

# Cross Beams September 2026

english  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

[www.englishlutheranchurch.org](http://www.englishlutheranchurch.org)



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**September 2026**

With the start of a new school year, Sunday School has been on my mind a lot lately. Sunday Church School has changed a lot over the last two hundred years. When it first began, it was literally school, on Sundays! The world used to think of children as small adults, so when they were able to, they went to work, not school. Sunday Church School was a way to help educate the children to not only learn about God, but also to learn the basics like the three R's: reading, 'riting, & 'rithmetic. The church tried to help kids catch up on their education. Over the years, it changed and eventually became what many of us experienced: a Bible study for kids.

So what is Sunday School? Does it do any good? What's the point? I don't know about you, but I really don't remember many of the lessons from Sunday School, even though I went almost every week. What I remember are the friends and the teachers. It's all about the relationships that were formed. I got to know kids that I wouldn't have normally known, even though we went to the same schools! It changed some of the social cliques. I also got to meet some amazing adults who are still part of my life and my memories today. Yes, I learned some bible stories, but at that time, I couldn't tell you how they applied to my life. But I remember Gene & Jan Yuhas, who taught our 4<sup>th</sup> grade class. And I remember my third-grade teacher, Beth Webber. As we walked into the room on the first day of class, she sat at the head of a long table and said, "Peter, you are sitting on my right. Kevin, you are sitting on my left." And no, this was not like James and John, asking to sit on Jesus' left and right. Evidently, someone told Beth about the mischief that Kevin and I could cause.

And that is what Sunday School is about: the relationships. Our God loves us and created us to live in community. We need people to help nurture our youth. We will constantly be looking for ways to do this, to let our kids know that we love them, care for them, and are there for them. Our Sunday School Program will kick off on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> with a Tailgate Party!! This is also the start of the football season, and the Minnesota Vikings will host the Green Bay Packers that afternoon, so let's have some fun and dress up in your favorite team colors for that Sunday. You can also get involved with our youth by helping out with confirmation. This year, we are partnering with Our Savior's, Eidsvold, and Svea Lutheran Churches to offer confirmation at English Lutheran Church on Wednesday nights. Each Wednesday night, we will have supper, so we will need people to help serve supper and clean up afterward. We will have a Google form for you to sign up. We also need small group guides, people who will walk with our confirmation students as they discover their faith. Don't worry, you do not need to be a world-class theologian to do this; you just need a willing heart and to be willing to ask questions yourself. We will have 4 blocks of classes, and we ask that you sign up for at least one block. Talk to Pastor Pete if you have any questions. Thank you for supporting our youth programs! You Rock!!!

Pastor Pete

# CHURCH NEWS/EVENTS

## Women's Brunch & Bible Study

Welcome Back!

Pastor Pete will prepare brunch for all women of the church on Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at 9:30 A.M. A donation of \$5.00 is appreciated for the cost of food.

Our fall Bible Study will focus on the work from the Gather Magazine authored by the Rev. Tiffany C. Chancy: Bold Faith on an Unexpected Journey. The first session for September is Encountering God in the wilderness focusing on Hager in Genesis 16.

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!!



Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 13 for our Rally Day Kickoff! Join us for a tailgate party after worship for food, fun, and family time.

The ELC Adult Choir is resuming practice on Sunday, September 6, 2026 following service. Music for the fall will be distributed along with the practice schedule. If you enjoy singing or have ever considered joining the choir, please join us. All are welcome.

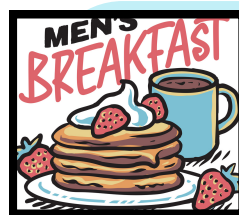


BEFORE



AFTER

Have you noticed that we have been doing a “drive thru” style Communion? Well there is a good reason for that. Our Communion rail is getting a facelift! Thank you to Eric Van Nocker for donating his time and talents to work on this project.



### 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 September 3, 10, 17, and 24.



Pastor Pete or the office know.

On Sunday, September 13, we will be participating in God's Work, Our Hands. If you know of anyone who is in need of a project done around their home, please let



On Sunday, August 23, we welcomed Arthur Daniel Flock into our church family through baptism. His parents are Kohl and Ava Flock and his Godparents are Halle Flock and Griffin Tuthill.

# 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.

## Pierce County Food Pantry.

There are baskets located by the front and back doors of the church for donations of nonperishable food items. 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](http://hungerpreventioncouncil.com), click on Give

Thank you for your "kindness".

## 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

**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, 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!

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH NEWS

### Blessing of Backpacks

Bring your backpack, your chromebook case, your briefcase, even your satchal with you to church on Sunday, September 13 for a special blessing of the backpacks as students and teachers return to school.

### Kingdom Kids

4k through 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 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. Please use the QR code to sign up.

### Confirmation

Confirmation is going to look a little different this year! We are partnering with OUR Savior's Eidsvold, and Svea Lutheran churches for our confirmation program this year. We will meet on most Wednesday nights at English Lutheran Church. Supper will be at 5:30pm and class will start at 6:30pm. Our first night of confirmation will be on Wednesday, September 16 at OUR Savior's. Their youth are hosting a pie & ice cream social fundraiser from 4:00 to 7:00pm. Our Orientation session will begin at 7:00pm. Confirmation is for all students in grades 6 thru 10. Contact Pastor Pete or one of the CYF team members if you have any questions.



# COUNCIL MINTUES

English Lutheran Church Council Minutes

August 18th, 2026

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

Absent: Miranda Mewes, Mark Groen

The meeting was called to order by Mike Harris at 6:32 PM.

1. The mission statement was read.
2. Pastor Pete read a devotion.
3. Tonight's meeting agenda was approved.
4. June 16th, 2026 council meeting minutes were approved previously via email correspondence.

## 5. REPORTS:

- a. Finance / Treasurer's Report - Money pulled for fair stand from checking account. A large offering was made; boosting giving for the month. Rockworks paid. Luther Point payments were made. Bill for work done/maintenance at the fairstand; will be paid out of the fairstand fund. For the future, bids need to be received for work completed, and large payments/bills need approval by council. Property committee to be in charge of maintenance and care of fair stand.
- b. Property - Gas line set up for the convection oven. Cabinets to be removed from the kitchen. The parking lot is complete. The village had the sidewalk repaired. Steps leading to mainstreet to be completed by Rush River in October. A new rail was suggested by Rush River by a local welder; discussion was had on this.
- c. Worship and Music - No recent committee meetings.
- d. Children, Youth & Family - Met in July. Kingdom Kids to continue; Rally day will be Sunday, September 13th, 2026. Piper Van Nocker and Kayla Zimmer volunteered to be teachers again. Eisvold/Svea and Our Saviors both without permanent pastors request to join English for confirmation programming. Eight 10th graders getting confirmed this year. First communion class to be held in the fall
- e. Pastor's Report - Has been busy with Luther Point, Fairstand preparation and Fair, and now gearing up for fall. With pastors leaving Eisvold/Svea and Our Saviors, finding pastor connections will be ongoing. Melba will hold service on Sunday, August 30th while Pastor is away that day.
- f. Endowment - Next meeting is on Wednesday, August 19th, 2026. Updates anticipated at September council meeting.

## 6. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Communion Rail/Kneeler Cushions - Eric stripping and re-staining communion rail; work ongoing. Cushions were tacked/looked better so no further maintenance required for them specifically.
- b. SWOT Analysis - themes for threats developed. Participation is low overall for all parts of the SWOT. Suggested meeting with people in attendance after church and at confirmation. Dates selected as follows:
  - Sunday, October 18th, 2026 - After Church Meeting
  - Wednesday, October 21st, 2026 - Confirmation Meeting

Continued on the next page

Cont.

c.Fair stand -

- Take \$500 out of fair stand for a donation to HEART
- Pie Meeting - 160 pies were made/received; 140 baked by the pie makers, 20 came in as donations. Positive comments all around.
  - Fair rules are noted that no food should be brought from home so may need to decline donations moving forward in the future.
- Suggested that menus be displayed out on a board as well as pies.
- Suggested to get rid of 50 cent pricing on menu items
  - Bottled lemonade for \$3 suggested instead of making lemonade and cups
  - Coffee suggested to be \$1
- Safety parameters discussed in regards to food preparation
- Cashier recommended for future years
  - Suggestions made to order/pay at one window and pick up food at a separate window
  - Chairmen for each shift suggested so that volunteers can be assigned to appropriate positions optimizing overall work flows

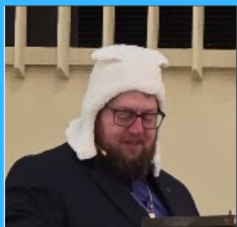
d.Twins Game Outing - September 12th. Broz buses were already booked and other bus services were too costly so elected to suggest car pooling instead. 10 people are currently signed up.

• NEW BUSINESS:

- God's Work Our Hands - September 13th - projects needed.

• LORD'S PRAYER & ADJOURNMENT – Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM. Next Scheduled Meeting, Tuesday, September 15th, 2026.

## MEET OUR STAFF



**Pete**

Position: Pastor  
Years at ELC: Almost 4 years  
Home Town: A-town (Ashland)  
Favorite Shape of Pasta: Gemelli

**Favorite Bible Story and why:** 2 Kings 2:23-25. Because of the absurdity of it

**What do you do when you're not at church:** Spending time with my family, doing home improvement projects, cooking, and serving on the Ellsworth Fire Department.



**Piper**

Position: Sunday School Teacher  
Years at ELC: 17 Years  
Home Town: Ellsworth WI  
Favorite Shape of Pasta: Ziti

**Favorite Bible Story and why:** Jesus feeding the 5000 is my favorite because in my life I have always been a person devoted to helping others like Jesus did in this story

**What do you do when you're not at church:** When I'm not at church I enjoy watching Basketball and hanging out with friends



**Kayla**

Position: Sunday School Teacher  
Years at ELC: 37 Years  
Home Town: Ellsworth WI  
Favorite Shape of Pasta: Bow Tie

**Favorite Bible Story and why:** For sure the birth of Jesus. The story is incredibly humbling. Jesus was born in a simple stable instead of a palace. It reminds us that God values humility, serves the lowly, and meets people where they are rather than through wealth, power, or status.

**What do you do when you're not at church:** I chase my 2 children around to different ball parks, football fields, and wrestling mats. I'm a professional Uber service in all my free time. I love being outdoors and spending time with my family when I'm not watching my kiddos play sports.

*thank you!*

**Thank you to all those that helped with Pie Making at church. 135 Pies were baked and sold out!**

Thank you to everyone who stepped up to fill shifts in the stand. Thank you to everyone who helped prep. And Thank you to everyone who stepped out!

**Thank you to Paul, Jon, and Dan for their leadership and hard work before and during the fair!**

# August 2026 English Lutheran Church Calendar

Church Calendar Holidays in United States

Sep 2026 (Central Time - Chicago)

| Sun                                                                                                                | Mon                                                                   | Tue                                                                                                                                | Wed                                                                                         | Thu                                                                                                                   | Fri                                                                                  | Sat                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <div>30</div> <div>9am - Worship</div> <div>10am - Fellowship Hour</div>                                           | <div>31</div> <div>1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)</div>                     | <div>1</div> <div>9am - Footcare (Sr. Center)</div>                                                                                | <div>2</div>                                                                                | <div>3</div> <div>8am - Men's Breakfast</div> <div>6pm - Recovery Support</div>                                       | <div>4</div> <div>1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)</div>                                     | <div>5</div>                                         |
| <div>6</div> <div>9am - Worship</div> <div>10am - Fellowship Hour</div> <div>10:15am - Choir Practice</div>        | <div>7</div> <div>Labor Day</div> <div>1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)</div> | <div>8</div> <div>11am - Discovering Tuesdays</div> <div>6:30pm - Finance Meeting</div>                                            | <div>9</div> <div>9:30am - Women's Brunch &amp;</div> <div>6:30pm - Worship and Music</div> | <div>10</div> <div>8am - Men's Breakfast</div> <div>1pm - Euchre (Sr. Center)</div> <div>6pm - Recovery Support</div> | <div>11</div> <div>1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)</div>                                    | <div>12</div>                                        |
| <div>13</div> <div>9am - Worship</div> <div>10am - Rally Sunday Tailgate</div> <div>10:15am - Choir Practice</div> | <div>14</div> <div>1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)</div>                     | <div>15</div> <div>9am - Footcare (Sr. Center)</div> <div>9am - St. Croix Valley Pastors'</div> <div>6:30pm - Church Council</div> | <div>16</div> <div>6pm - Confirmation</div>                                                 | <div>17</div> <div>8am - Men's Breakfast</div> <div>12:45pm - Senior Center</div> <div>6pm - Recovery Support</div>   | <div>18</div> <div>1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)</div>                                    | <div>19</div>                                        |
| <div>20</div> <div>9am - Worship</div> <div>10am - Fellowship Hour</div> <div>10:15am - Choir Practice</div>       | <div>21</div> <div>1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)</div>                     | <div>22</div>                                                                                                                      | <div>23</div> <div>6:30pm - Confirmation</div>                                              | <div>24</div> <div>8am - Men's Breakfast</div> <div>1pm - Euchre (Sr. Center)</div> <div>6pm - Recovery Support</div> | <div>25</div> <div>Deadline for Newsletter</div> <div>1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)</div> | <div>26</div> <div>9am - Adopt-A-Highway clean</div> |
| <div>27</div> <div>9am - Worship</div> <div>10am - Fellowship Hour</div> <div>10:15am - Choir Practice</div>       | <div>28</div> <div>1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)</div>                     | <div>29</div> <div>1:30pm - Celebrating Seniors</div>                                                                              | <div>30</div> <div>6:30pm - Confirmation</div>                                              | <div>1</div> <div>8am - Men's Breakfast</div> <div>6pm - Recovery Support</div>                                       | <div>2</div> <div>1pm - Pool Players (Sr.)</div>                                     | <div>3</div>                                         |



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

# PRAYER list



## Military service prayers:

Josh Bechel  
Jonathan Bergman  
Kohl Flock  
Ethan Ladwig

## Prayer requests:

Janet Arndt  
Max Beck  
Matt Feuerhelm  
Diana Gilbertson  
Julie Gore  
Destin Kirchhoff  
Bob and Debbie Lundberg  
Dean Mewes  
Judy Morrow  
Darren Place  
Sophia Sokolik  
Elaine Wegerer

## Special prayers:

Please remember the family of Callan McKahan. He was born on July 7 with DORV, a condition in which the aorta is on the wrong side of the heart. Although Callan fought hard, he returned home to God on August 11. Please keep his family in your prayers.



## 2026 Church Council

### Members

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

### Financial Update

July 31, 2026 Cash Balances  
General Fund = \$74,807.92  
Dedicated Fund = \$90,571.84  
Total = \$165,379.76  
Thrivent = \$124,022.99

General Fund  
Income = \$24,313.87  
Expenses = \$16,201.74

The next finance meeting:  
**September 8 at 6:30 p.m.**

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

### 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 September is Diane Wiskerchen

### Staff

#### Pastor Pete Warren

[pastorpete@englishlutheranchurch.org](mailto:pastorpete@englishlutheranchurch.org)  
Cell: 218-760-6974 Office: 715-273-4617

#### Communications Coordinator: Renee Van Nocker

[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: Tami Place