



September 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.

Meetings are WHAT?

Before I answered the call to be a pastor, I'd decided NOT to be a pastor. A chaplain, yes. But not a pastor. My reason? I didn't want to attend the many meetings that pastors have to attend. Committee meetings, ministry meetings, clergy meetings, trainings, workshops, conferences, seminars.

I thought that being a chaplain would require fewer meetings. I was probably wrong about that, but still, I thought it would be worth a shot. I expressed this to my pastor, expecting him to say something like, "Yeah, the meetings are the toughest part of being a pastor."

But instead, he said, "Cheryl, the meetings are where discipleship happens. It's where people learn to work together and struggle with differences of opinion. That's where they pray together for wisdom and study scripture together. It's where they vision for the future and learn to accept both success and failure. Meetings are where people learn to be faithful as they serve God together.

I believed him, and now, after 10+ years as your pastor, I fully agree with his assessment. Our meetings change us as we seek God's best direction for this Body of Christ called First English Lutheran Church. We head toward the future together. We sometimes get frustrated and impatient with ourselves and each other, but we always return to our dependence on the Head of the Church: Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Jesus knows us individually and as a group. He knows everything about our past and has great plans for our future. He wants us to grow up in Him, follow the direction of His Spirit and listen carefully to Him and to one another. We never do this perfectly, but we keep confessing our sin, receiving and giving forgiveness and living into the promises we've been given in God's Word.

Believe it or not, participation in a ministry can be an adventure in spiritual growth. Are you up for the challenge?

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Growing in Christ with you,
Pastor Cheryl

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.



Birthdays...

9/1	Heather Malecki	9/24	Randy Franz
9/5	Noeella Knoll		Brenda DeWitt
9/6	Easton Edwards	9/25	Karren Zahn
9/9	Darlene Dhein		Janet Grackowski
9/13	Olivia Ashbeck	9/26	Judy Long
9/14	Gary Kester	9/27	Doug Dresden
	Emily Wangen	9/28	Rhonda Felton
9/15	Judie Arneson	9/29	Anne Handschke
	Jeanne Olson		Cheryl Davis
	Kevin Krueger		Abby Wangen
9/16	Janet Cavanaugh		
9/17	Sigrid Kahoun		
9/19	Sharon Stueck		
9/22	Jan Van Tassel		
9/24	Sue Hamilton		

Anniversary's...

9/1	Walter & Wanda Wright
9/4	Jim & Carole Prochnow
9/8	Dave & Sue Davies
	Mark & Mary Umnus
9/11	Dennis & Sharon Herzberg
9/14	Aaron & Amanda Zelin
	Randy & Tari Jahns
9/15	Josh & Amy Hafermann
	Mike & Patti Schill
	Kyle & Jaimee Dallman
9/22	Doug & Jen Machon
	Cedar H & Tammy P
9/24	Andrew & Jess Edwards
9/29	Keith & Jeanne Olson

Baptisms...

9/14	Sadie Edwards
9/18	Jax Chambers
9/21	Edgar DeMunck
9/29	Collin Mancl

Writer's Corner...

FATHER GOD, HEAR MY PRAYER

By Horace Davis

God Pause for August 18 this year provides a devotional on Psalm 138 (NRSV). It is one of David's prayers of thanksgiving to God for God's continued presence and help as he, David, navigate "trouble" and "the wrath of his enemies." The author of the devotional reminds me that I am simply living by grace alone, craving steadfast and unconditional love." David's prayer reminds me also that God is constantly present in my life - ever present, ever ready to answer my prayers, and to guide me through difficult challenges. That is one of the reasons I love and often sing the hymn, "Borning Cry" - lyrics by Jacques Darragh

"I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold. - vs 1."

In David's prayer, he recognizes the essence of the Borning Cry. I too recognize and honor God's constant presence - his grace, and steadfast unconditional love. "One lives in a complex world that daily stands in need of grace and a steady foundation of higher ways. We aren't entitled. We all sin. Yet grace abounds. God's grace lifts the sinner and humbles the saint. - Mark R. Peterson '81 M. Div.

So, walk and pray with me as I repeat David's prayer (Psalm 138) as my own.

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before all peoples I sing your praise. I bow down in this your holy place and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and faithfulness. Holy is your name. On the days I called, you answered me and increased my strength of soul. I will praise and worship you and shall sing of the great glory that is you. Although I sometimes walk in the midst of trouble and temptation, you preserve me; you stretch out your hand and deliver me from evil and temptation. You, Lord, will fulfill your purpose for me; your steadfast love, O God, endures forever. Please do not forsake me, the work of your hand. Amen.

So, I am strengthened by Jesus' promise, "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (NRSV)

"When the evening gently closes in, and you shut your weary eyes, I'll be there as I have always been with yet one more surprise. -Borning Cry vs4"

Happenings...

Introducing...



Hello, my name is Jack Schraeder, and I was recently hired as the choir director at First English! I am a sophomore Music Education major at UW-Stevens Point and graduated high school at John Edwards High in Port Edwards, Wisconsin. My hobbies include watching and playing sports such as football, basketball, and running, as well as fishing, and of course, making and listening to music. As a former athlete, I found a lot of similarities between music and sport. I strive to create a team environment in my choir that feels like a family, with a focus on productivity and getting better every single day. I look forward to getting to work with the choir and making some excellent music while getting to know some incredible people!



Saturday, October 24, 2026 ~ 8:30am – Noon

Confirmation Students and Parents, Youth Group, or FELC Members, please Save-the-Date! Please be available on this day to lead and help with the loading of the LWR Quilts, Personal Care Kits, and School Kits. **Sign up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area.** Snacks will be provided!

Many Central WI churches will be bringing in their boxed LWR Quilts & Kits to be loaded into the semi-trailer that will be transported to the LWR Warehouse in MN.

FELC will be collecting items for LWR Personal Care & School Kits right up until Sunday, October 18th. Please bring in your items and place them in the boxes provided in the entry/coat area at FELC. **Thank you!**

Rest for the Soul

Studies show many Americans don't get enough sleep, and the effects can take a toll on both body and mind. Whether it's a packed schedule or restless nights, a lack of rest makes it harder to think clearly, stay focused and care for our overall well-being. Over time, that constant fatigue begins to wear us down.

Our spiritual lives follow a similar rhythm. When we rush from one task to the next without pausing to spend time with God, we can feel just as drained. We need consistent, quiet moments with Him to stay grounded, encouraged and strong in our faith.

Even Jesus made space for this kind of rest. Luke 5:16 tells us that He often withdrew to quiet places to pray. If He needed that time with the Father, how much more do we? When we step away from the noise and listen for God's voice, we find the renewal our souls have been longing for.

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Neighborhood Meals

FELC to Host

Thursday

October 15th

3:50 – 6:30pm

Sign-up is coming soon.



*Let us not
become weary
in doing good,
for at the proper
time we will reap
a harvest if we
do not give up.
Galatians 6:9*

Help Needed...

As we bid
farewell to summer,
and welcome fall,
let's join our hearts in
prayer for our
beloved children and
their teachers. May the
coming year bring
abundant blessings,
faith, and joy
to each one of them.

ChurchArt.com

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL



Teachers and Helpers Needed!

Sundays ~ September 20th ~ May 16th

During Worship

No need to sign up for the whole season,
just a month or week or two,
whatever works for your schedule.

Sign up on the Sunday School table.

Sunday September 13th

8am Service, 9-11:30a Workstations 12p Lunch

Be sure to sign up on the bulletin board in the
Gathering Area to help with

Community: Hannah Center, Homes,
Washington School

FELC: LWR Quilts, Personal Care Kits,
& School Kits

Lunch: Set up, Clean up, Cooking,
Bring in a Dish to Pass or Dessert

**Don't forget to sign up if you are attending
the luncheon!**



God's work. Our hands.



September 13, 2026

September 2026

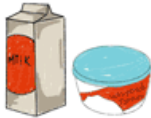
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 7am Yoga  School Starts	2 10a W Bible Zoom 2:45p Bible – RR	3 7am Yoga	4 8a M Bible Zoom OFFICE CLOSED Pastor works from home	5
	6 9:30a Worship	7 Happy Labor Day!  OFFICE CLOSED	8 7am Yoga Pastor Off	9 10a W Bible Zoom 12p Finance 1p Quilters 1:30p SHINE – W	10 7am Yoga	11 8a M Bible Zoom OFFICE CLOSED Pastor works from home
13 8am Worship 9-11:30a GWOH's 12p Lunch  Prayer Ministry Mtg Grandparents Day	14 Pastor Off	15 7am Yoga 5:30p Christ Ed. 6:30p Council	16 10a W Bible Zoom 10:30a SHINE – AV 2:45p Bible – RR	17 7am Yoga	18 8a M Bible Zoom OFFICE CLOSED Pastor works from home	19
20 8:15a Conf. Orient. 9:30am Worship Rally Sunday † <i>Sunday School starts</i> <i>1st Grade Bibles</i> <i>Teacher Installation</i> 10:45a Youth Group Kick-off w/lunch	21 Pastor Off	22 7am Yoga  Autumn Begins!	23 10z W Bible Zoom 1pm Quilters 1:30pm SHINE – W	24 7am Yoga	25 8a M Bible Zoom OFFICE CLOSED Pastor works from home	26  Krueger/Harison Wedding
27 8a Confirmation & Acolyte training 9:30a Worship w/SS	28 Pastor on Vacation-10/12	29 7am Yoga	30 10a W Bible Zoom 7p Choir Starts			



A sweet reminder that God is always growing something new, no matter the season. As summer winds down and a new school year begins, remember He is at work in your life, helping you grow in faith, kindness and courage. With His help, you can grow in wisdom, build friendships and shine His love wherever you go.

What you need:

- 2 cups milk
- 1 (4-serving) box chocolate instant pudding mix
- 1 (8 oz.) tub whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (16 oz.) package Oreo cookies, crushed
- 8 (9 oz.) clear plastic cups
- Gummy worms or frogs (optional)



What you do:

1. In a large bowl, whisk together milk and pudding mix for 2 minutes. Let stand for 5 minutes until thickened.
2. Gently fold in the whipped topping.
3. Add a layer of crushed cookies to the bottom of each cup.
4. Spoon pudding mixture on top, filling the cups about $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
5. Sprinkle more crushed cookies on top to look like "dirt."
6. Add gummy worms or frogs for fun.
7. Chill until ready to serve, or enjoy right away.

See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not
perceive it? — Isaiah 43:19 (NIV)



Apple of Your Eye

"Apple of your eye" means something very special that you protect. As school starts again, remember what God says in Proverbs 7:2 (NIV): "Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye."

Can you find the word "apple" 12 times in the puzzle?
Look up, down, across, and even backward!

