November 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.

Is It Time for Some Strength Training?

Written by Pastor Cheryl Davis

Many of you are afraid to attend a Bible study. I know this because you've told me so. You're afraid you don't know much about the Bible, and it will be obvious to others.

I understand this because I've found myself thinking those thoughts about exercise classes. "I'm too out of shape to go to an exercise class. It will be obvious to others."

This, of course, begs the question, "Do you really think others wait until they're (magically) in perfect shape before they exercise?" Hmm.

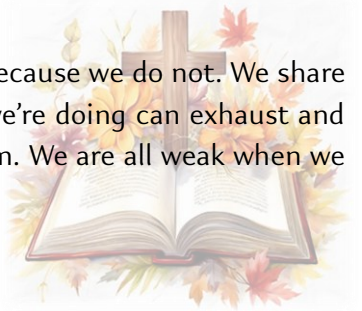
Back in my midlife years, I enrolled in circuit training at a fitness center. My muscle weakness was limiting me. I needed something more. I had already proven to myself that I'd never lift weights more than one or two times at home alone.

So, I hesitantly showed up, learned how to work the machines, and discovered both my strengths and my weaknesses. At some stations, I was strong and competent. But then I got to the arm machines: nothing there to be proud of!

"My arms are so weak," I said loudly enough so everyone would know that I knew. Maybe they wouldn't judge me.

But there was no judgment. "They'll get stronger," everyone said. "Hang in there. We did."

The Apostle Paul wrote to his student, Timothy, "I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith" *(2 Timothy 4:7)*. The Christian life can be like a challenging fight or a long race. Since we live by faith, we need encouragement and knowledge to continue to believe what we cannot see, especially when the going gets tough.



So, we study God's Word together—not because we know a lot but because we do not. We share in groups—not because we have nothing to do but because what we're doing can exhaust and discourage us. Others encourage us in faith. And we encourage them. We are all weak when we start. But we grow stronger together around God's Word.

Is it time for you to show up at a Bible study? I hope so!

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	
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Ministry Assistant	Rhonda Felton	715-818-5692	Rhonda@felwr.org
Choir/Music	Jack Schraeder/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...

11/1 Joe Fraundorf
Melina Huff
Steven DeMunck
11/2 Rochelle Grossbier
11/6 Dale Tracy
11/7 Trent Waltenberg
Ellie Look
11/9 Ainsley Barnett
11/10 Jaimee K-Dallman
11/12 Marilyn Herzberg
Amy Hafermann
11/13 Nate Koch
11/16 Wayne Herzberg
11/18 John Engelien
Sue Ulrich
Neil Statz
11/20 Luke Hafermann
Jacob Barnett
11/21 Amalia Maher
11/22 Robert Kublank
Rhonda Kehrberg
11/25 Andy DeWitt
Delilah Zelin
11/26 Keith Olson
11/29 David Ulrich
Dave Graczkowski
11/30 Josh Hafermann

Anniversary's...

11/3 John & Jordyn Chambers
11/14 Dave & Janet Graczkowski
11/22 David & Lois Christensen

Baptisms...

11/16 Jaycie Chambers

Writer's Corner...

What A Wonderful World

By Anne Handschke

The last several months I found myself lingering outside after gardening chores were completed. I would sit in my chair and breathe in the beauty surrounding me. Whether it was two squirrels playing in the maples, or the neighborhood red fox running or the summer blooms swaying in the breeze, I would find myself smiling and thinking how blessed we are to be surrounded by the beauty of our earth. Soon my thoughts went to one of one of my favorite psalms, Psalm 8. Verses 3-8, "When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon, and the stars that you have established, what are human beings are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? You have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands, you have put all things under their feet, all sheep, and oxen all the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea. O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth."

Each time I read this, I feel God's love loud and strong surrounding not just me but the entire earth and all His people. We have been so blessed by all the beauty that surrounds us all whether it is the colorful flowers or the colored leaves falling in the wind. God's love is greater than my imagination can grasp. And I know that this love is for all His children.

I could almost hear Louis Armstrong singing just to me, "What A Wonderful World."

One of my favorite lines of the song is "friends shaking hands saying how do you do, they really saying I love you." That pleases God that we love each other and care for each other. The love we have is to be shared and shared and shared. All these thoughts are pointing to Jesus. Jesus walked on this earth, teaching, and revealing God's love to all. Jesus knew he would be the way to the Father as he hung on the cross, defeated death to rise and reign at the right hand of his father. All because God loves me that much! Yes, He loves you that much!!! Thanks be to God.

Heavenly Father, thank you for blessing us richly with the world we live in. Help us to care for the rivers, birds of the air, and all your people! Continue to show us that your great love is for all of us. Help us to love one another and offer a helping hand to those in need. Remind us often to build each other up with forgiveness and love. Thank you always for your love. Amen.

All Saints' Sunday...

November 1, 2026



Ellen Dahl
11/7/2025



Jodi Smith
12/8/2025



Charles Wallen
12/31/2025



Lora Lien
1/5/2026



Jean Leslie
2/2/2026



Linda Moskonas
3/8/2026



Micah Moskonas
4/8/2026



Mary Engelien
4/13/2026



Joyce McCabe
6/21/2026



Elynor Zurfluh
7/24/2026



Leanne Pearson
10/1/2026



James Herzberg
10/21/2026

Happenings...



A Reason to Give Thanks

After Eddie Rickenbacker and his companions were rescued after more than three weeks adrift in life rafts in the Pacific, he was asked what lesson he had learned from the ordeal. He answered that anyone with plenty of fresh water to drink and enough food to eat should never complain.

His words still speak clearly today. Many blessings can become so familiar that we barely notice them. This Thanksgiving, pause to give thanks for clean water, nourishing food, a safe place to rest and the people God has placed in your life. Let gratitude continue long after the holiday table is cleared.

ChurchArtPro.com

Sunday, November 22nd

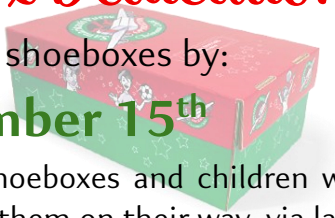
Thanksgiving Service

w/coffee and pie to follow

Please sign up on the BB to bring a pie. Thank you!



OCC Shoebox Dedication



Bring back your filled shoeboxes by:

Sunday, November 15th

We will pray over the shoeboxes and children who receive them, then send them on their way, via land, sky, and sea.

Christmas flowers for the Altar.

Purchase one at the store or floral shop and bring it to FELC.
Just call or email and let Sherri know who it is in honor or memory of by Thursday, December 17th.
(715-818-5691 or Sherri@felwr.org)
Please bring your flower anytime Christmas week by Noon on Wednesday, December 23rd.

We will be having Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion Thursday, December 24th, worship times are coming soon.
All are welcome – bring your family, a friend, or your neighbor.
Merry Christmas to you all!

November 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 **All Saints' Sunday** 8a Confirmation 9:30a Worship/SS 10:45a Choir **Daylight savings – Fall back 1 hour!**	2 Pastor Off	3 7a Yoga 3:30p GLOW	4 10a W Bible Zoom 2:45p BIBLE- RR 4:30p Worship Mtg 5:14p Musicians M	5 7a Yoga	7 8a M Bible Zoom OFFICE CLOSED Pastor works at home	8
9 8a Confirmation 9:30a Worship/SS, Choir sings 10:45a Choir **Prayer Ministry**	10 Pastor Off	10 7a Yoga 3:30p GLOW	11 10a W Bible Zoom **12p Finance Mtg** 1p Quilter 1:30p SHINE-W	12 7a Yoga	13 8a M Bible Zoom OFFICE CLOSED Pastor works at home	14
15 8a Confirmation 9:30a Worship/SS 10:45a Choir *OCC Shoebox Dedication*	16 Pastor Off	17 7a Yoga 3:30p GLOW	18 10a W Bible Zoom 10:30a SHINE-AV 2:45p BIBLE – RR **6:30p Council**	19 7a Yoga	20 8a M Bible Zoom OFFICE CLOSED Pastor works at home	21
22 8a Confirmation 9:30a **Thanksgiving Worship/SS, Choir sings, pie social to follow** 10:45a Choir	23 Pastor Off	24 7a Yoga **No GLOW** 5:30p Christ. Ed	25 10a W Bible Zoom 1p Quilters 1:30p SHINE-W	26 7a Yoga **OFFICE CLOSED** *Happy Thanksgiving!*	27 8a M Bible Zoom OFFICE CLOSED Pastor Off	28
29 9:30a Worship 10:45a Choir **NO Confirmation or SS** **1st Advent**	30 Pastor Off					

Bread Painting



When you eat this fun snack, be thankful for Jesus, who is our Bread of Life.

What you need:

- Small cups
- Milk
- Food coloring
- Clean, food-safe brush
- Slice of bread
- Toaster or toaster oven
- Butter, optional



What you do:

1. Set out one small cup for each color you want to use.
2. Pour 1 to 2 tablespoons of milk into each cup.
3. Add a few drops of food coloring to each cup and stir until the color is bright.
4. Using a clean, food-safe brush, gently paint a picture or design on the bread. Be careful not to soak the bread.
5. When you're finished painting, toast the bread. Add a little butter, if desired, and enjoy!



Reminder:
Ask an adult for help when using a toaster or toaster oven.

"I am the bread of life."
John 6:35, NIV

Activity Page...

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER.
Psalm 136:1, NIV



