

Cross Beams October 2026

english
LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.englishlutheranchurch.org



Backpack blessings



RALLY SUNDAY



CONFIRMATION KICKOFF



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October 2026

This month, I would like to share an article by you from Dave Ramsey on the topic of stewardship. Please read this and I look forward to further conversations with you.

Blessings!

Pastor Pete

Rethinking Stewardship by Dave Ramsey

When many church members hear the word “stewardship,” one idea pops into their minds: capital campaigns. They think about building projects and fundraisers. They can’t help it. That’s how stewardship has been defined in churches for years. It’s become part of our Christian culture.

But stewardship—and being a steward—really isn’t a Christian idea at all. It’s actually an Old English concept drawn from the days of castles and realms and the people who ran them. In those days (think Braveheart), people lived in realms—areas of land approximately the size of three counties today. In the middle of that realm was a castle, where the lord of the realm lived.

Now, the lord owned everything in the realm. He owned all the land, all the farms, all the buildings, and all the commerce. Everything was under his control and authority. Of course, the lord’s castle was the nicest home in the realm, but another house nearby was pretty nice as well. That’s where the lord’s steward lived. The steward didn’t own anything, but he took care of everything that belonged to the lord. He managed the crop rotations, the labor force, the taxes, the banking, the commerce, and any of the lord’s other interests.

That’s what stewardship was all about—asset management. So, in the early 1600s when the translators of the King James Bible needed a word to describe how God wants believers to handle money, the idea of stewards and stewardship was a natural fit.

On one hand, God is the Lord. Psalm 24:1 says, “The earth is the Lord’s and the fulness thereof.” He owns it all. On the other hand, we are responsible to manage His stuff for His glory. That makes us stewards—or managers—of His resources. And just like the Old English lord held the steward responsible for his stewardship, we are going to give an account of how we manage God’s resources (1 Corinthians 4:2).

As believers, we can’t disconnect the ideas of ownership and stewardship. When we understand our responsibility as asset managers, we can gratefully receive what God passes to us and enjoy what He has entrusted to us. But if we start thinking of ourselves as owners, it becomes much harder for us to open our hands (and our hearts) to use His money for His purposes.

If we’re going to reclaim the biblical definition of stewardship in the church, we’ve got to make sure believers understand the facts about God’s ownership and our stewardship. We’ve got to help Christians embrace a paradigm shift that changes their thinking across the board in every area of life.

We’ve got to stop thinking like owners and start acting like managers.

CHURCH NEWS/EVENTS



Sharing Shed

The current team is giving up the duties of maintaining the sharing shed. We need new volunteers to maintain it, otherwise, it will be going away at the end of October. Please talk to Pastor Pete

Thank you

A big thank you to everyone who helped out at our Rally Day Kick-Off! A lot of fun was had by all and a lot of faces got painted, Thank you Madaline Saver for volunteering your time.



We will be celebrating All Saints Sunday on November 1, 2026. If you would like to honor a loved one who has passed between November 2, 2025 and present, please email the church office their name and a picture to be included in the honoring of our brothers and sisters in christ who also passed this year.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer opportunities available at English Lutheran Church include:

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

Worship Volunteers: Help with ushering duties, serving communion, or hosting fellowship

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, 5:30–7:30 PM.

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!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We will be serving a family meal following Kingdom kids on the First Wednesday of most months. We are also proving meals for the confirmation students every Wednesday. If you are interested in volunteering to prepare, serve and clean up from a meal, please reach out to Pastor Pete, the office, or any member of the CYF team.

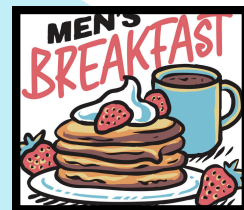


Women's Brunch & Bible Study

Pastor Pete will prepare brunch for all women of the church on Wednesday, **October 21, 2026 at 9:30 A.M.** A donation of \$5.00 is appreciated for the cost of food. We are looking forward to seeing you in the Fireside Room. All are welcome for the brunch as well as all are welcome to participate in the Bible Study but not obligated to stay. Questions please contact Melba Smith at 641-740-7855. God Bless!!

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. Join them on October 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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.

Quilters Meeting

Monday October 12, at 5:30pm

All are welcome to join

No Experience necessary to participate

CHILDREN AND YOUTH NEWS

Sunday School

Join us on Sundays during service for Sunday School. All children ages 4 to grade 5 are welcome to join our teachers Kayla Zimmer and Piper Van Nocker for a lesson, craft, game and song. Children will leave after communion and be released at 10:15.



Teachers: Piper Van Nocker and Kayla Zimmer

Class Schedule: 9:45-10:15 am

September 13th - 1st day of class: Kayla and Piper
September 20th - Kayla
September 27th - Piper
October 4th - Kayla
October 11th - Piper
October 18th - Kayla
October 25th - Piper
November 1st - Piper
November 8th - Kayla
November 15th - Kayla
November 22nd - Piper
November 29th - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
December 6th - Kayla
December 13th - Piper
December 20th - Kayla & Piper Christmas Party
December 27th - NO CLASS
January 3rd - Kayla

Winter schedule to follow at a later date

Kingdom Kids

4k through 5th grade students can join us on the first Wednesday of the month after school from 3:30 to 5:00pm starting in October. We will have a bus bring the EES kids right after school. We will have a snack, sing songs, play games, and learn about God! Families are invited to join us for a meal at 5:00 p.m.

Let the little children come to me ...
it is to such as these that the
kingdom of God belongs.

Mark 10:14, NRSV



Kingdom Kids

3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. With a meal for
the children and families at 5:00 p.m

Wednesdays
October 7
November 4
December 2
January 6
February 3
April 7
May 5.

Transportation will be provided via
school bus from EES to English
Lutheran Church. We will have a snack,
sing songs, play games and learn about
God!

Confirmation

6th -9th grade students are invited
to join us for Confirmation
Wednesday nights. Dinner will be
served from 5:30-6:30 each night
followed by class and activities
from 6:30 to 7:30. There are a lot
of fun activities planned and
would love to have you join us.
Please reach out to the office or
Pastor Pete if you have any
questions.



Mark your calandars

English Lutheran Church
will be celebrating the
Affirmation of Baptism of
eight of our youth on
Sunday, October 25. Join
them as they take their next
step in their faith journey.
Fellowship to follow after
service with cake and
celebrations.



COUNCIL MINTUES

English Lutheran Church Council Minutes

September 15th, 2026

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

Absent: Miranda Mewes, Mark Groen

The meeting was called to order by Mike Harris at 6:43 PM.

1. The mission statement was read.
2. Pastor Pete read a devotion.
3. Tonight's meeting agenda was approved.
4. August 18th, 2026 council meeting minutes were approved previously via email correspondence.
5. REPORTS:
 - a. Finance / Treasurer's Report - No meeting in September due to scheduling conflicts with finance committee members. The finance report was reviewed. Offering has been lower than budgeted. Ava to transfer over fair stand earnings (roughly \$30,000 earned); \$10K into fair stand dedicated fund and \$20K into general fund. A generous \$6000 offering was made to the kitchen fund. The finance report is approved.
 - b. Property - Property committee meeting to be called soon. Misc projects including inner front door fixes and others to be discussed at this upcoming meeting.
 - c. Worship and Music - Meeting was had on Wednesday 9/9/2026.
 - i. Will not have Wednesday Advent Services this year. Advent Sundays are as follows: November 29th, December 6th which will be Advent Festival December 13th will be the Pageant, December 20th - Cantata
 - ii. Advent tea service will be planned again for December. Planning underway within the designated committee.
 - iii. Christmas Eve Services at 2 PM and 4 PM (no Christmas day services).
 - iv. Lent - early again in 2027. Easter is March 28th, 2027 and Ash Wednesday, February 20th, 2027.
 1. Will have Wednesday night Lent services; Holden to be planned.
 2. Suppers to be planned; plan for soups to be made at church or commercial purchased (i.e. Indianhead). Sign up for dessert and clean up help only.
 3. Maude Thursday - evening service at English
 4. Good Friday - ecumenical service; anticipate this year's will be at St. Paul's UCC given schedule.
 - v. Next Meeting date to be determined and as needed if any acute concerns develop.
 - d. Children, Youth & Family - Kayla Zimmer and Piper Van Nocker will be teaching Sunday School this year. Confirmation to start Wednesday, 9/16; includes Our Saviors and Eisvold/Svea. Kingdom Kids to continue; games and activity planning underway and will start in October. First communion class to be held in the fall
 - e. Endowment - 3 requests were made, all from/for CYF activities/programs including confirmation, Kingdom Kids ; all approved with endowment funds and Thrivent action funds.
 - f. Pastor's Report - Been very busy; 3 funerals last week with one burial (gravesite) service as well. Last Saturday, a hospice request was made for an Eisvold member and while visiting, visited other members at Preferred Senior Living while there. The Twins game Saturday was successful. Renee is doing great in the secretary position. Anticipates a busy fall ahead.

Cont.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Fair stand -

- i. Questions were raised whether a committee is needed to continue to plan and coordinate for next year and to support fair stand leaders (Paul, John and Dan) and to continue discussions where needed.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Sharing Shed - Plans to discontinue Sharing Shed due to Bethel Basement Blessings offering similar services and current folks that are managing it, especially in the elements of winter coming up, are not interested in continuing Sharing Shed at this time. If someone wants to take it over, they are welcome to but otherwise, it will be discontinued by winter.
- b. Fall Stewardship Campaign/New Members - New members service to be anticipated soon.
- c. Halloween Party at the Fair - Cindy was asked if a group wanted to do something at the event in our fairstand; event is planned for Saturday, October 31st from 2-8 PM. The charge would be \$100 to participate in the event. Limited offerings to be sold but would be a fundraiser. Council agrees that we should proceed in participating in this event.

8. **LORD'S PRAYER & ADJOURNMENT** – Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 PM. Next Scheduled Meeting, Tuesday, October 20th, 2026.

MEET OUR STAFF



Renee

Position: Communication
Coordinator
Fav Shape
of Pasta: Cavatappi
Home Town: Rosendale,
WI
Years at ELC: Almost 19
(give or take 18 months)

What do you do when you're not at church: I am a
licenced mental health therapist Monday-Friday. On the
weekends you'll find me acting as a stage mom for my
daughters and all their "drama." ;)
Favorite Bible Story and why: Elijah from I Kings 19. God
doesn't tell Elijah off for feeling overwhelmed and
burntout, but he also doesn't pluck Elijah out of the
tricky situation; instead, he gives Elijah what he needs in
that moment: food, and rest.



Ava

Position: Fianace and
Pianist
Fav Shape of Pasta:
Elbow (I'm a
traditionalist)
Home Town: Ellsworth
Years at ELC: Almost 65!

Baptised, confirmed and
had our wedding at ELC

What do you do when you're not at church: Love to
read and watch my Grandkids

Favorite Bible Story and why:

October 2026 English Lutheran Church Calendar

Church Calendar, Holidays in United States

Oct 2026 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 9am - Worship 10am - Fellowship Hour 10:15am - Choir Practice 6pm - Recovery Prevention	28 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)	29 1:30pm - Celebrating Seniors	30 5:30pm - Confirmation Supper 6:30pm - Confirmation	1 8am - Men's Breakfast 6pm - Recovery Support	2 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)	3
4 9am - Worship 10am - Fellowship Hour 10:15am - Choir Practice 6pm - Recovery Prevention	5 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)	6 6pm - SWOT meeting	7 3:30pm - Kingdom Kids 5pm - Kingdom Kids Family & 6:30pm - Confirmation	8 8am - Men's Breakfast 1pm - Euchre (Sr. Center) 6pm - Recovery Support	9 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)	10
11 9am - Worship 10am - Fellowship Hour 10:15am - Choir Practice 6pm - Recovery Prevention	12 Columbus Day 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)	13 11am - Discovering Tuesdays 6:30pm - Finance Meeting	14 10am - Dean Mewies 12pm - Dean Mewies 5:30pm - Confirmation Supper 6:30pm - Confirmation	15 8am - Men's Breakfast 10am - Board Meeting (Sr.) 6pm - Recovery Support	16 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)	17
18 9am - Worship 10am - Fellowship 10:15am - Choir Practice 6pm - Recovery Prevention	19 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)	20 9am - St. Croix Valley Pastors' 6:30pm - Church Council	21 9:30am - Women's Brunch & 5:30pm - Confirmation Supper 6:30pm - Confirmation	22 8am - Men's Breakfast 1pm - Euchre (Sr. Center) 6pm - Recovery Support	23 Deadline for Newsletter 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)	24 9am - Confirmation Brunch
25 9am - Worship with 10am - Fellowship Hour 10:15am - Choir Practice 6pm - Recovery Prevention	26 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)	27 9am - Footcare w/Katrina (Sr.) 1:30pm - Seniors/Kids make	28 5:30pm - Confirmation Supper 6:30pm - Confirmation	29 8am - Men's Breakfast 6pm - Recovery Support	30 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)	31 Halloween

**Military service prayers:**

Josh Bechel
Jonathan Bergman
Kohl Flock
Ethan Ladwig

**2026 Church Council
Members**

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

**Prayer requests:**

Janet Arndt	Julie Gore
Max Beck	Destin Kirchhoff
Matt Feuerhelm	Bob and Debbie Lundberg
Diana Gilbertson	Judy Morrow
	Elaine Wegerer



Please keep the family of Dean Mewes in your prayers. Dean passed away on September 28. Funeral arrangements are being planned for October 14, 2026.

Financial Update

August 31, 2026 Cash Balances

General Fund = \$82,769.79

Dedicated Fund = \$81,180.65

Total = \$163,950.44

Thrivent = \$124,022.99

General Fund

Income = \$7,559.88

Expenses = \$16,749.45

The next finance meeting:

October 13 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 October is Diane Wiskerchen

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