



Cross Beams

August 2023



www.englishlutheranchurch.org

Our Vision: A Christ-centered, serving community.



**Summer Youth
Gathering**



An AED was installed in the basement of the church this month! Thank you to Eric Van Nocker & the Ellsworth Area Ambulance Service for all of the help ordering and getting it installed!



Come visit our fair stand at the Pierce County Fair! The fair runs from August 10-13.

What's Inside:

- † Church News
- † Pastor Article
- † Upcoming Events
- † Prayer List
- † Council Minutes
- † Financial & Council Updates





I can remember as a kid in late July and we would go shopping at Pamida, we had one of those in my hometown too, and there would be that awful display as soon as you walked in. It was a reminder that your days of freedom were about to be over, and it was time to go back into confinement. This display was full of notebooks, pencils, pens, crayons, and all sorts of... SCHOOL supplies!!!! Argh! It was back to school time. Our sweet, pleasant, carefree days were coming to an end and soon it would be nothing but boredom and punishment, at least that's what I had thought. It was good to go back to school because it meant structure and order would be restored to our lives. Plus, by going back to school, we got some new clothes! And it was a chance for a new year of new opportunities and challenges. It was time to get back to work.

And that is true for us today at English Lutheran Church. It is time to get to work, God's work. But what does that mean? How do we God's work? What is God's work? In Luke 10, an expert of the law asked Jesus, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus asked him, "What is written in the law?" in other words, "What does the bible tell you?" The man answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." In other words: Love God and Love your neighbor. Those are the two rules that we need to follow: Love God and Love everyone. This God's work: Love God and love our neighbors. And as Jesus explained with the parable of the Good Samaritan, everyone is our neighbor, even if they don't look, think, act, or believe the way that do. If they are human beings, they are our neighbors.

So how do we love God? One way is through worship, whether that is by coming to church on Sunday mornings or taking part in it online some other time during the week. Loving God also includes prayer, devotions, reading the Bible, going to Sunday school or confirmation (or aiding with those programs - wink, wink), going to bible studies... the list goes on and on.

The other command is to love our neighbors and as Jesus pointed out in the Good Samaritan, our neighbors may not look, act, or think like us. But we are called to love them and do what we can do for them. Whether it's volunteering with a food program, at the schools, the library or within our church, when we participate in those activities, we love our neighbor. We are doing good work and that's a good thing. It doesn't affect or improve our salvation, which is already in God's hands. As Martin Luther said, God doesn't need our good works, but our neighbor sure does. And by doing good works, by loving our neighbors, we receive joy and fulfillment. By loving our neighbors, we are also loving God.

God gives us two simple rules to live by: Love God and Love our neighbors. Both are incredibly difficult to follow, and we won't follow them perfectly. But when we try, we will know a deep contentment and joy that comes only from God, and we will catch a glimpse of the peace that passes all understanding.

Peace and Love,

Pastor Pete

Landscape Project Fundraiser

English Lutheran is currently raising money to pay for our landscaping project. The grounds around the church are in need of repair, and we want to make our property look better. The fundraising goal for this landscaping project is \$15,000! We are at \$8,828.97 raised! You can give a one-time donation or spread it out over time.

Please designate that your donation is for the landscaping project. We have envelopes in the back of the sanctuary that say, "Improvement Fund." There will be a special drop box for these donations.



Thank you for your donations!

'The Chosen' Bible Study

Pastor Pete will be leading a summer bible study on Wednesday mornings this summer based on the television series "The Chosen."

It tells the story of Jesus through the eyes of those who met him. Most episodes are about an hour and afterwards, we will discuss what we just watched.

Join us at 9:30 am in the Fireside room on Wednesday mornings.

Summer Fun Series

English Lutheran will be hosting the Summer Fun Series at East End Park on Thursday, August 17th from 5:00pm to 7:00pm.

Christina Kowalchuk will be singing again, and there will be food and games to play.



Come join ELC in a great night of community building!

July Council Meeting

† There was no council meeting in July.

† The next council meeting will be **August 15th at 6:30 pm.**



Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will begin on Wednesday, September 13th at 9:30 am in the Fireside room.

Subscription to the 'Gather' magazine we use is available online at gather@cambeywest.com or call 1-844-409-0576.



Nancy Ellefson will be the hostess for the month.

Fair Stand Sign-Up

The Pierce County Fair is right around the corner! Volunteers are needed to work in the *English Lutheran Church* fair stand for the *Pierce County Fair* in August. You can work in the kitchen, dining room, or be a fryer.

Sign-up forms are located in the back of the church or contact the office to get your name in for this great fellowship opportunity! Join in the fun!



The fair runs from August 10th-13th.

Men's Breakfast

Pastor Pete will be cooking breakfast on Thursday mornings for the guys. We will gather in the church kitchen at 8:00 am for a breakfast with a rotating menu and fruit with coffee and orange juice. The suggested donation is \$5.00 to help cover the cost of food. After we are done eating, we will pitch in to clean up.



Financial Update

June 30, 2023 Cash Balances:

General Fund = \$108,455.80
Dedicated Fund = \$83,789.80
Total = \$192,245.60
Thrivent = \$97,308.23

June General Fund:

Income = \$19,199.59
Expenses = \$15,572.27



Youth News

Fall is approaching, which means Sunday School and Confirmation will be starting!

Sunday School:

- † Sunday School will begin with Rally Sunday on September 17th after worship.
- † Fall evening schedule: 1st Wednesday of the month (Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6) at 3:30 pm.
- † More information to come soon!



Confirmation:

- † Confirmation will meet 2 times per month: Sept 20, Oct 4 & 18, Nov 1,8 (Thanksgiving project), 15, Dec 6 & 20.
- † Affirmation of Baptism service will be on Sunday, October 29 at 9:00 am during the regular worship service. Brunch will be on Saturday, October 28.
- † We have a ping pong table (thanks to Nicole & Jason Cook) in the youth room, and a foosball table (thanks to Greta Larson) coming soon!



PRAYER REQUESTS

Healing:

Rachel Proulx, niece of Julie Davis
~ Breast Cancer

Liz Krohn

Mikey Krohn

Judi Nielsen

Nathan Baar

Tucker Thoen

Jerry Baggenstoss

Kenny Basch

Larry Larabee

Dean Mewes

Judy Nunn

Donna Tutor

Long-term:

Lila Larson

Sherry York

Judy Morrow

Deb Pierce, Trina Groen's Mom ~ Alzheimer's

Mackenzie Marks, Connie Gossett's Granddaughter

Tomi Erlandson ~ Seizures & Health

Dale Melstrom

Marianne Melstrom

Mary Dee Prokop, Mother of Eileen Mewes

Wendy Wegerer

Janet Arndt

Military service:

Johnathan Bergman

Josh Bechel

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 any prayers.

Deaconess for August ~ Mary Sokolik



English Lutheran Church
229 West Main Street
Ellsworth, Wisconsin
Phone: 715-273-4617
Church website:
www.englishlutheranchurch.org

Find us on Facebook!
EnglishLutheranEllsworth

Congregation Council

President: Eric Van Nocker
Vice President: Melba Smith
Treasurer: Gary Brown
Secretary: Greta Larson
Denise Hager
Jill Hague
Lynette Winger
Dennis Swanson

Staff

Pastor Pete Warren
pastorpete@englishlutheranchurch.org
218-760-6974

**Sydney Durfee- Communications
Coordinator & Finance Administrator**
office@englishlutheranchurch.org
finance@englishlutheranchurch.org
Office: 715-273-4617

Julie Baggenstoss- Custodian

Music Director: Missy Kowalchuk
music@englishlutheranchurch.org

Accompanist: Ava Maxwell



Office Hours

Our office hours are:
Tuesday-Thursday
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Stop in, call, or email. Sydney will be working from home Monday's and in the office Tuesday-Thursday.



Our Mission:

To share Christ's unconditional love,
inspiring us all for service to others.

Worship Services

Online ~ Sundays on Facebook
Livestream at **9:00 am**

In-Person ~ Sundays 9:00 am



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Email:
office@englishlutheranchurch.org



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August 2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30 9am Worship 10am Fellowship Hour	31	Aug 1	2 9:30am The Chosen Bible Study 6:30pm Endowment Committee	3 8am Men's Breakfast	4	5
6 9am Worship 10am Fellowship Hour	7	8 6:30pm Finance Meeting	9 9:30am The Chosen Bible Study 1:30pm Worship at Preferred Senior 2:30pm Worship at Ellsworth Health	10 Pierce County Fair	11	12
13 Pierce County Fair 9am Worship 10am Fellowship Hour	14	15 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	16 9:30am The Chosen Bible Study	17 8am Men's Breakfast 5pm Summer Fun Series @ East End	18 Deadline for Newsletter Articles	19
20 9am Worship 10am Fellowship Hour	21	22	23 9:30am The Chosen Bible Study	24 8am Men's Breakfast	25	26
27 9am Worship 10am Fellowship Hour	28	29	30 9:30am The Chosen Bible Study	31 8am Men's Breakfast	Sep 1	2

