



MAY 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.

Some Thoughts About Clear Vision

From my April 24th journal entry:

It's 6 a.m. Today I have surgery on my left eye to replace its cloudy lens. Will everything seem brighter at 6 a.m. tomorrow? Right now, I can't tell the true appearance of anything, but I don't notice it because my lens has changed slowly, and I've adjusted my expectations downward without realizing it.

After my friend's cataract surgery, she was delighted to be able to see me. Later, she was amazed to see the water tower! She'd almost been blind but had only noticed that it seemed "smokey" in her apartment.

I wonder how much of life is like this. Do we slowly become blind to what is happening around us? Do we gradually accept what is wrong and find a way to make it right—or at least acceptable in our own eyes? It can be challenging to maintain clear vision about loving God with our whole heart, mind, soul, and strength and our neighbors as ourselves!

Scripture is the consistently clear "lens" for spiritual eyes that tend to grow cloudy and go blind when God's Word is neglected. At this time of great political division in our country, God's Word can be trusted. It will never be politically biased. It will always speak TRUTH, and through it, the Holy Spirit will lead us to clear thinking and righteous living.

Jesus Christ does not manipulate the truth for personal gain. He IS the Way, the Truth, and the Life for us. He IS our clear lens. The Apostle Paul's words to Timothy say it better than I can:

But as for you...from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the people of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. II Timothy 3:14a,15-17

Trusting in Jesus, God's Living Word,

Pastor Cheryl



All scripture is God-breathed...

2 Timothy 3:16

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: 9:30am each Sunday with Communion also, FB Live, and YouTube

~ Every Sunday We Celebrate the Resurrection ~



The Staff at FELC...

Pastor Cheryl Davis	715-818-5690	pastorcheryl@felwr.org
Administrative Assistant	Janet Graczowski	715-818-5693 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 inclement weather and church closings please tune to TV Channel 7 WSAW

Birthday, Anniversary, & Baptisms...

MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/3	Sarah Ashbeck	5/27	Linda Dresden
	Brayden Quick		Wanda Wright
5/5	Crystal Fraundorf		Wendy Miller
	Karsten Barten		Cameron Mancl
5/6	Lorraine Hoffman	5/30	Jodi Waltenberg
	Linda Francis		Becky Stultz
	Logan Maciejewski	5/31	Karen Piper
5/9	Mark Purcell		
5/10	Macy Jackan		
5/11	Roger Wilcox		
	Sharon Zeman		
	Kyle Dallman		
5/12	James Holberg		
5/15	Dawn Vinson		
	Joe Klopotek		
5/17	Joyce McCabe		
5/18	Peyton Kopchik		
5/20	Mark Kienert		
	Ben Cronce		
5/24	Bob Zimmerman		

MAY ANIVERSARYS

5/5	Jerry & Bonnie Place
5/6	Chuck & Sharon Zeman
5/12	Andy & Brenda DeWitt
5/14	Steve & Marilyn Herzberg
5/16	Mike & Tina Fredrickson
	Daryl & Phyllis Pfeil
5/19	Steve & Barb DeMunck
5/21	Craig & Rani Mancl
5/23	Doug & Kelly Look
5/24	Bill & Bette Kohnen
5/27	Tom & Kathy Surendonk
5/28	Jim & Vicki Herzberg
5/29	Craig & Emily Schmid



Writer's Corner...

FORGIVEN and FORGIVING

Anne Handschke

During Lent we are reminded quite often how God forgives us. I found myself in a refresher course about forgiving others. Christians need to receive forgiveness and to extend forgiveness as I found out.

A couple of months ago I sought someone's help. I felt I was in the twilight zone as our conversation moved on. This person's reaction seemed very foreign to me. They had not heard me or took seriously what I said. I was dismissed. God was waiting for my response. I was going to take the high road. Right??? Move forward and let it go. Right?? Of course this is what we Christians do.

I was restating the event to a cherished friend when I stopped! I heard the anger in my voice. Had I not moved forward and past this? That is when a load of bricks landed on me. Did I forgive this person? I have been forgiven more than 70 times 7. Was that even on my radar to forgive? In the Lord's Prayer we pray to be forgiven as we forgive those who trespass against us. My lesson was to remember to completely forgive as we are completely forgiven. I put that load of bricks aside and ask God's help in forgiving this person. Now I'm moving on to the next lesson God has for me to learn or relearn.

Heavenly Father, Jesus hung on a cross and defeated death so our sins are forgiven. Help us to remember to forgive those who sin against us. Help us to let go so we can be used by you to help our neighbors. Thank you for always loving us even when we need a load of bricks to help us see when we are blinded.

In Jesus name we pray. Amen



Happenings...



A Prayer for Mother's Day...

Dear Lord, thank you for the blessings of children and families. Help us rely on you for guidance, patience and even-temperedness throughout our days. We pray that our children will love you, worship you and serve you with their God-given gifts. Grant us the wisdom to know how to influence them to live godly lives. Prevent us from provoking our children to anger and from manipulating or nagging them. Fill our households with abiding love and respect. And help us all be united in purpose to do your will. In the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.



★ ~ Thank you Vets ~ ★





Allison Jahns, Riley Look, & Mason Maciejewski

2 **Honor our Grads**
0 **Sunday, May 18th**
2 **at 9:30am Worship**
5 w/cake & coffee to follow



You're going places!

Commencement marks the beginning of a new stage of life, with graduates heading off to discover opportunities and face challenges. *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* — a Dr. Seuss book that's now a popular graduation gift — whimsically explores life's ups and downs, twists and turns.

Young adults will face excitement and slumps, fun and loneliness. They'll feel a sense of purpose as well as confusion and even fear. "There are some [things], down the road between hither and yon, that can scare you so much you won't want to go on," writes Dr. Seuss.

In the storybook, the life-traveler's sheer determination propels him beyond difficulties. But God's children don't need to journey alone. Our heavenly Father walks beside us on every winding path and around every corner. Life cannot take us anywhere God hasn't been first. Graduates — and all Christians — can trust in the promise of Joshua 1:9 "Be strong and courageous ... for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Help Needed...

FOCUS Neighborhood Meal

Sponsored by FELC @ FOCUS on West Grand Ave

Thursday, June 19th from 4-6:30pm



Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area, or call the church if you are able to help.

Thank you!

Volunteers/Helpers
for 2025-26 at Howe
Contact Rhonda thru
September 2025

GLOW
God Lights Our Way




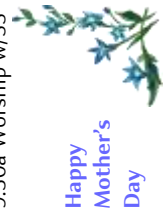


Moravian, FCUCC, Port,

UMC, First English, Grace

**Combined VBS
Coming Soon!**



Next Meeting:
Tuesday, May 6 @ 6:30pm
First Congregational
Consider volunteering!

MAY2025						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						
4 8a Confirmation 9:30a Worship w/SS Council Installation	5 Pastor Off	6 7am Yoga 6:30pm VBS Mtg @ 1st Congregational	7 10am Bible Zoom 2:15pm RR Bible 4pm Confirmation 7pm Choir	1 7am Yoga	2 8am Bible Zoom Office Closed Pastor works at home	3
11 8a Conf. Last one 9:30a Worship w/SS 	12 Pastor Off	13 7am Yoga	14 10am Bible Zoom 12pm Finance Mtg 1pm Quilters 1:45pm SHINE 4pm Confirmation 7pm Choir	15 7am Yoga	16 8am Bible Zoom Office Closed Pastor works at home	17
18 9:30a Worship w/SS Youth Sunday Grad Recognition Last Day SS	19 Pastor Off	20 7am Yoga 6pm Council Mtg	21 10am Bible Zoom 10:15am SHINE 2:15pm RR Bible	22 7am Yoga	23 8am Bible Zoom Office Closed Pastor works at home	24
25 9:30am Worship Baptism	26 OFFICE CLOSED 	27 7am Yoga Pastor Off	28 10am Bible Zoom 1pm Quilters 1:45pm SHINE	29 7am Yoga  Ascension Day	30 8am Bible Zoom Office Closed Pastor works at home	31



Teatime treat



Make these sweet sandwiches for a Mother's Day tea party.

What you need:

- 4 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 3 Tablespoons powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 6-10 strawberries, washed and sliced
- 6 slices of white bread
- Cellophane
- Adult help



What you do:

1. With an electric mixer, whip the cream cheese in a bowl until fluffy.
2. Add cream, powdered sugar, and lemon juice. Continue whipping on high speed until mixture is stiff.
3. On each slice of bread, spread a layer of the mixture. Then arrange some sliced strawberries on top.
4. Place the sandwiches together, with filling on the inside.
5. Wrap tightly in cellophane. Chill for two hours so the filling sets.
6. Trim off crusts with a serrated knife. Cut sandwiches in squares or triangles. Serve and enjoy!





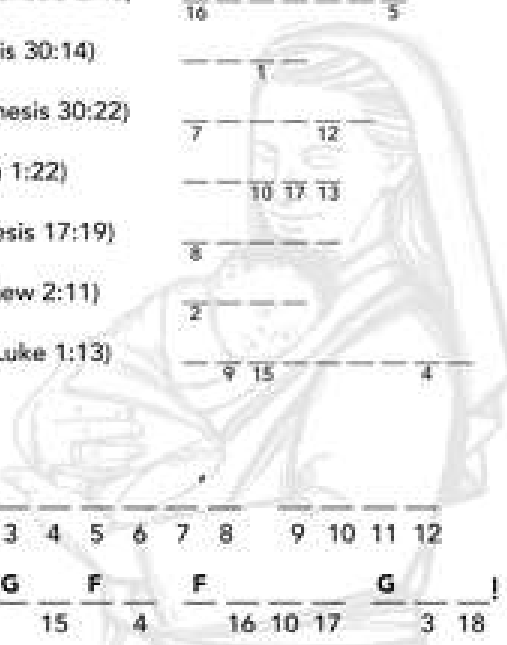
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Activity Page...

Puzzle!

Unscramble the names of these biblical mothers. Look up the verse if you need help. Then use the letters on the numbered blanks to complete the message below.

VEE (Genesis 3:20)	6 11
NNAHAH (1 Samuel 1:20)	14
RBAHEOD (Judges 5:7)	18 3
KREEHAB (Genesis 27:5)	16 5
EHLA (Genesis 30:14)	1
CLEHRA (Genesis 30:22)	7 12
MOIAN (Ruth 1:22)	10 17 13
RAAHS (Genesis 17:19)	8
AMYR (Matthew 2:11)	2
ZEBLEHATI (Luke 1:13)	9 15 4



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

G F F G

13 8 14 15 4 16 10 17 3 18