



April 2026

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.

The Right Starting Point

The right starting point? Does it matter?

Any carpenter will give you a dissertation on the importance of plumb lines, square corners, and level foundations. Painters and woodworkers insist on correctly prepared surfaces. And gardeners pontificate about soil, sunshine and water.

The right starting point is essential for how things will turn out later. That's especially true in our belief systems. For instance, Jesus' disciples really believed he was the Messiah. They got that right.

But they also believed that as the Messiah, he would restore the kingdom to Israel. He would end the Roman occupation and free them from political oppression. They never fully understood his teaching about the Kingdom of God. They refused to hear his warnings about his coming death. It simply didn't fit with their starting point.

Jesus' death on the cross enveloped everything in darkness, shook the earth, opened graves, tore the temple curtain from top to bottom, and broke the hearts of all who loved and followed him. Their hopes and dreams had died in bloody agony before their eyes.

How could they even begin to lay a new foundation?

Could they find a new starting point?

Welcome to Easter and the resurrection of Jesus the Messiah. In his dying, he conquered sin, death, and the grave. In his rising, he proclaimed that death no longer wins. The Kingdom of God wins. All things will be made new...and are even now being transformed into his likeness.

The resurrection of Jesus is the starting point for our faith in Jesus. Paul the Apostle wrote to the early Christians in Corinth, *"If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all people. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead!" (1 Corinthians 15:17, 19, 20a)*

Praise be to Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord!

In the love and power of our Risen Lord,

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

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

~ *Every Sunday We Celebrate the Resurrection* ~



The Staff at FELC...

Pastor	Cheryl Davis	715-818-5690	cdavis002@luthersem.edu
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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...

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/1 Doug Machon
Ellie Barten

4/2 Lori Walloch

4/4 Dale Aumann

4/5 Barb Arndt
Riley Look

4/7 Joyce Keehn

4/8 Horace Davis

4/9 Barb Springer
Randy Brewer

4/10 Loretta Schoechert

4/11 Josh Barnett

4/12 Larry Reinke
Christine Uber
Sherry Kopchik

4/13 Helen Zimmerman
Elise Waltenberg

4/14 Carol Schneeberg

4/16 Georgia Mueller

4/17 Don Pryor

4/18 Steve Springer

4/21 Pat Waltenberg

4/23 Ken McGrath
Edgar DeMunck

4/24 Harold Long

4/25 Teri Mueller
Amelia Barnett

4/26 Karla Fredrickson

4/27 Carol Leverance

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

4/9 Dave & Gail Grzadzielewski

4/19 Geoffrey & Jane Anderson

4/20 Ryan & Carol Leverance

4/21 Jon & Kim Holberg

4/27 Greg & Sarah Ashbeck

APRIL BAPTISMS

4/24 Amalia Maher

4/28 Ellaina Zelin

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Writer's Corner...

A Light Shines

By Horace Davis

Those who walk in darkness will see a great light.

The ELW Hymn 322 is a descriptive reminder that emphasizes the love of God for us exemplified through the life Jesus. Thomas Kempis, writer of the hymn, relates the life and reality of Jesus, the Son of God, starting with God, “taking our mortal form for mortals sake” to his resurrection and ascension, and sending to us the Holy Spirit “to guide, strengthen and cheer us.” Lent leads us to the commemoration of Jesus' arrest, torture, crucifixion, death and burial - FOR US. Verse 5 of the hymn is a reminder that:

“For us by wickedness betrayed. For us a crown of thorns arrayed. He bore the shameful cross and death. For us he gave his dying breath.”

Many congregations and un-churched people speak more to the tragedy, sacrifice of the Lamb, and the darkness that ensued, ensues. This is a right and proper grief to honor. We do relate on Good Friday and Dark Saturday to the darkness experienced in the trials, torture, crucifixion (metaphorically), and the experience of hell in our lives. Do think however, that not enough to-do is made of Easter. Yes, the church is grandly decorated with white lilies, the appropriate sermon is preached, and hymns with lots of Hallelujahs are sung. But where is the continuous joy of Easter? Christ IS risen! And, not for that Sunday only, but he is with us forever. Verse 6 of hymn 322 gives us the reason why we should continuously celebrate Easter. It is a reminder that.

“For Us he rose from death again. For Us he went on high to reign. For Us he sent his Spirit here to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

This is why N.T. Wright, in his book “Surprised by Hope”, recommends that Easter is The Good News and we are to celebrate with festivals, parties, singing songs of praise, and dancing—all year long. Easter is the reason we are Christians!

So in closing, here is a challenge to myself and to us all. Let us continue the celebrations; and to counter the modes of “darkness” in our lives, now and throughout the year(s). Print out, and keep with you, a copy of the ELW Hymn 322, “Oh Love, How Deep.” (I keep a copy on my Kindle) Refer to it every now and then. The Holy Spirit says that this is FOR US.

Holy Week...

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday April 2

6:30pm Worship

Good Friday April 3

12pm Meditation

1:00pm Worship



Join Us Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 5th

Worship at 8:30 & 10:30am
with Holy Communion



Holy Week



Palm Sunday

Triumphant Entry

- **Reading:** Matthew 21:1-11
- **Activity:** Make palm crosses or a palm-themed craft.



Monday

Cleansing the Temple

- **Reading:** Mark 11:15-18
- **Activity:** Take a reflective walk, silently praying about what you wish to eliminate from your life or discussing obstacles that hinder your time with God.



Tuesday

Speaking in Parables

- **Reading:** Matthew 22:1-14
- **Activity:** Choose a Gospel and count how many parables Jesus uses. For a challenge, identify which parables are in each Gospel book.

Wednesday

Silent Wednesday

- **Reading:** Psalm 46
- **Activity:** Engage in a quiet challenge, focusing on prayer, Scripture or silent activities with minimal speaking.



Thursday

The Last Supper

- **Reading:** John 13:1-20
- **Activity:** Re-create a foot washing ceremony by washing each other's feet.



Good Friday

The Crucifixion

- **Reading:** Isaiah 53
- **Activity:** Draw, paint or write about the theme of sacrifice or caring.



Holy Saturday

Day of Preparation

- **Reading:** Luke 23:50-56
- **Activity:** Prepare for Easter by decorating or cooking traditional foods like bread.



Easter Sunday

Jesus Is Risen!

- **Reading:** John 20:1-18
- **Activity:** Celebrate the Resurrection with joy and fellowship by singing worship songs or sharing a meal.



Happenings...



FELC's Youth Group Presents

Bars & Bingo

Sunday, April 26th

after Worship

in the Gathering Area

Bring a candy bar to play!

All are welcome!

THANK
YOU
VOLUNTEERS

A **HUGE** thank you to **EVERYONE**
who was involved with the
Lenten Soup Suppers.

We could not have them without you all!

Anne H, Carol L, Nora L, Loretta S, Sarah A,
Olivia A, Sherry K, Brian T, Chris G, Doug M,
Andrea K, Trina B, Abi B, Kelly M, Jeremy M,
Holly P, Carol S, Amanda Z, Mary Ann A, Lou B,
Nate K, Andy D, Eunice M, Charlotte,
Attendees, and Confirmation Students.



It's that time of year for FELC to host a

Spring Neighborhood Meal.

Thursday, May 28th ~ 3:50p - 6:30p

Please watch for sign up sheets on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area.

Help someone receive a healthy meal in a safe environment. **Thank you!**



Donation Statements
will be ready for pickup
by April 8th. Thank you.

APRIL 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 10a W Bible Zoom 2:45p Bible - RR 7p Choir	2 7a Yoga Maundy Thursday 6:30p Worship w/1st Comm, students	3 8a M Bible Zoom OFFICE CLOSED Good Friday 12p Meditation 1p Worship	4
5 NO SS or Conf. Happy Easter! 8:30 & 10:30a Worship w/comm. 	6 Pastor Off	7 7a Yoga 3:30p GLOW	8 10a W Bible Zoom 1p Quilters 1:45p SHINE - W Happy Birthday Horace!  7p Choir	9 7a Yoga	10 8a M Bible Zoom OFFICE CLOSED Pastor works at home	11
12 8a Confirmation 9:30a Worship w/SS 10:30a Prayer Mtg	13 Pastor Off	14 7a Yoga 3:30p GLOW	15 10a W Bible Zoom 10:15a SHINE - AV 2:45p Bible - RR 7p Choir	16 7a Yoga	17 8a M Bible Zoom OFFICE CLOSED Pastor works at home	18
19 8a Confirmation 9:30a Worship w/SS	20 Pastor Off	21 7a Yoga 3:30p GLOW Year End 6:30p Council	22 10a W Bible Zoom 1p Quilters 1:45p SHINE - W Earth Day  7p Choir	23 7a Yoga Lora Lien 11a Funeral @ HT Funeral H 10-11a Visit.	24 8a M Bible Zoom OFFICE CLOSED Pastor works at home	25
26 8a Confirmation 9:30a Worship w/SS Youth Group - Bars & Bingo	27 Pastor Off	28 7a Yoga 5:30p CE Mtg	29 10a W Bible Zoom	30 7a Yoga		



HANDPRINT BUTTERFLY OF NEW LIFE

The butterfly reminds us of new life and the Resurrection. After three days, Jesus rose from the dead and brings us the hope of new beginnings. This simple craft helps children celebrate that joyful truth.

What you need:

- Light-colored construction paper
- Card stock
- Glue
- Paint
- Paintbrush
- Paper towel or baby wipe



What you do:

- Cut out a butterfly body from the construction paper.
- Glue the butterfly body onto the card stock.
- Use a paintbrush to coat the palm of one hand with paint.
- Press your painted hand beside the butterfly body to create a wing.
- Repeat with your other hand to make the second wing.
- Clean your hands with a paper towel or baby wipe.
- Optional: Add Luke 24:5-6 (NIV) around the butterfly or on its body:

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"



FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection helps us live with gratitude every day.

Use the picture and number code to fill in the blanks for Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV


























- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. Jesus | 5. cross |
| 2. weary | 6. endured |
| 3. endured | 7. scorning |
| 4. opposition | 8. shame |



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|------------|--------------|
| 1. Jesus | 5. perfecter |
| 2. lose | 6. him |
| 3. pioneer | 7. faith |
| 4. sinners | 8. hand |



- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. eyes | 5. right |
| 2. us | 6. grow |
| 3. joy | 7. God |
| 4. heart | 8. throne |

"... fixing our  1 on  1, the  3 and  5 of  7. For the  3 set before  6 he  3 the  5, its  7  8, and sat down at the  5  8 of the  8 of  7. Consider  6 who  6 such  4 from  4, so that you will not  6  2 and  2  4."

Hebrews 12:2-3 NIV