



Cross Beams

November 2020

www.englishlutheranchurch.org

Our Vision: A Christ-centered, serving community.

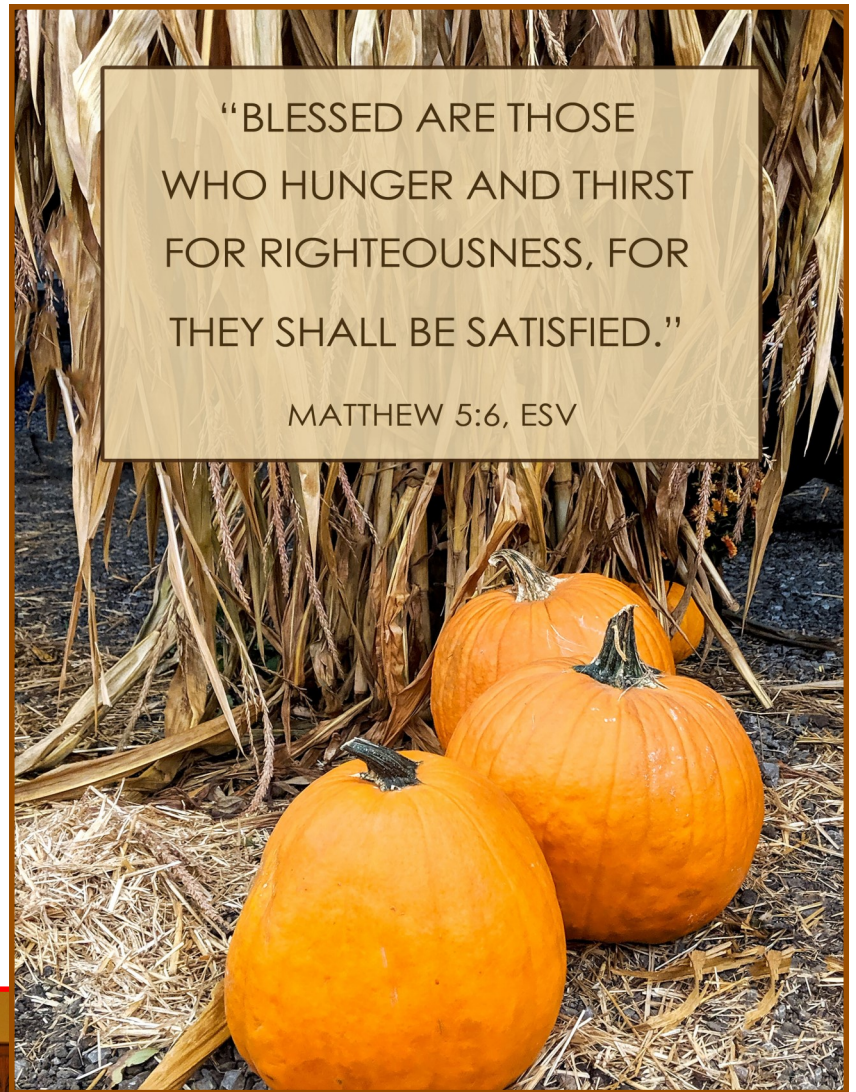
english
LUTHERAN CHURCH

In this issue:

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Jenna Bechel
Affirmation of Baptism



"BLESSED ARE THOSE
WHO HUNGER AND THIRST
FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR
THEY SHALL BE SATISFIED."

MATTHEW 5:6, ESV



Packing Sunday
School @ Home Kits



"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ~1 Thessalonians 5:18

*This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
~Psalm 118:24*

Dear church family,

As our season turns from fall to winter, my message for you this month is quite simple: "Give thanks!" Now I know, I know, as I've talked about for many months now, there's a lot happening in our world that isn't exactly how we hoped it would be when we started the year.

But, I heard some great advice this week (I can't remember exactly where), where they essentially were saying to model a positive attitude to your children when plans change due to CoVID. Like with health officials not recommending Trick or Treating, instead of feeling bad for your kids about what "they are missing," maybe plan a candy scavenger hunt for your family or watch a special movie together this year. Instead of complaining about not being able to have a big extended family gathering for Thanksgiving, maybe get excited about creating a couple new, temporary traditions. For example, maybe eat a special meal with your immediate family in your pajamas followed by some games or writing thank you cards to friends and family to express your gratitude for them and how much you miss them in this time. The point is, with an attitude of gratitude, most setbacks and unwanted changes in life can become opportunities to try new things and help us appreciate the things we do have.

I am grateful for all of you in our church. I'm grateful for those of you tuning into our online worship. I'm grateful that so far no one in our congregation or my family has died from CoVID. I'm grateful to all of you who will sit down in the coming weeks and once again generously pledge your time, talents and finances to partner with us and our Lord in ministry in 2021 in ways we never would have dreamed of just nine months ago. I'm grateful to live in a country where we, the people, get to choose who our political leaders will be. I'm grateful for the beautiful fall colors and for a warm house to live in now that the weather has become cold. I'm grateful for friends and family. I'm grateful "there's always next year" when it comes to the Vikings. But most importantly, I'm grateful that our Lord Jesus Christ loves us all unconditionally and calls us to love our neighbors just as he first loved us. I hope you will take some time this month, to think about all the things for which you are grateful... and maybe even make an extra effort to thank the people in your life who make your life better in big ways or small.



In Christ,

Pastor Jeff

Thanksgiving Baskets

Nothing says Thanksgiving more than turkey and mashed potatoes. Unfortunately, having turkey, potatoes and all of the fixings is not a possibility for some of the families in our community. This year, *English Lutheran Church* will continue the tradition of sharing Thanksgiving baskets with families in need within our community, so they too might sit down as a family to enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving dinner.

If you know of someone or if your own household is in need, please complete the form on our church website in the *HAPPENINGS* tab or email the church office. Names will be kept confidential.

www.englishlutheranchurch.org/happenings

Turkey Baskets must be picked up on Saturday, Nov. 21, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm.

We are not accepting donation items this year due to Covid. We are accepting monetary donations. You can either send a check to the church or click the *GIVE* tab on our website to give electronically, please note Thanksgiving Baskets in the memo line of the check or in the notes section electronically.

We are blessed to be able to help families in our community this Thanksgiving.



FALL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN: Together Through the Pandemic

Things sure have changed this year due to the pandemic. Now more than ever we need our faith and the togetherness of our church family to get us through this difficult period. During the past seven months we have sustained ourselves with online worship, outside parking lot worship and our own personal connection with God. Winter is fast approaching and the potential for this pandemic to further affect our lives and health is still a concern. We will need to continue supporting one another as never before, **TOGETHER** as one church.

We are *so grateful* for your continued gifts to our shared ministry, including a substantial increase in electronic giving. Your gifts have allowed us to continue much of our work during this time, even though the pandemic has made it more challenging to do in-person ministry and fundraising. The theme of this year's stewardship campaign is about **TOGETHERNESS** even though this pandemic has kept us physically apart.

Please prayerfully consider your offering commitment for next year and additionally consider making a \$100 gift before year-end to recognize the 100 year centennial of English Lutheran. We will use these additional gifts to support our local community i.e. ARC, Food Shelf, School Lunch Program, etc. We need all of us **TOGETHER** to help us continue doing God's work in the year ahead.

Please complete the 2021 Offering Commitment form that you received in the mail and mail it back to the office by Friday, November 20, or submit your Offering Commitment using an online form at this link:

<https://forms.gle/SqXfbWvgq1VWbRXo8>

TOGETHER, we can support each other through this difficult time. **TOGETHER**, we can answer God's call to mission and ministry. **TOGETHER**, we can be spiritually united even when physically apart! Thank you for partnering with us in God's work!

In Christ,

Your Stewardship Committee & Pastor Jeff



Worship Service Notes

We continue to hold our online worship services on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am on our Facebook page. You can also link to the service through our church website. www.englishlutheranchurch.org



All Saints' Day

All Saints' Day is a day set aside by the church for remembering dedicated Christians of the past, remembrance of the beloveds who no longer laugh and cry with us on Earth.

We will celebrate *All Saints' Day* on Sunday, November 1.



Thank You Notes

Thank you to our Sunday school teachers for getting the Sunday School @ Home kits ready to go and sent out to the children!



Thank you to our confirmation guides for connecting with our youth every week!

Thank you to Nancy Johnson for purchasing a new communion set in memory of her husband, David. We look forward to using it when we can worship and commune together safely.

Quilts

Our quilting group met and quilted on Saturday, September 17. We hope to meet in November and then again in March to complete our project.



~ Judy Erickson and Tammy Brenner

Tech Help Wanted

Submitted by Pastor Jeff

Ever wanted to create a movie? Good with computers? Willing to learn? I've learned a lot these last six months doing online worship out of necessity. But, I'm wondering if anyone in the congregation would be interested in helping with, being part of a team, or leading the charge, recording and editing our online worship services in the future so I can reclaim some time each week and get back to work on other important areas of ministry. Ability to use iMovie would be most helpful, but any movie-making software would work. Interested or have questions/suggestions? Let me know!



Membership File Updates

We'd like to be sure we have your current phone numbers, email, and address. We know many have gone away from a home number and now use just a cell phone number, maybe you changed your email address, or moved - let us know.

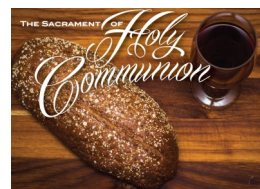
Please take a moment to email Trina in the office with your updated information.



Holy Communion & First Communion

One of the aspects of worship we haven't had during the pandemic, aside from a couple of the parking lot worship services, is holy communion. The ELCA advised congregations to fast from the sacrament as opposed to offering it online. That was seven months ago. Pastor Jeff, in consultation with other clergy, is considering ways to offer communion to members in a safe and theologically sound way given the ongoing nature of this pandemic and the isolation of members it has created. Watch for updates soon on how you might be able to receive communion either at church or your home.

Also, if you have not received your First Communion, please let Pastor Jeff or the church office know and we will add you to our list for an upcoming Zoom class.





Hiring: Music Director

English Lutheran Church is looking for a part-time, salaried, Music Director. We hope to find a passionate and faith-filled musician who is capable of accompanying our online and in-person traditional and contemporary Sunday worship services on piano, guitar or organ and who could direct our choir. However, we are open to breaking the role into separate positions, if necessary.

If you or someone you know are interested in this position, please contact Pastor Jeff Smith for more information.

E-mail:

pastor@englishlutheranchurch.org

Church office phone:

715-273-4617



Music Director

Dear congregants and council members of English Lutheran Church,

I write to you with plans of change and anticipation as this year of 2020 comes to a close, and as a new church year approaches.

As of October 5, my wife received a job offer to work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. While we are excited for the future, we must relocate to accommodate this position, and I must step down as Music Director at English Lutheran Church effective October 31. I will continue leading online worship music until a new music director is found. I hope you will continue joining me in music ministry, even if from a distance. The church's COVID task force has been diligent and committed to providing a meaningful, creative, and safe environment for all, and we will continue to do so through the rest of this year.

Despite this change in leadership, I would like to offer calls for volunteers and musicians to take part in two music ministry projects for our upcoming Advent season: an "Electronic Christmas Program" and a "Carol Call-in." Both projects involve a little bit of time working with basic technology, through a smartphone or personal computer that you own, which I will help lead and troubleshoot with you. Please write to me to express your interest in joining a Christmas program or to record yourself singing your favorite Christmas tunes! These will be recorded, engineered, and distributed throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons, and I look forward to working these last two projects with you all!

This past year with English Lutheran Church has been a special one, and I am thankful that I have been able to make music and sing God's praises with you all. Even despite a pandemic affecting all our lives in some way or another, I feel sure in the certain hope that, until we can meet and sing and smile and fellowship together again, we have God's Presence and Grace to guide us safely and guide us well. From 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21, "Do not treat prophecies with contempt, but test them all; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil." As my confirmation pastor always said, "Remember the 'good' bit." From such a verse as this, I will remember all the good of English Lutheran Church, and I will cherish this year of music and ministry with you all.

"How lucky I am to have something that makes saying good-bye so hard." -Winnie the Pooh

In peace,

Evan Mitchell



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Jenna Bechel who confirmed her faith at a private Affirmation of Baptism service on Sunday, October 18, 2020. (See the pictures on the cover of this newsletter.)

Due to Covid crowd restrictions, the rest of the 10th graders have elected to affirm their baptism this coming winter or spring.



Confirmation Classes

Confirmation classes are being held online.

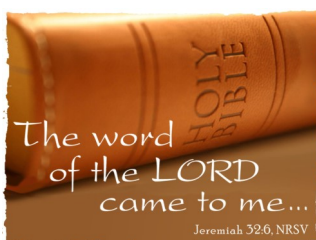
Please register, if you have not yet done so. Forms and documents are available online in the Youth Ministry section of our website or you can email Pastor Jeff for information and documents or with any questions.



Bibles for Our Youth

These 7th grade confirmation youth received Bibles in October.

*Ethan Ladwig
Joey Lewis
Wyley Myers
Zachary Smith
Grace Whipple*



Sunday School @ Home

With all of the uncertainty around gathering in-person in our world today, we wanted to be sure that Sunday school is still available to our children! So we're coming to you!!

Mailing Kits

Each month, we're sending out a Sunday school kit to each child enrolled in Sunday school. The kits will include activities, figurines, lessons, outreach for the kids, and a reading/booklet for the story.

Zoom

We will also hold a monthly zoom class for the children. The class will be at 9:00 am, immediately before the church worship service online, on the 3rd Sunday of the month. We'll check in, review the items they've received in the kit, and do a very short lesson.

In-Person Sunday School

We are not ruling out in-person Sunday school and would still love to see the children in church, however with the changes in Covid in our community, we want to be sure the kids can still count on getting Sunday school every month, regardless of the current situation with in-person classes and our families' comfort level gathering with others.

Registration

If you wish to have your children receive the Sunday School @ Home kits, please register your child on our website in the Children's Ministry tab.

Free!

There is no cost at all! This is FREE to all! We have been blessed with funding for our program and are excited to bring Sunday school right to your door at no cost to you. Please contact us with any questions you may have. We look forward to engaging with your family in this new opportunity!

ELC Sunday School

@ Home with Jesus & Friends

WELCOME! LETS GET STARTED

October

I call you
friend.
~ Jesus

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES & FINANCIAL UPDATE

October Council

- † Joint meeting of the Covid-19 Task Force and Council to discuss and get input on in-person worship options over the winter months. No decisions were made at this time - Covid-19 Task Force will make a recommendation on what to do about in-person worship at the next Council meeting
- † Pastor Jeff presented information on possibly purchasing on-line worship software that would make it possible to live stream worship services. Action was tabled pending more information.
- † Finance/Treasurer's Report approved.
- † Property – Update on the need to get an asbestos assessment for the youth house before any demolition can be done. Council agreed to go ahead.
- † Next Meeting - November 10, 2020 6:30 pm

2020 General Fund

Month	Actual Monthly Income	Actual Monthly Expense	Actual YTD Income	Actual YTD Expenses
Aug	14,211.33	14,737.40	128,415.27	161,381.13
Sept	12,881.72	16,095.96	141,296.99	177,477.09

Cash Balances as of September 2020 month end:

Total = \$186,414.96

General Fund = \$44,522.11

Dedicated Fund = \$70,120.17

Thrivent = \$71,772.68

Notes:

~ The large difference in year to date expenses and income is due, in large part, to moving \$28,000 from our General checking account to a Thrivent investment account. With that transfer of money excluded from expenses, we've actually spent \$8,180.01 more than income year to date.

~ *English Lutheran Church* received a potentially forgivable loan through the *Paycheck Protection Plan* through the *Small Business Administration*. We have used \$28,200 for our payroll and utility expenses.



Youth House

On October 12, 2020 the Congregational Council held a special meeting to address the future of the Youth House. The Property Committee had determined that the house was in immediate need of a new roof and new siding. They followed up with getting bids for both items as well as bids for possible demolition of the building. The lowest bids for replacing the roof and siding came in at a total of \$22,000. The bids for demolition included the Ellsworth Fire Department using the building for training and burning the house for free and approximately \$12,000 to dig out the foundation and fill in the hole. The Council considered the following options:

1. Replacing the roof and siding and using the building as the Youth House. After some discussion the Council concluded that the building is not the best venue for youth activities related to challenges supervising youth activities on three floors and that existing space in the church could be used for youth programs.
2. Replacing the roof and siding and using the building as rental property. The consensus was that we did not want to be put in the position of being "landlords" for an extended length of time.
3. Replacing the roof and siding and using the building as potential housing for a youth leader or music director. This would require renting the house until either of those possibilities materialized and that this was not considered a viable option.
4. Selling the property was discussed but rejected due to not having control over anything that would happen on or near our property.
5. Demolishing the property and having that land available as possible additional green or recreation space (like a playground) or parking lot expansion.

After considering the options the Council decided that the best choice was to go ahead with demolishing the house, letting the Ellsworth Fire Department use it for training and removing the foundation and filling in the hole. The consensus was that none of the options related to replacing the roof and siding were in the best interests of the Congregation or the youth program and that savings from using the less expensive option could be used for potential improvements within the church building for youth programs and the congregation as a whole. The Council is still committed to supporting and developing a strong youth program and will continue working on that.

PRAYERS

Special Prayers:

- ~ Congratulations to Kenny & Phyllis Kinneman who will celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary on Nov. 19!
- ~ Prayers Dorothea Olson and family as her husband, Clint, died.
- ~ Prayers Diane Wiskerchen and family as her husband, Larry Wiskerchen, died.
- ~ Prayers for Paul (Ginny) and Jon Tonsager and family as their mother, Marcelline Tonsager, died.

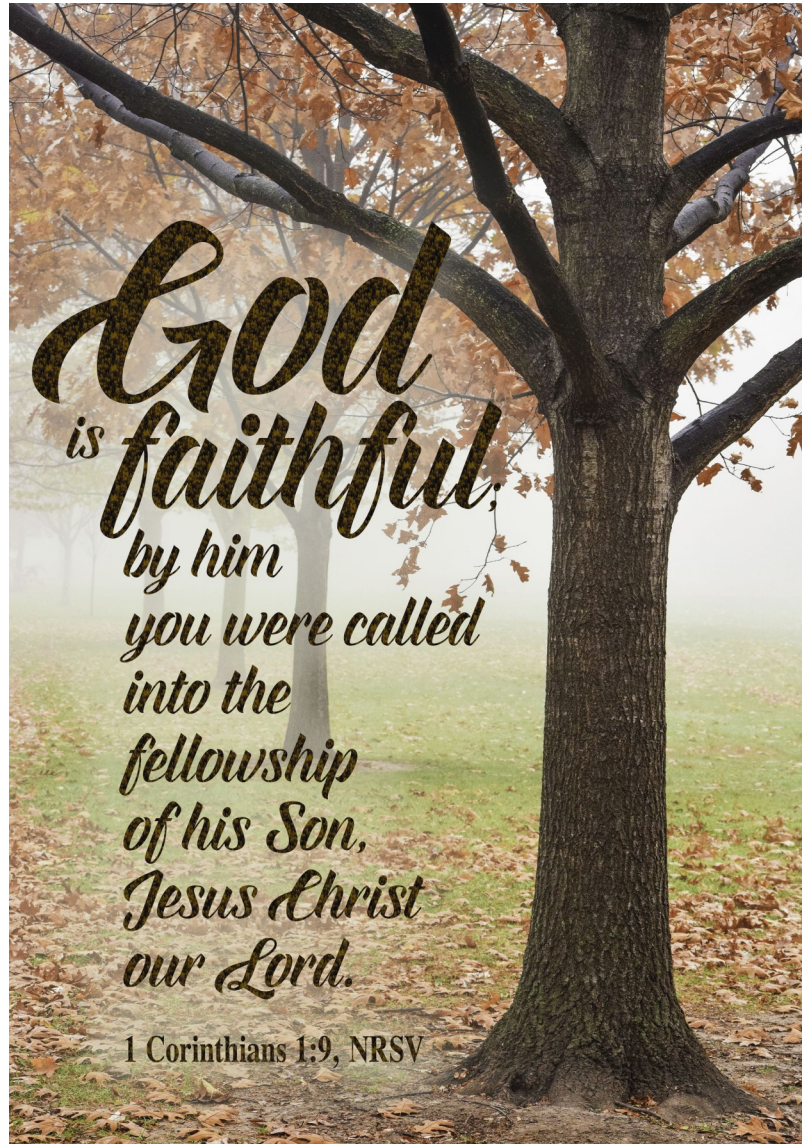
Healing:

- Greg Place ~ Heart Issues
- Dennis Boettcher ~ Covid
- Martha Pronk, Mark Groen's Aunt ~ Cancer
- Kyle, Friend of Kate Smith ~ Covid
- Julie Fern, Sister-in-law of Melanie Johnson
 - ~ Medical Issues
- Jim Hines ~ Heart Issues
- Nancy Hove ~ Brain Cancer
- Mike Hince, Cousin of Darla Moquin
 - ~ cancer on his palate, surgery recovery

Long-term:

- Burt & Lila Larson
- Sherry York
- Debbie Kannel-Howard
- Terry Wegerer, Brother of Darla Moquin
 - ~ Stage 4 Lung Cancer
- Karen McAdams, Linda & Gary Onan's Daughter
 - ~ Multiple System Atrophy
- Deb Pierce, Trina Groen's Mom ~ Alzheimer's
- Joyce Geister, Julie Baggenstoss & Carol Melstrom's Mother
- Hazel Wegerer ~ Dementia
- Mackenzie Marks, Connie Gossett's Granddaughter
- Tomi Erlandson ~ Seizures & Health
- Dale & Marianne Melstrom
- Mary Dee Prokop, Mother of Eileen Mewes
- Wendy Wegerer ~ Health Issues

Military service: Cody Tschida & Johnathan Bergman



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 November ~ Vicki Nelson



Ellsworth Gift Box Committee

P.O. Box 1500 • Ellsworth, WI 54011

Fax: 715-273-5775

Phone: 715-821-1258

EllsworthGiftBoxProgram@gmail.com

The Ellsworth Gift Box Program will serve families living within the geographic area of the Ellsworth School District. This program is a result of many community volunteers who have committed their time and energy to help families during the holidays? the program will be aided by the Ellsworth School Foundation and Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services.

Sponsors Needed

Individuals or groups who would like to sponsor a family are encouraged to fill out the form (which can be found to the right) or at the Ellsworth Public Library and return to the program coordinators by fax, mail or email

(EllsworthGiftBoxProgram@gmail.com). Any monetary donations should be made out to the Ellsworth School Foundation/Gift Box Program.

Applications for Assistance Available

Families/Individuals that would like to be sponsored should fill out an application (which can be found to the right) or available at any of the district buildings. Applications should be returned no later than November 9th to the program to allow time to be matched with a sponsor. These can be emailed, faxed or mailed to the Gift Box Office, and will be followed up by a phone call.

Assistance & Resource Center, Inc. (ARC) is the primary resource in our community providing timely help for those needing support to get back on track financially during these unsettled times.



ARC is completing 12 years of providing short term financial assistance to residents of River Falls and Ellsworth to help them meet their basic needs (payment assistance to prevent evictions, utility help to prevent a disconnect, gas, auto repair, food, and much more.) Every request for help is looked at individually, with clients treated with empathy, confidentiality, and respect as situations are discussed.

Combining the amazing generosity of donors like you with the flexibility of ARC volunteers, services have continued without disruption, avoiding added stress to our prospective clients. ARC has recently been able to increase both the frequency and the amount of assistance available to our local residents.

THANK YOU for your unprecedented gifts and please help spread the word that ARC is here to assist those in need. Call [715-338-0755](tel:715-338-0755) to make a request.

Community means all of us working together. Together we can do so much!

We have some great new programs:

- Book Club for anyone who'd like a new way to learn more about dementia and have a chance to socialize and brainstorm with others around the state.
- Grandpa and Lucy series, which is part of Dementia Friends, that helps others to understand 5 key messages about dementia and encourages them to take action to support someone in a small or big way. Available for children, families, libraries, churches, schools and really anyone.



Besides the community education part of my role, I am very active in helping persons concerned with brain function, caregiving, services or supports needed to maintain independence at home. I can do 1:1 visits with people, socially distanced and with masks, to get a better idea of what services may be beneficial and especially to evaluate and suggest ideas for more successful communication/interaction/recreation, etc.

We provide FREE, confidential assistance so that people can remain as independent as possible and caregivers can get the support and reassurance that they need.

Amy Luther, Dementia Care Specialist
Aging and Disability Resource Center of Pierce County
715-273-6780 amy.luther@co.pierce.wi.us
<http://www.co.pierce.wi.us>



English Lutheran Church
229 West Main Street
Ellsworth, Wisconsin
Phone: 715-273-4617
Church website:
<http://www.englishlutheranchurch.org>
Find us on Facebook!

Staff

Pastor, Jeff Smith

pastor@englishlutheranchurch.org
Office: 715-273-4617
Cell: 651-235-7204 (preferably 9 am-9 pm)
Call or text any time for urgent pastoral care.

**Communications Coordinator &
Finance Administrator, Trina Groen**
office@englishlutheranchurch.org

Custodian, Julie Baggenstoss

Music Director, Open Position—Hiring

Church Office Hours

Wednesdays Noon to 8 pm

Thursdays 9 am to 3 pm



Congregational Council

President: Peter Carr
Vice President: Dennis Boettcher
Treasurer: Gary Brown
Secretary: Julie Davis
Jen Abbas
Denise Hager
Melba Smith
Paul Tonsager
Eric Van Nocker

“Draw near and
hear the words
of the LORD
your God.”

JOSHUA 3:9, NRSV



Our Mission:

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

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Published monthly by:
English Lutheran Church
Ellsworth, Wisconsin.

Email:
office@englishlutheranchurch.org



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November 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



MON 2	TUE 3	WED 4	THU 5	FRI 6	SAT 7
<p>Election Day (General Elections)</p>					
<p>8</p> <p>9:15am Online Worship</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30pm Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30pm Confirmation Class</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Veterans Day</p> <p>6:30pm Confirmation Class</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Turkey Basket Request Deadline</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p> <p>9am Sunday School Zoom Class</p> <p>9:15am Online Worship</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:30pm Confirmation Class</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>2021 Commitment Forms Due</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10am Turkey Basket Distribution</p>
<p>20</p> <p>9:15am Online Worship</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:15am Online Worship</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Thanksgiving Day</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Black Friday</p> <p>Native American Heritage Day</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>9:15am Online Worship</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>

