



March 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.

A Gift from God

For it is by grace you have been saved through faith—and this [faith] is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8

A woman and her pastor were discussing a challenging situation in her life, and the pastor suggested they pray about it together. She replied, “I don’t have enough faith to pray for this.” To which her pastor responded with a kind touch to her hand, “Then pray with whatever faith you have.” (Thanks to Carol Allen for sharing this story with me.)

Believers frequently measure their faith. “My faith is strong,” or “shaky,” or “lost,” or as the woman said in the story, “My faith is not enough.” Somewhere, they’ve received the message that it takes a certain amount of faith to ask God to provide for their needs. Is that true?

The verse above from Ephesians 2:8 sets us straight. Faith is not from ourselves. It is a gift from God so that no one can bemoan or boast about their level of faith. No one clenches their teeth, holds their breath and commands faith development within their heart. That’s not God’s way.

Earlier in Ephesians 1:7-8, Paul wrote that God has forgiven us through Jesus Christ’s blood according to “the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us.” The “riches of God’s grace” includes the gift of faith which is given to us at baptism. The Holy Spirit begins the work of faith within us and others share the message of Jesus with us as we get older. In Romans 10:17, Paul wrote, “...faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.”

We as believers don’t drum up our own faith. Instead, we put ourselves where we can hear the message of Jesus Christ. We teach our children. We teach each other. We pray, “O God, you are growing the faith of Jesus within me. Keep my heart open to the riches of your grace that you so willingly lavish upon me.”

Amen and Amen!

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	cdavis0002@luthersem.edu
Admin. Assistant	Janet Grackowski	715-423-2840	fel@felwr.org
Financial Secretary	Sherri Krutzik	715-818-5691	Sherri@felwr.org
Ministry Assistant	Rhonda Felton	715-88-5692	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 bad weather and church closings tune to TV Channel 7 WSAW.**

Birthday & Anniversary...

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/2	Michael Fredrickson	3/24	Marlene Lipke
	Troy Vetrone		Mark Sweeney
3/5	Mark Umnus		Ashley Tessmer
3/6	Daloris Pfister	3/26	Jim Kitowski
3/7	Sandy Brewer		Leanne Rzentkowski
3/8	Bailey Clark	3/27	Greg Ashbeck
	John Barten		

MARCH ANNIVERSARYS

3/9	Eric & Tonya Wangen
3/19	Ben & Tanya Cronce
3/22	Harold & Judy Long
3/24	Randy & Sandy Brewer

MARCH BAPTISMS

3/12	Delilah Zelin
3/27	Lucah Clark

3/11	Cedar Hamilton
3/14	Ashley Koch
3/15	Abby Look
3/16	Roger Duchow
	Joan Johannes
3/17	Abby Barnett
3/20	Joan Hegg
3/21	Arlene Keehn
	Delores Wills
3/22	Kathy Deppe
	Gary Barten
3/23	Lucah Clark



Writer's Corner...

Celebrating Human Achievements and a Humble Savior

By Dave Mueller

“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8

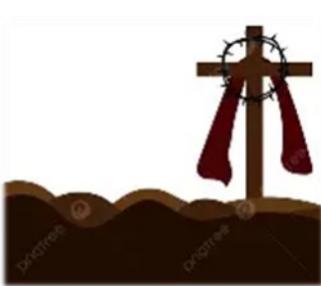
Never before has the U.S. team excelled in winter sports like it did in the 2026 Winter Olympic Games in Milan and Cortina, Italy. U.S. athletes amassed 33 medals, the most ever, including 12 gold, 12 silver and nine bronze medals.



Here are a few of the most heroic performances:

- ◆ 41-year-old Elana Meyers Taylor already had a stellar Olympic career with three silver and two bronze Olympic medals from 2010-2022, but she capped it with her 1st-ever gold medal in the Women’s Mono-bob (1-person bobsled).
- ◆ On the other end of the athletic age spectrum, 21-year-old Jordan Stolz from Kewaskum, Wisconsin, lit up his first Olympic Games with two golds and one silver medal in Speed Skating.
- ◆ In Ice Hockey, the U.S. men’s and women’s teams both won their 3rd-ever gold medals, as each team defeated Canada, 2-1 in overtime, in the gold medal games.

Nothing brought our nation together better than celebrating the achievements of our Olympic athletes. Unfortunately, this unity was fleeting. We remain a nation that is fiercely divided politically, even to the extent of separating families and friendships.



In contrast, Christ’s example for us was not that of a hero who won the gold medal in every contest. Rather, his ministry showed us the depth of humanity, filled with humility, compassion for all people, and unimaginable suffering through his ultimate act of love on the cross. He reminded us of our Christian duty to show kindness, respect and love to everyone we meet, no matter how different they may be.

As we think about our Savior during Lent and Holy Week, we can be confident in our faith because Jesus rose on Easter and ascended to prepare a place for us in his heavenly kingdom. We pray that the Holy Spirit works within us to walk humbly with our God.

LENTEN THEME:

What's It Really Like to Pray?

Worship Wednesdays at 6:30pm

- March 4th When the Dialogue Goes South: Human Resistance to God's Attention
- March 11th When Obedience Seems Impossible: The Human Pays Attention
- March 18th When God Enlists Community: God's People Listen and Obey
- March 25th When the Wheels Come Off: God's Promises Fulfilled.

Soup Suppers

Wednesdays at 5:30pm

This Lent, join us for some soup, bread, bars/cookies, and fellowship before Worship.

Remember : to keep this going we need you to sign up on the bulletin board in the Gathering Area to make soups, bread, and bars, also to help with set-up and clean-up! Thanks.



Holy Week Services: A Journey of Faith and Renewal

Experience the depth of God's love through our Holy Week services:

- **Palm Sunday:** March 29th at 9:30am – Celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem as we lift our voices in praise and prepare our hearts for the journey to the cross and the empty tomb.
- **Maundy Thursday:** April 2nd at 6:30pm – Join us for a meaningful service of Communion and remembrance of the Last Supper.
- **Good Friday:** April 3rd at 1pm – A solemn time of reflection and prayer as we remember Christ's sacrifice on the cross.
- **Easter Sunday:** April 5th at 8:30 & 10:30am – Rejoice in the victory of the Resurrection! Worship with us as we celebrate the risen Lord.

Invite friends and family to join you for this sacred week of worship.

Easter Flower Dedications

Help fill our sanctuary with the beauty of Easter flowers - bring in a flower for Easter! **We are no longer ordering from a floral shop.** Dedicate a flower in memory, or in honor of a loved one (fill out the form below). Dedications will appear in the Easter bulletin and flowers may be taken home after 2nd service. Bring in your flower/form by 3/31/2026.

Name: _____

Flower In Memory of ___ In Honor of ___ Name: _____

Type of Flower: _____

Bring in flower & form by 3pm on Tuesday, March 31st.

Thank you!



When Life Needs a Little Wind

Botanists say that trees need the powerful March winds to flex their trunks and main branches, so that the sap is drawn up to nourish the budding leaves.

Perhaps we need the gales of life in the same way, though we dislike enduring them. A blustery period in our fortunes is often the prelude to a new spring of life and health, success and happiness, when we keep steadfast in faith and look to the good in spite of appearances.

—Jane Truax

Happenings...



Help support the Family Center,
FOCUS Pantry, and Hannah Center

Right here in Wisconsin Rapids
thru March 15th

Look for the large boxes in the entry area
by the office to collect personal hygiene
products and cleaning supplies for the
homeless.



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Spring forward in faith!
CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS and
join us on time for worship.

QUILTER NEEDS: If you have sheets,
larger pieces of fabric, curtains, bed-
spreads or tablecloths, clean and in
good condition, please bring them in.

The Youth Group presents...



Sunday, April 26th after Worship

Must bring a candy bar to play!

More information to come.



March 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 8a Confirmation 9:30a Worship w/SS	2 Pastor Off	3 7a Yoga 3:30p GLOW	4 10a W Bible Zoom 2:45p Bible RR 5:30p Soup Supper 6:30p Worship #2 7p Choir	5 7a Yoga	6 8a M Bible Zoom OFFICE CLOSED Pastor works at home	7
8 8a Confirmation 9:30a Worship w/SS Prayer Ministry Mtg 	9 Pastor Off	10 7a Yoga 3:30p GLOW	11 10a W Bible Zoom 12p Finance Mtg 1p Quilters 1:45p SHINE - W 5:30p Soup Supper 6:30p Worship #3 7p Choir	12 7a Yoga	13 8a M Bible Zoom OFFICE CLOSED Pastor works at home	14
15 8a Confirmation 9:30a Worship NO SS Last day for H⁴H Hygiene Drive	16 Pastor Off	17 7a Yoga St Patrick's Day!  NO GLOW 6p Council	18 10a W Bible Zoom 10:15a SHINE - AV 2:45p BIBLE - RR 5:30p Soup Supper 6:30p Worship #4 7p Choir	19 7a Yoga	20 8a M Bible Zoom OFFICE CLOSED Pastor works at home	21
<hr style="border: 1px solid green;"/> ← SPRING BREAK WEEK →						
22 8a Confirmation 9:30a Worship NO SS 	23 6p Youth make soup Pastor Off	24 7a Yoga NO GLOW 5:30p CE Mtg	25 10a W Bible Zoom 1p Quilter 1:45p SHINE - W 5:30p Soup Supper 6:30p Worship #5 7p Choir	26 7a Yoga	27 8a M Bible Zoom OFFICE CLOSED Pastor works at home	28
29 8a Confirmation 9:30a Worship w/SS PALM SUNDAY 	30 Pastor Off	31 7a Yoga 3:30p GLOW Bring in Easter flowers w/slip				



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!"

