

# September 2025

## Cross Beams



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**The 2025 Pierce County Fair is in the books! We appreciate all the volunteers that make our Fair Stand a success! Thank you!**



When I was a retreat host at Luther Park Bible Camp in Danbury, WI, I got to wear many hats. I was a janitor, worship leader, front desk concierge, dishwasher, and many others. One of my favorites was that I got to be a go-fer for Vic, the maintenance guy. I got to be Vic's assistant and lend a helping hand where I could. I learned how to finish drywall, put up tongue and groove paneling, install windows and many other things. Throughout the year, we had many volunteers that would come to camp and help with projects. It was great to have the extra hands, but sometimes people would try projects that they had no idea how to complete. Sometimes, it was done horribly and so Vic would have to go back and fix it and redo it. And he would be frustrated and upset about wasting time and money. He told me, "I don't mind if you don't know how to do something, just ask for help. You can't blame someone for not knowing what they don't know."

That has stuck with me, "You don't know what you don't know." Meaning that you cannot recognize what you do not know. I hope that I'm not too into the weeds with double negatives. Let me put it to you this way, if you had never heard of Jesus Christ, how would you know what he has done for you? Does this mean that Christ has not resurrected? The resurrection still happened, even if someone did not know about it. If good things can happen without us knowing them, so can bad things. And we may not even realize that they are bad things. In fact, we can do bad things without even realizing it. Or it may not be bad things, it might be stuff that we are not doing. We cannot know what we do not know.

Same is true in the church. Sometimes, we are not even aware if we have weaknesses or shortcomings. It might be plain as day to other people, but we are unable to see. We need other people to open our eyes. And so we need your help. For the past two months, we have been asking you to fill out a survey that focuses on our strengths. What are we good at? What do we do well?

Now it is time for the other side of that coin. What are our weaknesses? What are our shortcomings? What areas do we need work in our church? For September, we are asking you to fill out the weakness portion of our SWOT analysis. Sometimes, we do not see our own weakness and need someone to point it out to us so we can work on it. And here is the beauty of a weakness, God takes that weakness and turns it into a gift! In my own life, my drinking was a weakness and I once heard an AA speaker talk about someone that they once heard speak. That person said, "If I could take away your drinking without a struggle, I wouldn't." Because that struggle, that challenge, that weakness will eventually make us stronger. Going through recovery was one of the greatest gifts that I could have ever received!

But first we need to acknowledge and see our weaknesses, so please help us by filling out the form attached to this newsletter. Or go online to our website and follow the links to fill it out. Or head to the easel in the back of the sanctuary and start filling out Post-It notes and stick them to the board so that we can see our weaknesses. Maya Angelou has a great quote: "Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better." We have been doing the best that we can, but we need to learn and grow so that we can do better. Please help us do and be better. Thank you and God Bless!

Peace, Pastor Pete



# CHURCH NEWS



## Women's Bible Study

During the Fall of 2025 we will study Money, Stewardship, and Generosity by the Rev. Christa Von Zychlin.

**Wednesday, September 10 at 9:30 a.m.** in the Fireside Room at church we will focus on Money-What Do We Treasure?

From Genesis through Revelation, gold, silver, and jewels serve as icons of God's goodness. And yet the love of money is a powerful source of argument, lies, and literal enslavement. King Solomon, famously, chose wisdom over treasure. Jesus leaning on his mother's values, teaches his disciples to dig deeper for real treasures.

Come join us as we embark on a journey of new adventures in our Bible Study. We meet the second Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a.m.

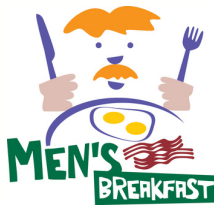
Hostess for September is Melba Smith. We look forward to seeing you!



The Pierce County Fair may be over for the year, but the appreciation we have for all of our wonderful volunteers is still at the forefront of our minds. Know how much your talents are appreciated! Thank you!

## Fellowship

Pastor Pete cooks breakfast for the guys on Thursday mornings. Gather in the kitchen at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast with a rotating menu, including fruit, coffee, and orange juice.



## Relapse Prevention Group

A Recovery Meeting in the Ellsworth Area is held at English Lutheran on Thursday nights at 6:00 p.m. Read and Discuss "Staying Sober".

## Sharing Shed

Please remember English Lutheran's Sharing Shed for your extra or no longer needed new or gently used items. (Clothing and Household Items. No Furniture, please.)

Drop off your items directly in the Sharing Shed, located outside the south door of the church. Thank you.



There are baskets located by the front and back doors of the church for nonperishable food items. All items collected will be donated to the Pierce County Food Pantry.

They are in need of:

- Flour
- Sugar
- Jelly
- Peanut Butter
- Oatmeal
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Baked Beans
- Dry Soup Mix
- Cereal
- Canned: Fruits, Vegetables, & Meats
- Shampoo
- Dish Soap
- Laundry Soap

Thank you for your "kindness".



**When:** September 7th at 9:00 am

**Where:** English Lutheran Church  
229 W Main Street  
Ellsworth, WI



Please join us to learn more about our Sunday School program. All children ages 3-12 are welcome. Bring your backpacks! Hope to see you there! Games for kids and treats for all!!!!

For more information about us:  
<https://www.englishlutheranchurch.org/>

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

Proverbs 3:5-6

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# CHURCH NEWS



## DESIGN ELLSWORTH SPEAKER SERIES



**FRESH IDEAS. BOLD CONVERSATIONS.  
A STRONGER ELLSWORTH.**

In 2018, hundreds of residents came together to imagine a more vibrant Ellsworth. The ideas captured still guide our efforts today. We're **reigniting that spirit** with quarterly events that bring nationally recognized experts to spark conversation, inspire action, and shape our future together.



**KICKING OFF THE SERIES!  
BEN WINCHESTER**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7 AT 6:30 PM  
ELLSWORTH HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**

Nationally recognized rural sociologist and speaker Ben Winchester brings data, insight, and energy about the future of small towns. Known for challenging outdated narratives of rural decline, he replaces them with surprising trends that point to resilience, renewal, and opportunity. Join us for an eye-opening and hopeful conversation to inspire fresh thinking about what's next for Ellsworth.

Learn more: [EllsworthChamber.com/DesignEllsworth2](https://EllsworthChamber.com/DesignEllsworth2)

**YOU'RE INVITED. JOIN US OCTOBER 7!**



### Youth News

**Sunday, September 7**

**Sunday School**-Blessing of the backpacks, students, and teachers during the worship service.

**Wednesday, September 17**

**Confirmation** begins (6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.) with orientation and registration for 6th through 9th graders. We need volunteers for the confirmation program. Please talk to Pastor Pete, if you are interested.

**Kingdom Kids** resumes on **Wednesday, October 1**. New this year is a family meal to be held at 5:00 p.m. when the kids are done with Kingdom Kids.

### 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 lives 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 715-307-2213.

### Weaknesses Analysis

We invite each member of the English Lutheran Church community to lend their unique insights as we continue on this exciting S.W.O.T. Analysis journey together! Your participation is not only easy and accessible—simply scan the QR code (or click on the link below) to access the S.W.O.T. Form-Weaknesses, or feel free to share your thoughts on Post-It Notes at the table in the back of the church. Every individual voice matters, and your contributions will play a crucial role in strengthening our mission. We are immensely grateful for your ongoing support and active participation, as your perspectives are the heartbeat of our growth and vitality. Let's envision a vibrant future for English Lutheran Church, one that is beautifully shaped by your collective wisdom and insights! Thank you for being such an integral part of our church family!

#### Weaknesses Analysis

<https://forms.gle/QsuHMarkRewRnbZF8>



# ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

JUNE 17, 2025

Members present: Pastor Pete, Mark Groen, Mike Harris, Cindy Baird, Danielle Chollette, Paul Tonsager, and Eric Van Nocker

1. President Mark called meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

a. All read the Mission Statement

b. Pastor Pete gave devotions.

c. A motion was made by Eric to approve the agenda and last month's minutes. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike.

## 2. Reports

a. Treasurer's Report given by Paul. Comments included a dip in envelope offering the past few months. Something to examine. Eric made a motion to approve report and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike.

b. Property report. Three bids have been received for the basement water mitigation problem discussion tabled for now. Pastor is in the process of changing the batteries that have worn out in the Exit signs. 3 different styles needed for the various EXIT signs. Talked about kitchen renovation.

c. Worship and Music. Missy will be gone for a few weeks in July

d. Children, Youth and Family. Changes will be coming to the confirmation program. Five kids will be attending camp this summer!!

e. Pastors report. Cindy and Donna are doing some incredible work with HEART and pastor pitches in where he can. We now have gas cards, Aldi gift cards, and Ruby's Pantry vouchers available to hand out thanks to HEART. Pastor Pete will be on vacation during the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>, Pr. Melba will preach. Pastor will also spend a week at Luther Point when we have kids going to camp. Funeral for Eldon Huber is coming up soon.

## 3. Old Business continued

a. 105<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, cups have been ordered, will be handed out at the fair stand.

b. Strategic Plan. Mike, Danielle, and Pr Pete will meet next week to set up the first phase of the SWOT analysis survey

c. Fair stand. Need a golf cart because we will not be allowed to drive up to the stand after 10:00 am to deliver more supplies. New Lemonade serving jugs have been ordered and were used by VBS and they worked great! Meal vouchers will be available. 12 will go to St. Paul's UCC for their Random Acts of Kindness team to handout. We will print out others that we can hand out from the church. Exhaust fan over the grills needs to be cleaned. We discussed the price of the Hot Beef Dinner. We may need to go up to \$10 this year if the cost of beef goes up too much.

d. Kitchen Renovation. Sheila Mach is drawing up plans for the kitchen remodel. A suggestion was made to check out Hines Auction to see if there is kitchen equipment that we want to purchase.

e. Basement waterproofing. The bids were presented and a decision will be made at a later date.

## 4. New Business

a. July meeting – it was decided to cancel the July meeting

b. Visitation. Pastor will provide a visitation report as part of his monthly report. Frequency and number of visitations were discussed.

## 5. Closing the Meeting

a. All joined in the Lord's prayer.

b. Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Eric and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cindy.

The next council meeting will be August 19, 2025

# Church Calendar

## September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day	2	3	4 8:00am Men's Bkfst 6:00pm Relapse Prevention Recovery	5 1:00pm Pool Players (Sr. Ctr.)	6
7 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	8 1:00pm Pool Players (Sr. Center)	9 11:00am Discovering Tuesdays (Sr. Ctr.) 6:30pm Finance Meeting	10 9:30am Women's Bible Study	11 8:00am Men's Bkfst 1:00pm Euchre (Sr. Ctr.) 6:00pm Relapse Prevention Recovery	12 1:00pm Pool Players (Sr. Ctr.)	13
14 9:00am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship	15 1:00pm Pool Players (Sr. Center)	16 9:00am Foot Care (Sr. Ctr.) 6:30pm Church Council	17 6:00pm Confirmation Orientation	18 8:00am Men's Bkfst. 10:00am Sr. Ctr. Board Mtg 6:00pm Relapse Prevention Recovery	19 <b>Newsletter articles due</b> 1:00pm Pool Players(Sr. Ctr.)	20
21 9:00am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship	22 1:00pm Pool Players (Sr. Center)	23 8:30am High School Day of Service	24 6:30pm Confirmation	25 8:00am Men's Bkfst 1:00pm Euchre (Sr. Ctr.) 6:00pm Relapse Prevention Recovery	26 1:00pm Pool Players (Sr. Ctr.)	27
28 9:00am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship	29 1:00pm Pool Players (Sr. Center)	30 9:00am Foot Care (Sr. Ctr.) 1:30pm Celebrating Seniors (Sr. Ctr.)				

## **Weaknesses Analysis**

**Directions: Please respond to any or all of the following questions (related to the weaknesses of our church) with one or two sentences OR a list of items.**

1.What are we doing poorly?

2.What are other churches doing better than our church?

3.What's the main area we need to improve upon immediately?

4.In what other areas do we need to improve?

5.Do we need an increased membership? If so, why is our membership too low?

6.Do we have enough financial resources? If not, why?

7.Are other churches attracting more members; are we losing members to other churches? If so, why?

8.Do we struggle to attract volunteers? If so, why?

9.Which of our programs need more resources?

10. What programs are we lacking?



**Prayer requests:**

Marilynn Arhart  
Janet Arndt  
Max Beck  
Addison Closs  
Vern Ellefson  
Tomi Erlandson  
Matt Feuerhelm  
Steve Fogle  
Julie Gore  
Connie Gossett

Mikey Krohn

Lila Larson  
Pete Lee  
Dean Mewes  
Judy Morrow  
Steve Pieczykolan  
Melba Smith  
Sophia Sokolik  
Bob Tharalson  
Elaine Wegerer

**Military service prayers:**

Josh Bechel  
Jonathan Bergman  
Kohl Flock

**Financial Update**

July 31, 2025 Cash Balances  
General Fund = \$85,985.82  
Dedicated Fund = \$99,394.09  
Total = \$185,379.91  
Thrivent = \$113,531.87

July General Fund Balance  
Income = \$10,095.00  
Expenses = \$16,914.97

The next finance meeting:  
**September 9 at 6:30 p.m.**

**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 August is Mary Sokolik.



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

Church website:  
[www.englishlutheranchurch.org](http://www.englishlutheranchurch.org)  
Find us on Facebook!  
EnglishLutheranEllsworth

**Office Hours**

Please contact the office for an appointment

[office@englishlutheranchurch.org](mailto:office@englishlutheranchurch.org)  
715-273-4617

**Staff****Pastor Pete Warren**

[pastorpete@englishlutheranchurch.org](mailto:pastorpete@englishlutheranchurch.org)  
218-760-6974

**Communications Coordinator: Julie Winger**

[office@englishlutheranchurch.org](mailto:office@englishlutheranchurch.org)  
Office: 715-273-4617

**Finance Administrator & Accompanist: Ava Maxwell**

[finance@englishlutheranchurch.org](mailto:finance@englishlutheranchurch.org)

**Music Director: Missy Kowalchyk**

[music@englishlutheranchurch.org](mailto:music@englishlutheranchurch.org)

**Custodian: Malerie Mathis**