



OCTOBER 2024
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.

God's Goodness and Joy

My dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

On Sunday, September 29th, you blessed me with love and well-wishes as we celebrated my 70th birthday. I returned home filled with joy, gratitude, and many birthday cards which I'm savoring a few at a time.

The Lord has shared abundantly with us at First English. God always knows best, and God knew we would be able to flourish together as a congregation. I've been called to lead you, but equally important, I've been called to grow spiritually alongside you. I often remark that the sermons I preach are a message for me before they're a message for you. That's absolutely true! Thank you for giving me this freedom to be your sister in Christ as well as your pastor.

Thank you for your love and honesty. Thank you for sharing your lives with me. It's a great honor to walk with you in your joys and sorrows. I'm never too busy for you; in fact, you and your concerns are on the top of the list. Every. Single. Day.

The devotion from *God Calling Devotional Journal* this morning is perfect for me, and it's probably perfect for you, too. I share this with permission from Barbour Publishing, Inc.

Do not sorrow, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

Nehemiah 8:10b

I have promised that for every day you live, the strength shall be given you. Do not fear. Face each difficulty sure that the wisdom and strength will be given you for it. Claim it. Rely on Me to keep My Promise about this. In My Universe, for every task I give one of my children, there is set aside all that is necessary for its performance. So why fear? Why doubt?

Leaving fear behind for the Lord's joy,
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 each Sunday w/Communion & FB Live, then YouTube @ 11:15am



~ Every Sunday We Celebrate the Resurrection ~

The Staff at FELC...

Pastor	Cheryl Davis	715-818-5690	pastorcheryl@felwr.org
Administrative Assistant	Janet Graczkowski	715-423-2840	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, & Baptism...

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/1 Randy Kehrberg
Collin Mancl
10/2 Kim Holberg
10/8 Matt Kublank
Hannah Wangen
10/10 Samantha Saylor
10/11 Mary Ann Ashbeck
Larry Klafka
Brian Tessmer
10/12 Susan Holberg
Dotty Ho
10/14 Yvonne Kostusak
Mary Umnus
10/15 Dorothy Brooks
Doug Look
10/20 Carol Daebler
Randy Jahns
10/21 Carol Wallen
10/22 Jim Herzberg
Allison Alft
10/23 Michelle Klafka
10/24 Nathan Klafka
10/25 Marcia Sweeney

10/26 Chris Grimes

Bill Dhein
10/27 Martene Chesebro
10/30 Daryl Pfeil
Dave Mueller

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARYS

10/1 Mark & Julie Sweeney
10/6 Frank & Diann Reich
10/9 Jon & Trina Barnett
10/10 Matt & Stacy Bronk
Craig & Karen Lambert
Jerry & Georgia Mueller
Mark & Becky Stultz
10/12 Mark Purcell & Rochelle G
10/13 Brandon & Samantha Franz
10/17 Brady & Paige Jackan
10/18 Gary & Cindy Kester

OCTOBER BAPTISMS

10/6 Olivia Ashbeck
10/25 Madilyn Stultz



OCTOBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 7am Yoga	2 10am Bible Zoom 2:45pm River Run 4:30pm Chosen 7pm Choir	3 7am Yoga	4 8am Men's Bible Zoom Pastor works @ home OFFICE CLOSED	5
6 8am Confirmation 8:30a Lectio Divina Stdy 9:30a Worship w/SS Adult Study to follow	7 Pastor Off	8 7am Yoga 3-5pm GLOW	9 10am Bible Zoom 10:30am SHINE 12pm Finance Mtg 1pm Quilters 1:45pm Wellington 4:30pm Chosen 7pm Choir	10 7am Yoga FOCUS Neighborhood Meal	11 8am Men's Bible Zoom Pastor works @ home OFFICE CLOSED	12
13 8am Confirmation 8:30a Lectio Divina Stdy 9:30am Worship w/SS Adult Study to follow	14 Pastor Off	15 7am Yoga 3-5pm GLOW 6pm Council Mtg	16 10am Bible Zoom 2:45pm River Run 4:30pm Chosen 7pm Choir	17 7am Yoga 5:15pm Christ Ed Mtg	18 8am Men's Bible Zoom Pastor works @ home OFFICE CLOSED	19
20 8am Confirmation 8:30a Lectio Divina Stdy 9:30am Worship w/SS Adult Study to follow Worship Mtg OCC Shoebox Kick-Off Quilts on display	21 Door County Fall Pastor Off	22 7am Yoga Conference 3-5pm GLOW	23 10am Bible Zoom 1pm Quilters 1:45pm Wellington 4pm Confirmation 4:30pm Chosen 7pm Choir	24 7am Yoga	25 8am Men's Bible Zoom Pastor works @ home OFFICE CLOSED	26 8:30am - Noon LWR Semi Loading
27 Reformation 8:30a Lectio Divina Stdy 9:30am Worship w/SS Adult Study to follow 9th Gr Confirmation	28 Pastor Off	29 7am Yoga 3-5pm GLOW	30 10am Bible Zoom 4pm Confirmation 4:30pm Chosen 7pm Choir	31 7am Yoga Happy Halloween! 		

Writer's Corner...

Remembering Our Sins No More

Jeremiah 31:34 says, "I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

Over 30 years ago, Wisconsin Rapids was shocked by the news that a woman had been stabbed and beaten to death, and since both victim and murderess worked for the local newspaper, the coverage was detailed and constant. Therefore, unlike God, whose forgiveness is infinite and who does not remember our sins, many of us remember this sin. My memory of it includes what some might call "God-incidences", when coincidences compound to make good things happen.

Sometime after the trial and incarceration, my husband and I joined First English after worshipping at the Methodist Church, at which I was a member, for the first 10 years of our marriage. One weekend My father and stepmother visited, and my father said he would like to go to the Methodist Church because his cousin, the Rev. Milton Feldt, and the husband of another cousin, Myrtle Foster, had been ministers there. He also wanted to see the remodeled sanctuary. Of course, I went with them, which set the wheels in motion for what was to come.

Our conversation the evening before had included the murder because my parents lived in Waupun, and their local paper had just published a story about the murderess being released to a halfway house there. It included quotations from neighbors who opposed the placement and more information than the usual release statements include. My stepmother's late husband had been a prison psychologist and later a warden, and although the neighborhood was also my parents' neighborhood, her opinion was that people were paroled to halfway houses all of the time without a fuss, and the media was making the most of this release because there was an audience.

Therefore, I knew how my stepmother felt when I sat down in the pew and saw that the people behind us were the ex-in-laws of the woman we had discussed. They had been among the few people who had supported her during the trial and incarceration. I also realized we would be greeting them during the passing of the peace, so I wrote a note on my bulletin asking my parents if they wanted to offer to take the parolee to church. They nodded approval.

When we turned to greet the couple, I said, "These are my parents, Paul and Jo Wiese. They live in the neighborhood where Jane is being released." Their faces fell as they anticipated more of the criticism that had been in the paper. When I explained that my parents were willing to take Jane to church, they looked greatly relieved and wrote down the contact information to get clearance for them, which was routine and immediately granted.

So, when Jeffrey and I visited my parents and went to church with them one Sunday several months later, Jane was with them. It was the first time Jeffrey, and I had taken communion with my parents since their marriage, and as we walked up the aisle, I was thinking how meaningful it was to share this ritual in the church in which I had been raised, attended Sunday school with my new stepmother's children, and received my first communion. However, there was not room for all of us at the communion rail, so Dad and Jane knelt first, and Jeffrey, my stepmother, and I took communion with the next group.

I was only disappointed for a few moments, however, because I quickly realized that this division was also meaningful because it was a reminder that we are never separated from the love of God. We are all members of Christ's family, and all receive his forgiveness for our sins.

Pumpkin Prayer

In *The Pumpkin Patch Parable*, Liz Curtis Higgs uses kid-friendly analogies for the Christian life. Many parents now use a Pumpkin Prayer while carving jack-o-lanterns in October. What a great reminder about everything God has done for us!

- While cutting off the pumpkin top, pray, “Lord, open my mind so I can learn new things about you.” (See Proverbs 1:7.)
- While removing the seeds and pulp, pray, “Remove the things in my life that don’t please you. Forgive the wrong things I do and help me forgive others.” (See Matthew 6:14-15.)
- While making eyes, pray, “Open my eyes to see the beauty you’ve made in the world around me.” (See Psalm 104:24.)
- While making the nose, pray, “I’m sorry for the times I’ve turned up my nose at your many gifts.” (See James 1:17.)
- While making the mouth, pray, “Let everything I say please you.” (See Psalm 19:14.)
- While lighting the candle, pray, “Lord, help me shine your light to others through the things I do.” (See Matthew 5:16.)
- Display your carved pumpkins as examples of how God’s love transforms us into new creations. (See 2 Corinthians 5:17.)

Coloring
Page...



SAVED BY GRACE

Leaders of the early church discussed whether newly converted Gentiles must keep the Law of Moses. How did Peter answer?

Directions: Cross out every third letter. Then write the remaining letters in the blanks below to complete Acts 15:11, NIV.

NO/WEGBEKLIBEVGEITIYS
TUHRCOUJGHRTHOEGPRAH
CEIOFXOUKRLHORCDJSESP
USGTHWATYWEOARBESPAVLED
RJUCSTQASHTHBEYFAROE



_____ Acts 15:11, NIV

Happenings...

GLOW

God Lights Our Way

Needed please:

Individual pkd snacks:
Fruit snacks
Teddy grahams
Gold fish
Rice Crispy treats
Fruit bars
8 oz Water Bottles

FNM
Thursday, October 10th
4pm - 6:30pm
We still have spots to fill!

FOCUS
NEIGHBORHOOD
MEALS



REFORMATION
Sunday

October 27th - wear red
9th Grade Confirmation
w/cake and coffee to follow



Now Playing...

Wednesdays
at 4:30pm New Time
through October
In the Library at FELC...

The
CHOSEN

Council...

First English Friends,

Thank you! I thank you for being a member, for attending First English online or in-person and most of all for believing in God's plan for us all.

In June, many of you attended a gathering we called Congregation Conversation where your congregational council, and Pastor Cheryl, asked you to share why you have chosen to be part of the First English community, what keeps you coming back and how we may continue to serve you. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and there were also some valuable suggestions for improvement; noted and very much appreciated.

As your council president, I am happy to report that First English continues to thrive and evolve through these small stirrings of change. Most important is clarity and transparency; a lot of thought and consideration will be given to everything we do. Hopefully you notice subtle signs that we have taken to heart your feedback. Is the bulletin board laid out differently or service feeling a bit livelier? Has the question crossed your mind "who is in charge of (fill in the blank), I would love to help?" Or perhaps you want to be part of a committee or event, but when you learn the details, your schedule is already full. We hear those questions, and we want to help.

Many people want to help. Following the Congregation Conversation, a few members stepped up to create the brochure to show our structure and provide some clarity. Soon, you can expect that brochure listing all the committees and groups that make up First English, as well as the primary contact person. Reach out and try something new!

In closing I go back to my topic of gratitude. You are all so valued and I look forward to serving you all in the exciting days ahead. After all, by serving each other, we are also serving the Lord.

CKHamilton

Cedar Hamilton
Council President



Thank you Pastor

We pray that in this season,
God would be your constant
companion. We thank you for
your endurance as our spiritual
leader.



Help Needed...

*** ATTENTION FELC - We NEED You!

Each fall we book a semi in our parking lot to be an in-gathering site for other churches in the area to bring their boxes of LWR Quilts, School Kits, and Health Kits for the needy. It is usually the confirmation students duty to head this up with their parents. We no longer have the amount of students that we used to have. This task is getting too large for just the confirmation families to handle.

This is where YOU come in, we need you to come help on Saturday, **October 26th from 8:30am - Noon**. We have a Leader, but we still need people to come in to help unload boxes from the cars and into the semi trailer.

Snacks will be provided! Please sign up on the Bulletin board in the Gathering Area, or call the office at 715-423-2840.

Thank You!



FELC is still Collecting for LWR...

School Kits:

Notebooks
Wooden Ruler
Black/Blue Pens
Scissors
Unsharpened Pencils
Pencil Sharpener
Crayons
Pink eraser



Now - Sunday, October 22nd

Health Kits:

Dark Bath Towel
Strong Comb
Bar Soap
Toothbrush
Nail Clipper w/file

