



The Messenger

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

First English Lutheran



May 2023

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Our Church Musicians:

Dave Mueller
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SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:30am in-person, FB & YT

Televised...

Sunday @ 11am from the
previous Sunday

Wisc. Rapids Community
Media, Charter 985 &
Solarus Channel 3

**For church closings check
TV Channel 7 WSAW**

The Windy Spirit of God

It's May Day. This was a big day when I was a kid in the late 50s and 60s. We created treat baskets for our friends' families and delivered them from one house to another. It was great fun, partly because May 1st was always warm and sunny. At least, that's how I remember it.

Fast forward to today. It's not warm and sunny. Yesterday it snowed. Today is gray and windy. The white pines I see from my window are being tossed crazily by a powerful wind.

The words from John 3:8 float into my mind from the King James Version. (That's the translation that sounds a lot like Shakespeare because it comes from that era.)

The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

What-eth? I canst not understand!

Here's my translation. The Holy Spirit works in all kinds of ways. Sometimes it moves within us and among us as a gentle breeze that barely touches our skin but brings us refreshment and joy. Sometimes it tosses around the white pine branches in our lives, and we realize something powerful is happening, but we can't tell what it is. We know God is at work to accomplish something new and essential. But what?

So, we learn to wait, watch, and follow one step at a time. We know the Holy Spirit will always draw us to Jesus. We know it reveals truth from God as we read scripture, converse, and worship with others. We know Spirit will never, ever lead us astray.





And so, we walk by faith. We are partners with God. Lovingly and with great wisdom, Spirit befriends and guides us. It blows into our hearts and minds, changing us from the inside out, making us able to see and willing to follow.

We are being led by the Spirit of God.
Every. Single. Day. What a privilege!

We share this blessing,
Pastor Cheryl



May 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Pastor Off	2 7am Yoga 10am Staff Mtg	3 10am Zoom Bible Study 7pm Choir	4 7am Yoga	5 Pastor work at home	6
7 9:30am Worship w/ SS 8am Conf Class	8 Pastor Off	9 7am Yoga 10am Staff Mtg	10 10am Zoom Bible Study 12pm Finance 1pm Quilters 6:30pm Praise Band 7pm Choir	11 7am Yoga	12 Pastor work at home	13
14 9:30am Worship w/SS 8am Conf Class Happy Mother's Day!	15 Christian Ed Mtg Pastor Off	16 7am Yoga 10am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Council	17 10am Zoom Bible	18 7am Yoga	19 Pastor work at home	20 8am-5:30pm 2023 SYNOD Assembly
21 9:30am Worship Youth Sunday kids sing SS & Conf - Last day! Graduate Recognition w/cake after Worship	22 5pm Personnel Pastor Off	23 7am Yoga 10am Staff Mtg	24 10am Zoom Bible 1pm Quilters 6:30pm Praise Band	25 7am Yoga	26 Pastor work at home	27 LHS Graduation 
28 9:30am Worship Pentecost	29 Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED! 	30 7am Yoga Pastor Off	31 10am Zoom Bible	<div>  </div> <div> HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! <small>© 2023 Pentecost, 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM</small> </div>		

WRITER'S CORNER...

JOY IN THE MORNING

By Anne Handschke

An Easter song, *Joy in The Morning* expresses the joy we Christians have because of the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made for each of us. A few months ago, a sweet older friend confessed she hadn't felt this joy. This has haunted me as I thought all Christians felt that joy we have in our Lord. This bewilderment led to some research.

Depending on the translation the word joy appears anywhere from 160 times to 210 throughout the Bible. These are a select few.

Psalm 16:11 "You show me the path of life. In your Presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore."

Galatians 5:22,23 By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. There is no law against such things."

1 Peter 1:8 "Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy."

To me life is like a roller coaster ride. Highs and lows are expected. When I realized the depth of God's love for me, I responded by experiencing a joy that helped me through those highs and lows. Oh, I still have them but the knowledge that Jesus walks with me and carries me allows me to handle them much easier. The trust I have in our Lord has deepened and my focus is more on Him. Even though I falter often daily, I can forgive myself more and know God is with me. I have become freer in this love. I respond with joy. This joy isn't like happiness which is temporary. This joy is there all the time. As we experience Jesus, we trust and know that God keeps His promises to us. Our response is to love and trust more. We feel His constant love no matter who we are or what we have done or not done. What fills us is this never-ending emotion, a gift called joy. There is joy when the birds are singing in the first rays of a spring day. There is also joy when the storm clouds threaten to shake our world. As long as we stay focused on God, we have his many gifts including joy. May we all grow and bloom in His JOY - morning, noon, or night.



Spotlight on

WHILE YOU'RE OUT AND ABOUT SHOPPING THIS SUMMER, PLEASE remember the LWR *School & Personal care kits*! Come fall, we will be needing many of the items below and on the **FOLLOWING PAGE TO MAKE AS MANY KITS AS WE CAN FOR GOD'S** Work, our hands Sunday, which will then be shipped out on our LWR Semi Loading Saturday. Watch your email this summer for the item of the week to be collected!



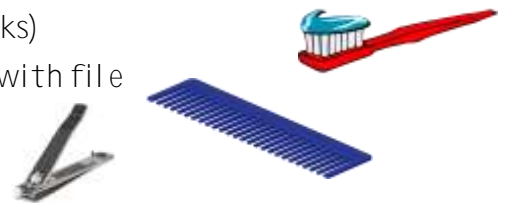
The care kits help someone to be clean & tidy which gives them self-confidence, and helps To keep them healthier!

Monetary donations are also accepted.

We need to collect items for the personal care kits



1. Dark Bath Towels
2. Sturdy Combs (NO picks)
3. Fingernail clippers with file
4. 2 bars of soap
5. Tooth brush



please pick up one or all of the above items. **Anyone can help with this.** Just bring the items **INTO THE CHURCH WHEN YOU'RE IN TOWN, OR ON ANY SUNDAY! WE WILL COLLECT UNTIL 6:00PM'S!**

Thank you so much!

LWR CARE KITS...

You can find many bulk items online at amazon and/or Walmart! watch for school supply sales in stores this summer!

School kits provide the supplies for children to go to school where they can learn many things to better themselves.



Help spread Jesus' Love

LET'S START

LWR School Kits List:

- 1- Sturdy Drawstring Cloth Backpack
14"x17" w/SHOULDER STRAPS
- 1- Box of Crayola Crayons 16 or 24 Ct
- 5- Unsharpened #2 Pencils w/erasers
Rubber banded together
- 5- Black or Blue Ballpoint Pens
No Gel Ink, rubber banded together
- 4- 70 Sheet Notebooks (wide or college)
No Loose Leaf paper
- 1- Pencil Sharpener
- 1- Pair of blunt Scissors
- 1- 2 1/2" ERASER
- 1- Ruler with centimeters

Thank you!



~ Congratulations 2023 Graduates ~

**Abby Herzberg
Grace Jahns
Aaron Krueger
Josie Lambert
Emma Waltenberg
Alexis Peterson**



2023 cranberry blossom festival

June 15th - 18th

Parade at noon on 18th

For more details go to

www.blossomfest.com

Support the community!

to all veterans that we have lost, &
their loved ones here - Thank you!

God bless



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 5-1 Carter Austin
Kelly Johnson
- 5-3 Sarah Ashbeck
Brayden Quick
- 5-5 Crystal Fraundorf
Karsten Barten
- 5-6 Lorraine Hoffman
- 5-9 Mark Purcell
- 5-10 Macy Jackan
- 5-11 Roger Wilcox
Robert Wills
Sharon Zeman
Kyle Dahlman
- 5-12 James Holberg
Jessica Spreeman
- 5-15 Joe Klopotek
Dawn Vinson
- 5-17 Joyce McCabe
- 5-18 Peyton Kopchik
- 5-20 Mark Kienert
Ben Cronce
- 5-22 Kelly Ann Fleisner
- 5-24 Robert Zimmerman
- 5-27 Linda Dresden
Cameron Mancl
Wendy Miller
Wanda Wright
- 5-30 Jodi Waltenberg
- 5-31 Becky Stultz
Karen Piper

Happy Birthday!

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 5-5 Gerald & Bonita Place
- 5-6 Chuck & Sharon Zeman
- 5-12 Andy & Brenda DeWitt
- 5-14 Steve & Marilyn Herzberg
- 5-16 Michael & Tina Fredrickson
Daryl & Phyllis Pfeil
- 5-21 Craig & Rani Mancl
- 5-23 Doug & Kelly Look
- 5-24 William & Bette Kohnen
- 5-27 Mike & Kathy Surendonk
- 5-28 James and Vicki Herzberg
- 5-29 Craig & Emily Schmidt

Happy Anniversary!

MAY BAPTISMS

- 5-2 Kade Kulas
- 5-23 Walker Green
Waylon Green
- 5-26 Abby Barnett



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FELC...

MAY...

- 14 Happy Mother's Day!
- 16 6pm Council Mtg
- 20 8am - 5:30pm Synod Assembly
- 21 Youth Sunday - SS Kids sing
SS & Conf - Last Day
Graduate Recognition
- 27 LHS Graduation
- 28 Pentecost
- 29 Memorial Day - Office CLOSED

JUNE...

- 2 Last day of school 1/2 day
- 11-17 Confirmation Camp @ Pine Lake
- 18 Float in Parade
- 20 6pm Council Mtg
- 21 Summer Begins
- 25-29 VBS - Stellar - Shine Jesus Light 4:45 sack lunch,
5:30-8:15pm

Have a Fantastic Summer!





Get your VBS T-Shirts!

T-shirts will be available to order until June 7th.

SIZE	\$	ORDER Qty	SIZE	\$	ORDER Qty
Adult S	\$7.49		Y-XS/2-4	\$5.59	
Adult M-L	\$9.49		Y-S/6-8	\$5.59	
Adult XL	\$10.49		Y-M/10-12	\$5.59	
Adult 2XL	\$11.79		Y-L/14-16	\$5.59	
Adult 3XL	\$11.99		Crew Cap	\$9.49	

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

TOTAL: _____
Qty & \$

Please cash or check (made out to FELC) in an envelope with order form. Bring to office, mail in, or place in the offering plate.



First English presents...

Vacation Bible School

Summer ~ June 25-29, 2023

Save the Date!

THIS YEAR'S THEME WILL BE...

Stellar ~ SHINE JESUS' LIGHT!



We will be sending out Registration/Health forms via e/mail.



All are welcome ~ bring a friend!

T-shirts will be available to order until June 7th.

