

April 2026 - Cross Beams



Monday morning, (3/16/26) reminders of the March snowstorm that hit our area over the weekend! Look at that beautiful blue sky!



March 15, 2026 Worship Service
We had a few brave people in church allowing the service to be livestreamed.

Thank you!



Spreading Easter Joy on Sunday, March 22nd with the Sunday School Class



Kingdom Kids in March



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April 2026

April's Ramblings

Have you ever watched "Winnie the Pooh"? Whenever Pooh has a problem to figure out, he puts his head down, scrunches his eyes, puts his right paw in his left arm pit and taps his head with his left paw while he says, "Think. Think. Think." I often feel like that when I sit down at the computer to write a newsletter article or a sermon. But sometimes, the words just flow through my finger tips. I just have to start typing. That did not happen this month.

Throughout my life, I have spent many hours looking at a computer screen. Many times, I am surfing the internet, looking at Facebook, reading news articles and occasionally watching YouTube videos or on Netflix or something like that watching a movie or a TV show. Most of the time, I was killing time, or avoiding homework. It is a way for me to escape, to not have to do something, to procrastinate. Procrastination is a popular word with some people. It can classify someone as lazy, but I heard an explanation that I really liked. It was in terms of being a perfectionist and the need to do everything perfectly. And so, a perfectionist will keep doing something over and over again until they get it perfect. Procrastinating is a way to make sure that you only have to do it once, because there's not enough time to do it again. So I stress and worry about whatever the project is until the deadline comes, and then crank something out. That is how I seem to like to do things.

Thankfully, my salvation is not dependent on me, Jesus has already done it all for me. And you know what? Jesus has already done it for you too!! Jesus died upon the cross and while he was up there, he called out to God, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they are doing." Even while we were killing him, Jesus was asking God to forgive. His blood washes away our sins and makes us clean.

Here is a great secret for you: God chooses us. God calls us to be his children. Thank goodness it is not up to me, because I sure would make a mess of things. I would be waiting until the very end to do anything. But with God's forgiveness and love, we are forgiven of those sins and mistakes. And so we do not need to fear our mistakes. God will take those mistakes and weaknesses and turn them into strengths. Wow, our God is an awesome God!!!!!!

We made it through Lent and it is now time for Easter!!! Join us on Easter morning as we praise the Lord for all that he has done for us! Alleluia!!

Pastor Pete

CHURCH NEWS

Women's Brunch & Bible Study

Wednesday, April 8
9:30 a.m.

Pastor Pete will prepare a brunch followed by Bible Study. We will study the next part of the "I AM: God's Holy Name and Promise" series, by Rev. Hannah Hawkinson: Session Two-Gate and Shepherd: Guiding and Protecting Us. (John 10) All women of the church are invited to participate in this fellowship time. (A \$5.00 donation is appreciated to help cover the cost of the brunch.)

Please join us in the Fireside Room. Contact Melba Smith at 641-740-7855 with any questions or for more information.

We look forward to seeing you.

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".

Vacation Bible School

Monday, June 15-Thursday, June 18th
12:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Open to students in the community who have completed 4YK-5th grade. Transportation to Vacation Bible School from Ellsworth

Community School District Summer School is provided. VBS is FREE and includes lunch and a snack. Adult and youth volunteers are needed.

The program will be led by counselors from Luther Point Bible Camp. Watch for registration information.

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.



HOPE
LIVES
BECAUSE
JESUS
LIVES.

Easter is Sunday, April 5, 2026

**Easter Sunday Services
8:30 a.m.**

&

10:00 a.m.

**9:30 a.m. Fellowship
We hope you join us!**

Sharing and Caring Hands- April 20

Please refer to the sign-up sheets located at the back of the church. Lunch will be served at 1:00 p.m., and we are scheduled to depart from the church at approximately 10:00 a.m. We are seeking volunteers to assist with serving on that day. In addition, we kindly request donations of cookies and bars, which may be prepared in advance and delivered to the church prior to our departure.



Upcoming Dates Leading up to Easter

Wednesday, April 1st – Kingdom Kids followed by the Family Supper

Thursday, April 2nd – Maundy Thursday at ELC @ 6:30 PM

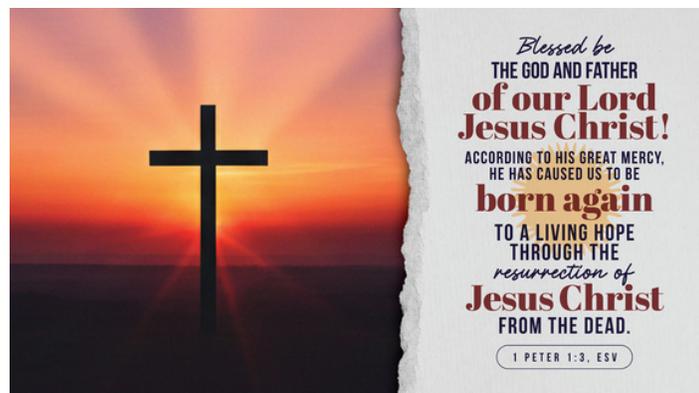
Friday, April 3rd – Community Good Friday at Zion Covenant Church @ 7:00 PM

Sunday, April 5th – Easter Sunday Services at 8:30 AM & 10:00 AM

Church
COUNCIL

2026 Church Council Members

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



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.

Morning of Renewal
St. Croix Valley Conference
Saturday, April 18, 2026
Cross Lutheran Church
1246 Co. Rd. TT
Roberts, WI

Theme:

"The Freedom that God Provides Through Forgiveness"

If you have experienced betrayal or have been wounded by someone in your life, you'll want to hear Rebekah's encouraging discoveries to learn how to let go of the burdens of anger and bitterness so that you can experience the freedom that God provides through forgiveness.

Rebekah is a Christian speaker who shares events from her life that:

- shaped who she has become,
- taught her lessons she never thought she'd need to learn,
- forged a strength she never knew she would need.

Encouraging, uplifting, and insightful, Rebekah is a captivating and unforgettable storyteller. Her vulnerability is inspiring and eye-opening. She will share with you the lessons that God taught her so that you can discover that forgiveness is possible no matter the circumstance.



Speaker:
Rebekah Storey

Schedule:

8:30 am - Registration
9:15 am - Program
11:30 am - Lunch

Registration fee: \$15.00/person

Thank you to the following people for the beautiful Easter plants in the sanctuary:

Jackie Baird

In memory of Mom, Dad, Kimberly, Tammy, Leanna, and Macie

Tammy Brenner

In memory of Mom

Curt and Judy Dumermuth

In honor and memory of parents

Dave and Bev Greeley

In memory of Claude and Angela Greeley

Melanie Johnson

In memory of Alden, Alice and Roger Finstad

Willie and Kathy Maas

In honor of my children and grandchildren

Darren and Traci Maxwell

In honor of our grandchildren

Bryan and Cindy Reuvers

In honor of our grandsons Luke, Jack, and Miles

Melissa Ryden, Brooke & Carter

In honor of our children and our parents

Joel and Sharon Schulze

In memory of Jim & Sue Reuvers

Melba Smith

In memory of Judi Nielson, Jack Ryden, and Jim & Rhonda Huber

Mark and Mary Sokolik

In honor of our grandchildren

Pastor Pete and Kim Warren

In honor and memory loved ones

Lee and Jeanette Wright

In honor of our family

In honor of Marcus Warren

In honor of our family

In memory of our parents



English Lutheran Church Council Minutes March 17, 2026

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

Absent: N/A

Meeting was called to order by Mark Groen at 6:32 PM. The mission statement was read. Pastor Pete read a devotion.

Tonight's meeting agenda was approved. February 17th, 2026 council meeting minutes were approved previously via email correspondence.

REPORTS:

Finance / Treasurer's Report - Dedicated funds credit \$3,314 to kitchen renovation account "840" related to roast beef dinner held on 2/21/2026 (approximately \$500 to be removed yet for cost of event). Thrivent account funds discussed (low risk versus high risk accounts, versus money into CDs) and members attached to those accounts (Gary Brown and Greta Larson currently attached to those accounts). The snow plowing bill has not come in yet, anticipating that in the next month. The electric bill will be double this month (March) as the church did not receive an electric bill in February (Xcel). \$500 came out of the youth ministry account to help pay for a deposit for Luther Point assisting in VBS this summer. Reviewed treasurer's report as printed; motion was made to accept the report, seconded and carried.

Property - Called the elevator company to fix a switch/sensor this past month when it wasn't working. Otherwise, no additional property updates.

Worship and Music - Choir continues to prepare for Easter Sunday. Missy and Pastor working through Google documents to plan out services and music (planned through Maundy Thursday currently); Easter Sunday preparations ongoing. Good Friday service will be at Zion Covenant.

Children, Youth & Family - Kingdom Kids on Wednesday, 3/11/2026 successful; kids worked on preparing the Easter baskets for distribution. Easter baskets to be delivered to Ellsworth Care Center and Preferred Senior Living Sunday, 3/22/2026.

Endowment - Next Meeting will be in May. Past endowment disbursements noted in February Council Meeting Minutes. No additional updates anticipated otherwise until the next meeting in May.

Pastor's Report - Low attendance on Sunday, 3/15/2026 due to inclement weather but live stream provided. Busy with the Lent and Easter season.

OLD BUSINESS:

Strategic plan - Threats live now and will collect responses for 2 months' time (February and March 2026); with themes developed once submission timeline complete. Responses are low overall though with all sections of the analysis performed thus far. We may want to do more specific SWOT analyses with various groups within the church (confirmation, music/worship, etc.). Will meet to review threat themes once the submission window is complete and then will develop next steps at that time.

Kitchen Renovation - Approximately \$16K in kitchen renovation account now. Previous bid received for project approx. \$64,000 (cabinets, frame pantry wall, drywall mud and tape party wall and opening, touch up drywall in kitchen, replace suspended ceiling in kitchen; labor and commercial vinyl tiles); reviewed again this evening. This bid did NOT include plumbing (drain issues; estimate \$8-10,000 for plumbing for the renovation) or the wall with the water issues which was a separate \$3000 bid. Equipment (sink, dishwasher, oven) estimated at roughly \$30,000. Water heater in question (gas versus current electric). To continue to discuss and obtain additional bids.

NEW BUSINESS:

Spring Grubby Sunday Projects - Internal (within church) versus external (community based service) projects discussed. Fair stand upkeep projects also discussed; should be cleaned before rental to the Beldenville car club as well on July 26th, 2026 and of course prior to the fair for our internal use (Pierce County Fair August 13th-16th, 2026). Selected Sunday, April 26th, 2026 for Spring Grubby Sunday Event. Welcome project submissions for Grubby Sunday from all church members. Idea presented to wax floor in fellowship hall.

Encourage volunteering for Cheese Curd festival (June 26-27, 2026 in East End) with donations to church if participants are inclined.

Capital Campaign - Interested in initiating a capital campaign for kitchen renovation to generate funds needed for the project. It was recommended bids be secured before starting a campaign if so (blueprints, plans, bids, etc. all established before presenting a capital campaign to the congregation). Will continue to obtain bids and determine exact financial need for the project.

Parking lot may need attention/upkeep soon. Last sealing and coating was approximated to be 5 years ago. Bid was obtained for this by Pastor recently and was \$14,000. The city may or may not split the cost with the church for this upkeep. Steps and associated railings leading to/from main street also will need upkeep/replacement soon. Wonder if capital campaign projects may be needed for these imminent maintenance projects. If not through a campaign, cost would typically come from dedicated fund "827 Property Fund" which currently has \$10,642 within it. Could also use fairstand dedicated account funds potentially as well for these projects. Suggestion was made to also look into grants for some of these maintenance projects as well as alternative sources of funding (Mike Harris will investigate this further). Suggested careful financial management and balancing funds appropriately (maintaining/not depleting dedicated funds for projects versus capital campaign requests for necessary projects).

Final conclusion: Continue to obtain and solidify bids for the kitchen renovation. Investigate grants for other maintenance projects considerations listed under new business. Reconnect at the next council meeting on these topics.

Committee nominations: Miranda to Children, Youth and Family. All other committee memberships remain the same (Finance - Eric, Property - Mark, Worship and Music - Danielle, Endowment - Mike, CYF Miranda Mewes).

LORD'S PRAYER & ADJOURNMENT - Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Next Scheduled Meeting, Tuesday, April 21st, 2026

To the beloved of the NWSWI,

Happy Easter to you as we celebrate the most sacred day of the year when Jesus squarely looked death in the face and overcame the grave! When I think about what that says about our God, I am continually overwhelmed by feelings of gratitude because of the sheer depth of God's love. To think about what Jesus went through in those final days, it is simply the best illustration of what God's grace looks like – a gift to us as individuals and as a family of faith – all without merit.

While on a Civil Rights pilgrimage last month, I found myself quite perplexed when listening to the central message of many civil rights leaders, including many that I met in person. While visiting Birmingham, I worshiped at the 16th St. Baptist Church, which was bombed on a Sunday morning just before worship on Sept. 15, 1963. Four young women (all teens) died in the blast as they were preparing to serve in the youth led service. As our group heard about the story in the tour the day before our worship, this central message was proclaimed – love. Later that day we spent time with another black leader in the city whose ancestors were also victims of white supremacy. She too acknowledged the central message that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. taught over and over in his messages – a message of love, even for your enemies.

That struck me. When victims of oppression look at their oppressors and can maintain a posture of love in hopes that the hatred they've experienced would someday be extinguished, I could only think about the depths of God's love. While most of us would at minimum defend ourselves from the oppressive actions taken against them, if not fight back and seek retribution, they instead turned to love and forgiveness. It is their faith in God that could give them the strength to practice love.

We still live in a world where hatred and prejudice exist. But the story of Easter is rooted in love. Jesus went to the cross after praying in the garden of Gethsemane, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me, yet not my will but yours be done." (Luke 22:42) Your will be done. This is true sacrifice rooted in love for humankind. This is love revealed to broken and sinful people. This is a love for us all – no exception.

As we celebrate the day Christ rose from the dead, offering forgiveness to all humankind, let us rejoice in acts of love. Let us respond to God's gift of grace through acts of love!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bishop Martin Habon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

April 2026 English Lutheran Church Calendar

Church Calendar

Apr 2026 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 9am - Palm Sunday Worship 9:45am - Sunday School 10am - Palm Sunday Brunch 10:15am - Choir Practice	30 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)	31	1 3:30pm - Kingdom Kids 5pm - Family Supper	2 8am - Men's Breakfast 6pm - Recovery Group 6:30pm - Maundy Thursday	3 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.) 7pm - Good Friday	4
5 8:30am - Easter Sunday Early 9:30am - Fellowship Time 10am - Easter Sunday Late	6 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)	7 9am - Footcare (Sr. Ctr.) 1pm - Game Day (Sr. Ctr.)	8 9:30am - Women's Brunch &	9 1pm - Euchre (Sr. Center) 6pm - Recovery Group	10 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)	11
12 9am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday School 10am - Fellowship Hour 10:15am - Choir Practice	13 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)	14 11am - Discovering Tuesdays 6:30pm - Finance Meeting	15 6:30pm - Confirmation	16 8am - Men's Breakfast 10am - Senior Ctr. Board 6pm - Recovery Group	17 Deadline for Newsletter 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)	18
19 9am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday School 10am - Fellowship Hour 10:15am - Choir Practice	20 10am - Sharing and Caring 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)	21 6:30pm - Church Council	22 6:30pm - Confirmation	23 8am - Men's Breakfast 1pm - Euchre (Sr. Center) 6pm - Recovery Group	24 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)	25 8am - Synod Assembly
26 9am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday School 10am - Fellowship Hour 10:15am - Choir Practice	27 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)	28 1:30pm - Celebrating Seniors	29 6:30pm - Confirmation	30 8am - Men's Breakfast 6pm - Recovery Group	1 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)	2



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

PRAYER list



Prayer requests:

Janet Arndt
Max Beck
Tomi Erlandson
Matt Feuerhelm
Julie Gore
Dean Mewes
Judy Morrow

Steve Pieczykolan
Darren Place
Greg Place
Melba Smith
Sophia Sokolik
Elaine Wegerer

Military service prayers:

Josh Bechel
Jonathan Bergman
Kohl Flock

Financial Update

February 28, 2026 Cash Balances

General Fund = \$83,318.26

Dedicated Fund = \$107,355.79

Total = \$190,674.06

Thrivent = \$119,232.70

February General Fund

Income = \$11,081.76

Expenses = \$18,107.76

The next finance meeting:

April 14 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 April is Jeanette Wright.



A lot can happen in
seven days.

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

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Office: 715-273-4617

Finance Administrator & Accompanist: Ava Maxwell

finance@englishlutheranchurch.org

Music Director: Missy Kowalchyk

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Custodian: Tami Place