

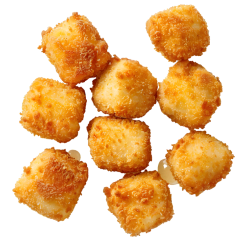
Cross Beams July 2026



VBS kicked off with Counselors from Luther Point Bible Camp on Sunday June 14 and were with us all week long. On the last day, parents and community members were invited for the send off with skits and songs



Cheese Curd Festival with our very own Pastor Pete on the Fryer



Summer Fun Series
Hosted by English Lutheran
and Our Saviors on
June 4th in East End Park



What's Inside:

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July 2026

I have spent a lot of time the last few months working with Luther Point Bible Camp. First was to find a new executive director. Then it was staff training where I helped out with a few of their sessions. Then this last week, it was VBS, which was awesome! But it was so hard for me to remember, I am not on staff. I am too old to be a counselor. But it did bring back some great memories of being on staff there. The summer of 1997 was my first summer of working at Luther Point. I can still feel that pit in my stomach that I got when my mom turned onto County Road M. I was suddenly seized with fear. There was no way that I could work at camp! The people that were working there were way too holy for me! I was just a miserable sinner, how could I work there? It was funny because I very quickly discovered that these counselors were simply college students like me. They were not the pinnacles of holiness that I had in my mind from when I was a camper. They were broken, sinful, human beings, just like me.

One of the ways that I realized this was in our movie selection. Actually, we only had 2 movies on VHS at camp that summer other than a bunch of Veggie Tales. Those two movies were "Tommy Boy" and "Dazed and Confused". Tommy Boy was a Chris Farley and David Spade movie that came out of the world of Saturday Night Live. "Dazed and Confused" was a movie about a group of Texas high schoolers on the first night of summer vacation in 1976. It's a movie that really doesn't have a plot, but it has a ton of memorable lines. By the end of the summer, we had watched it a couple of times each weekend and had it memorized. In fact, I know that I can still quote it line by line.

In the summer of 2006, I was so excited to share that movie with the summer staff that I worked with that summer and when the movie was over, they all looked at me and said, "That was the dumbest movie ever! What's the point?" I guess that in the end, I realized that it was a dumb movie, but to this day, it still brings back great memories for me.

As I mentioned earlier, the other options that we had were a bunch of Veggie Tales, the original ones. Half an hour, sweet and sour, Veggie Tales!! That summer was the first time that I had ever heard of them. Who would've thought? A computer animated show using vegetables to tell biblical stories... yeah, I would never have thought of that. But it was fun and interactive and made the bible come alive! And we watched them on repeat that summer as well. In fact, the next summer, we performed Daniel and the Lion's Den, the Veggie Tales version, as our musical that summer.

It is hard to believe that the summer of 1997 was almost 30 years ago! As I look back on that summer, the options that we had for movies were much like the way that the summer went. We had this dichotomy going on that summer. Sometimes we were good and sometimes we were bad. Some of us got into a lot of trouble that summer, but there was also a lot of grace. A lot of grace!! Here, these people that I was so worried about being around because they seemed like they were super holy when I was a kid, were simply that, people. Broken, sinful people that are forgiven by grace and loved by God. Just like us. We are all a mixed bag, some parts are good, some parts are bad but all of us are forgiven and loved by God. Thanks be to God!!!

Pastor Pete

CHURCH NEWS

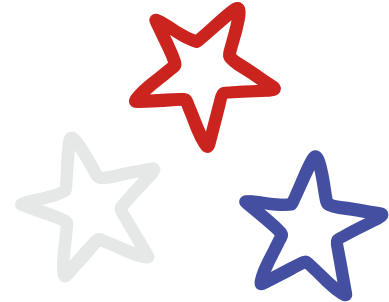
Heart-Touching One Life at a Time

Mission Statement: To reach children and families in tough financial situations. We can assist with basic needs by providing clothing, shoes, coats, toys, or other essential items to help alleviate the challenges faced in these difficult situations.

Heart is here to lend a helping hand to families who need support during tough times. We have access to furniture, school supplies, laundry soap, coats, bikes, toys, and an array of other items.

Recipients will be vetted to confirm the needs. There are limits to what we can offer. We can help families at Christmas with gifts for children, and we work with the Gift Box Program as well as Basics for Kids with donations of coats and boots.

We are here to help change lives and improve the quality of life for those who need a helping hand. We are not allowed to help with things like rent, utility bills, etc. If you are in need or know someone else in need, please reach out to Cindy at 715-307-9615 or Donna at 715-307-2213.



2026 CHURCH SOFTBALL SCHEDULE				
Games start at 4 pm and 7 pm on Sunday 7 pm on Mon/Tues				
Sunday 5/17/26	4:00PM	Big River 2	VS	Big River 1
Sunday 5/17/26	7:00PM	English Lutheran	VS	Our Saviors
Monday 5/18/26	7:00PM	Zion	VS	Bethel
Tuesday 5/19/26	7:00PM	St Francis	VS	C3
Sunday 5/31/26	4:00PM	C3	VS	Big River 2
Sunday 5/31/26	7:00PM	Bethel	VS	St Francis
Monday 6/1/26	7:00PM	Big River 1	VS	English Lutheran
Tuesday 6/2/26	7:00PM	Zion	VS	Our Saviors
Sunday 6/7/26	4:00PM	Zion	VS	English Lutheran
Sunday 6/7/26	7:00PM	Big River 1	VS	St Francis
Monday 6/8/26	7:00PM	Big River 2	VS	Our Saviors
Tuesday 6/9/26	7:00PM	C3	VS	Bethel
Sunday 6/14/26	4:00PM	Our Savior's	VS	C3
Sunday 6/14/26	7:00PM	Zion	VS	Big River 1
Monday 6/15/26	7:00PM	St Francis	VS	Big River 2
Tuesday 6/16/26	7:00PM	English Lutheran	VS	Bethel
Sunday 6/21/26	4:00PM	Bethel	VS	Big River 2
Sunday 6/21/26	7:00PM	Zion	VS	C3
Monday 6/22/26	7:00PM	St Francis	VS	English Lutheran
Tuesday 6/23/26	7:00PM	Our Saviors	VS	Big River 1
Sunday 6/28/26	4:00PM	Bethel	VS	Big River 1
Sunday 6/28/26	7:00PM	English Lutheran	VS	C3
Monday 6/29-26	7:00PM	Our Saviors	VS	St Francis
Tuesday 6/30/26	7:00PM	Zion	VS	Big River 2
Sunday 7/12/26	4:00PM	Our Saviors	VS	Bethel
Sunday 7/12/26	7:00PM	Big River 2	VS	English Lutheran
Monday 7/13/26	7:00PM	Big River 1	VS	C3
Tuesday 7/14/26	7:00PM	Zion	VS	St Francis
make up game			VS	
Tournaments: Saturday July 25th/26th				
Please notify Donna Constant if you cannot make a game. 715-307-0451				



The **Pierce County Fair** in Ellsworth, Wisconsin, will be held from August 13 to August 16, 2026. We need volunteers to assist in our Fair Stand. Please see the sign-up sheets at the church or contact the office to get signed up for a shift or two today. We need you!

Pastor Pete will be on Vacation June 30-July 7.



CHURCH NEWS

Women's Brunch & Bible Study

Please join us again in the fall. Please watch the church calendar and the newsletter for updates.

Pierce County Fair Pie Baking

We will once again be baking pies at church for the Pierce County Fair. We invite and encourage you to come bake with us! We will be meeting on the following dates to make pie:

- Wednesday, August 12, 2:00 p.m.
- Thursday, August 13, 9:00 a.m.
- Friday, August 14, 6:00 a.m.
- Saturday, August 15 we will assess for Sunday

A sign-up sheet will be in the back of the church by mid-July.

If you are not available to help bake at church, monetary donations are also welcome to help cover the cost of ingredients.

If you bake pies at home, the committee asks that you please let us know what kind of pie you are bringing and when you plan to bring it and only 9-inch pies for consistency.

A sign-up sheet will be in the back of the church. Please donate only pies that do not require refrigeration. No cream pies, please.

Pies may be dropped off at the fair stand during operating hours or at the church August 13-16 between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.



random
Acts of kindness

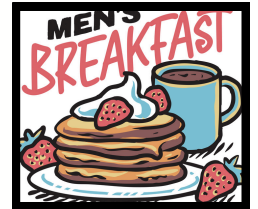
There are baskets located by the front and back doors of the church for donations of nonperishable food items to support the **Pierce County Food Pantry**.

The Food Pantry is in need of the following items:
Flour, Oatmeal, Sugar, Baked Beans, Dry Soup Mix, Ramen Noodles, Cereal, Canned Meats, Vegetable Oil, Dish Soap, Laundry Soap, Paper Towels

To donate money online:
hungerpreventioncouncil.com, click on Give

Thank you for your "kindness".

Men's Breakfasts-Thursdays at 8 a.m. We look forward to seeing you!
The suggested donation is \$5.00 to cover the cost of food.



Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer opportunities available at English Lutheran Church this summer include:

English Lutheran Food Booth at the Pierce County Fair: August 13-16.

During the school year, the following volunteer opportunities are available at English Lutheran Church:

Sunday School: Most Sundays, 9:45-10:15 AM.

Kingdom Kids: The first Wednesday of the month, after school, 3:30-5:00 PM.

Confirmation: Be a guide for 6th-9th graders on Wednesday nights, 6:30-7:30 PM.

Worship Leaders: Volunteer to help with song leading or playing an instrument during Sunday morning worship.

Please talk with Pastor or contact the office to get more information! We have lots of fun when we work together! You make a difference and are appreciated!

Thank you to all who helped with VBS! We couldn't do it without our volunteers. A big thank you to our camp counselors Niibin, Eddie, Liam, Jasmine, and Piper.

Thank you to those who donated Rhubarb to the Pierce Co. Fair Pie making project.



English Lutheran Church Council Minutes June 16, 2026

Members Present: Pastor Pete, Mark Groen, Danielle Chollett, Cindy Baird, Eric Van Nocker, Mike Harris

Absent: Miranda Mewes

The meeting was called to order by Mark Groen at 6:31 PM.

1. The mission statement was read.
2. Pastor Pete read a devotion.
3. Tonight's meeting agenda was approved.
4. May 19th, 2026 council meeting minutes were approved previously via email correspondence.

5. REPORTS:

- a. Finance / Treasurer's Report - Met Tuesday, 6/9. CDs are expiring in 2 days; a decision was made to renew the CD account that contains \$125K into a 7 month CD account; \$25K CD to go into a money market account; with interests from both CDs earned to go into checking to help offset some current expenses. Thrivent accounts are being addressed (Mark and Eric have both signed now to replace Gary and Greta previously). Bills to be paid for Rush River Concrete and Asphalt Maintenance and Paving soon.
- b. Property - Rush River Concrete and Asphalt Maintenance and Paving bids to progress forward after approval granted in a special congregational meeting at the end of May.
- c. Worship and Music - No recent committee meetings. Missy and Pastor continue service planning with their shared Google documents. No current updates or acute concerns otherwise. Anticipate the next committee meeting in August.
- d. Children, Youth & Family - VBS actively going on at present (June 15-18th). 33 registered (down from last year comparatively) but going well and Luther Point counselors supporting. Church families are registering for Luther Point Bible camps this summer as well. Will be thinking about the fall soon (Sunday School, Confirmation, Kingdom Kids). May need to assist Our Saviors in the fall as they await an interim pastor.
- e. Pastor's Report - VBS has been fun; going smoothly. Sponsored Elvis in the Park for the Summer Fun Series in conjunction with Our Saviors. Pastor joined the fire department; probationary member initially, with classes in the fall for recertification purposes. Vacation planned Wednesday, July 1 to Tuesday July 7 (Melba supporting during time away).
- f. Endowment - Next meeting is in August.

1. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. New Church Directory - 67 family units photographed (out of 74 slots offered). Directory layout to be developed next. Positive feedback overall. Connected with many members over the course of the event.
- b. Communications coordinator - A church member has expressed interest in the position; Pastor will pursue offering that candidate the position.
- c. Communion Rail/Kneeler Cushions - Eric to assist in stripping and re-staining communion rail. Danielle to investigate reupholstering and obtain quotes accordingly (to be replaced with durable, neutral fabric that matches carpet).
 - i. Strip and wax dining room floor anticipated in July.
 - ii. Maintenance with Tami Place is going very well. Appreciate all of her hard work.
- d. SWOT Analysis - themes for threats yet to be developed; meeting to be scheduled between Pastor, Mike, Danielle in near future, hopefully ahead of Pastor's July vacation; will consider more focused group SWOTs in future as well to continue to refine analysis

2. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Fair stand - Pie ladies would like to replace curtains where the pies are held with screen or similar; 9 am meeting planned for Wednesday, June 17th to discuss and implement a plan for this specifically. Cleaning date for Fairstand currently scheduled for Sunday, July 19th, 2026 after Church with various projects to be developed in the meantime for the planned cleaning date.
- b. Twins Game Outing - Group outing packages (tickets as low as \$9, can be more depending on seats obtained; with average decent seats costing \$30-40 per ticket); Pastor proposed getting a bus and making the event a congregational outing. Recommended Saturday, September 12th, 2026 (play against Cleveland that day). Will start to get the word out and see how much interest is generated.
- c. Pie makers would like to purchase a convection oven; funds to come out of the women's funds (approximately \$9000 in Thrivent account, \$4805 available in dedicated account, endowment fund); discussion was had regarding this request. Motion was made to approve, passed unanimously.
- d. Tuesday, July 21st council meeting cancelled as Pastor is away at Bible Camp; motion made and unanimously approved. If council business arises in the meantime, email correspondence will occur between council members and if necessary, an interim meeting would be called to order (virtually or in person) if necessary to address any acute issues.

3. LORD'S PRAYER & ADJOURNMENT – Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 07:44 PM. Next Scheduled Meeting, Tuesday, August 18th, 2026.

July 2026 English Lutheran Church Calendar

Jul 2026 (Central Time - Chicago)

Church Calendar, Office Event Schedules, To Do Holidays in United States

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9am - Worship 10am - Fellowship Hour 7pm - Softball-ELC vs. C3	29 Update Livestream Link in 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)	30 Pastor on Vacation 1:30pm - Celebrating Seniors	1 Independence Day	2 6pm - Recovery Support	3 Independence Day 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)	4 Independence Day
5 Pastor on Vacation 9am - Worship 10am - Fellowship Hour	6 Update Livestream Link in 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)	7 1pm - Game Day (Sr. Ctr.)	8 8am - Men's Breakfast 1pm - Euchre (Sr. Center) 6pm - Recovery Support	9 8am - Men's Breakfast 1pm - Euchre (Sr. Center) 6pm - Recovery Support	10 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)	11
12 9am - Worship 10am - Fellowship Hour 7pm - Softball-ELC vs. Big	13 Update Livestream Link in 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)	14 7am - Painting Stripes on the 11am - Discovering Tuesdays 6:30pm - Finance Meeting	15 8am - Men's Breakfast 6pm - Recovery Support	16 8am - Men's Breakfast 6pm - Recovery Support	17 Deadline for Newsletter 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)	18
19 9am - Worship 10am - Fellowship Hour	20 Update Livestream Link in 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)	21	22 1pm - Euchre (Sr. Center) 6pm - Recovery Support	23 1pm - Euchre (Sr. Center) 6pm - Recovery Support	24 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)	25
26 9am - Worship 10am - Fellowship Hour	27 Update Livestream Link in 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)	28 6:30pm - Church Council	29 8am - Men's Breakfast 6pm - Recovery Support	30 8am - Men's Breakfast 6pm - Recovery Support	31 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)	1



See the church website for the most up-to-date calendar

PRAYER list



Prayer requests:

Janet Arndt
Max Beck
Matt Feuerhelm
Julie Gore
Dean Mewes
Judy Morrow
Darren Place
Sophia Sokolik
Elaine Wegerer

Military service prayers:

Josh Bechel
Jonathan Bergman
Kohl Flock
Ethan Ladwig

Church COUNCIL

2026 Church Council

Members

President: Mark Groen
Vice President: Mike Harris
Treasurer: Eric Van Nocker
Secretary: Danielle Chollett
Cindy Baird
Miranda Mewes

Financial Update

May 31, 2026 Cash Balances
General Fund = \$76,665.28
Dedicated Fund = \$107,152.02
Total = \$183,817.30
Thrivent = \$118,406.58

General Fund
Income = \$9,903.85
Expenses = \$15,113.59

The next finance meeting:
July 14 at 6:30 p.m.

English Lutheran Church
229 West Main Street
Ellsworth, Wisconsin
Phone: 715-273-4617

Church Website:
www.englishlutheranchurch.org
Find us on Facebook!
EnglishLutheranEllsworth

Office Hours

Please contact the office for an
appointment

office@englishlutheranchurch.org
715-273-4617

Deaconess

The role of the Deaconess consists of sending thoughts, well wishes, and congratulations to members of our church to let them know we are thinking of them. Please notify the church office or any deaconess worker with prayer requests.

The Deaconess for July is Mary Sokolik.

Staff

Pastor Pete Warren

pastorpete@englishlutheranchurch.org
Cell: 218-760-6974 Office: 715-273-4617

Communications Coordinator: Renee Van Nocker

office@englishlutheranchurch.org
Office: 715-273-4617

Finance Administrator & Accompanist: Ava Maxwell

finance@englishlutheranchurch.org

Music Director: Missy Kowalchyk

music@englishlutheranchurch.org

Custodian: Tami Place