisy Saylor
	Tommy Saylor
	Wesley Saylor



Writer's Corner...

Gratitude as a Way of Life

By Robyn Austin

As much as I love summer and bonding with Mr. Deck Chair and my golf clubs, when the fall leaves start changing color I immediately pause and think, "I see what you did there, God. Thanks!"

Now, as the last of the leaves fall in November and we move toward Thanksgiving, gratitude naturally comes to mind. We pause to count our blessings—family, friends, food, and the many ways God sustains us. But Christian gratitude should run deeper than a single season or holiday. It's not just something we feel once a year; it's a way of seeing the world, shaped by the grace of God in Jesus Christ.

But does that come second nature to us? Not for me. But I am working on 365 daily gratitude!

In Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians, he writes, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Notice that Paul doesn't say *for* all circumstances, but *in* all circumstances. I believe this means that gratitude is not so much a denial of hardship—it's a declaration of trust. Even when life feels uncertain or heavy, we give thanks because we know that God remains faithful, walking beside us through every season. (Note: See any "Footprints" plaque from the last 4 decades.)

This November, many of us will gather around tables—some full and noisy, others more quiet and reflective. Some of us may feel the joy of reunion, while others may feel the ache of absence. Just remember that wherever we find ourselves, God meets us there. Gratitude grows not from perfection, but from presence—the presence of Christ, who joins us in every joy and every sorrow.

One of the gifts of having faithful friends and a strong church family is that together we help one another remember this truth. When one of us struggles to see the blessings, another can gently remind us of God's goodness. When one of us rejoices, we all rejoice together. Gratitude shared becomes gratitude multiplied.

So this month, let's practice noticing. Let's pause to see the small mercies: the gorgeous leaves, the crisp morning air, the laughter of a child, the quiet calm during worship. Each of these moments is a reminder that God is near, that love is stronger than despair, and that grace continues to abound.

May our hearts be filled with thanksgiving—not just for what we have, but for who we are as a grateful family in Christ.

All Saints Sunday 11/2/25 - In memory of those we loved...



Roger Wangen
11/12/24



Greg & Diane Steele
5/26/25 & 4/6/25



Guy Gottschalk
7/15/25



John Krutzik
9/4/25

✝ PEACE TO ALL ✝

It's not too late!

The deadline has passed to order Christmas flowers from the floral shop, but you can still bring in your own!

Just call or email and let Sherri know who it is in honor or memory of by December 17th.

(715-818-5691 or Sherri@felwr.org)

**Then bring your flower here at FELC anytime
by Noon on Tuesday, December 23rd.**



Happenings...



The LWR Semi Loading was A SUCCESS! Thanks to this crew!

Bruce Gross - Leader
Kwik Trip - for donating snacks!
Carol & Nora Leverance, Sarah, Vince, & Olivia Ashbeck, Doug, Kelly & Riley Look, Trina & Abby Barnett, Andy & Brenda DeWitt, Bill Kohnen, Brian Tessmer, Jim Walloch, Roxann Cuty, Eric Wangen, Dillon Ksionek, Kelly, Charlotte, & Jeremy.

Thank you to all! 1,170 boxes were unloaded and loaded onto the semi-



We're celebrating Thanksgiving~

*Sunday, November 23rd
with fellowship, pie, and coffee
after the 9:30am Worship.*

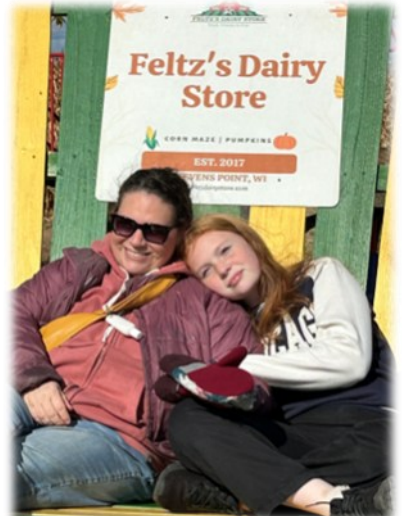
*Happy Thanksgiving
to you and yours!
Safe travels!*

Please sign up on the BB to bring your favorite pie!

FELC's Youth Group...

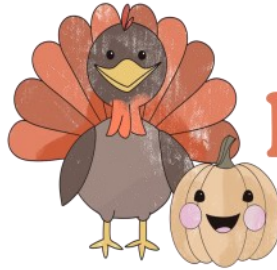


**Kids & Parents in
6th-12th grades!**
If you and your parents
Would like to join our
group please contact
Sarah A. or Becky S.
Don't be shy! Sign up to
lead an event!
Make some memories!



November 2025

Sunday	Mon	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 <i>All Saint's Day</i>
2 8a Confirmation 9:30a Worship/SS All Saint's Sunday 11a New Member Class  DST-Fall Back!	3 Pastor Off	4 7am Yoga 3:30p GLOW 5:30p Steward	5 10a W Bible Zoom 2:45p RR Bible 7p Choir	6 7am Yoga 9-3p Pastor at training	7 8a M Bible Zoom Office Closed Pastor works at home	8
9 8a Confirmation 9:30a Worship/SS 11a New Member Class	10 Pastor Off	11 7am Yoga 3:30p GLOW	12 10a W Bible Zoom 12p Finance 1p Quilters 1:45p SHINE W 7p Choir	13 7am Yoga	14 8a M Bible Zoom Office Closed Pastor works at home	15 10:30–2:30p Council/Staff Retreat
16 8a Confirmation 9:30a Worship/SS 11a New Member Class OCC Shoebox Dedication	17 Pastor Off	18 7am Yoga NO GLOW	19 10a W Bible Zoom 10:15a SHINE AV 2:45p RR Bible 7p Choir	20 7am Yoga	21 8a M Bible Zoom Office Closed Pastor works at home	22
23 8a Conf 9:30a Worship & New Member Thanks Giving w/ Pie Pledge Sunday 1st Advent 30 9:30a Worship 	24 Pastor Off	25 7am Yoga 3:30p GLOW	26 10a W Bible Zoom 1p Quilters 1:45p SHINE W 7p Choir	27 Happy Thanksgiving Office Closed 	28 8a M Bible Zoom Office Closed Pastor Off	29 



Let us give thanks!

Thankful garland

Celebrate the season of gratitude by creating a colorful Thankful decoration.

What you need:

- Construction paper in a variety of fall colors
- Pencil, marker, or crayons
- Yarn, ribbon, or raffia
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Spray bottle filled with water
- Real leaves (Optional)
- Wooden or plastic beads, cereal with holes (Cheerios, Froot Loops, etc.), or any dried pasta with a hole (Optional)



What you do:

1. Draw or trace leaf shapes onto construction paper.
2. Lay the paper flat and spray with water until the paper is completely wet.
3. Crumple the wet paper into balls.
4. Open the paper and let the sheets dry flat.
5. When dry, cut out each leaf.
6. On each leaf, write the name of one person or thing you're thankful for.
7. Punch a hole in each leaf.
8. Lace the leaves, beads, cereal, and pasta onto the yarn, ribbon, or raffia.
9. Tie the ends and hang your garland.

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

Give thanks
to the Lord,
for HE is good.
His love endures
forever.

Psalms 136:1

