



# August 2025 Cross Beams



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

*Our Vision: A Christ-centered, serving community.*



Piper at Luther Point Bible Camp



Delicious Pies - getting ready for the Pierce County Fair! Thank you to all the volunteers that help with this initiative!!



Softball Tournament Pics from July 26, 2025. It was a very HOT day! Thank you to all that came out in the heat to play, to cheer, etc.

We appreciate pictures of church events. Please capture and share: [office@englishlutheranchurch.org](mailto:office@englishlutheranchurch.org)  
Thank you!



## What's Inside:

- † Pastor's Article
- † CYF Update
- † Church News
- † Youth News
- † Financial Update
- † Prayer List
- † Church Calendar
- † S.W.O.T. Analysis
- † Miscellaneous



## PASTOR PETE'S ARTICLE

August 2025

105 Years!! On July 12, 1920, English Lutheran Church officially began! However, our origins date back to August 12, 1914, when twelve people gathered to form a Ladies Aid with the help of the Reverend L.K. Aaberg, who was the pastor at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. This is according to our 75 th Anniversary booklet. We still have copies of it in the church office and it is a wonderful resource that tells the history of our congregation up until 1995.

I am a history nerd, so I will share a brief synopsis of it. As I mentioned before, we have our roots going all the way back to 1914 and official incorporation of 1920. In the early years, worshippers met at the Episcopal church up the road from us in the church building that is now known as Living Waters. The groundbreaking ceremonies for our building were held in October 1923 and worship services began in the basement until the sanctuary was completed in 1927. I have been unable to find the blueprints for the original church building, but we have them for all of the subsequent additions and renovations that we have completed in the last 100 years.

In the fall of 1952, we added on the basement portion of the Sunday School wing, which is where the Senior Center is now located. It also included the furnace room, which I lovingly call the dungeon, new bathrooms, the kitchen as well as the chancel and sacristy. The chancel is that part in the very front of the worship space where the altar and table sit and the sacristy is the small room off of the chancel where the communion supplies are kept. The upstairs part of the Sunday school wing was added in 1960.

The congregation then needed more space and they considered a couple of options. One set of plans that I found included building a new octagon shaped sanctuary in the parking lot to the east of the current building and then repurpose the old sanctuary. Ultimately, they simply added on the offices upstairs and the fireside room downstairs to the south end of the building in 1974.

In the 90's we needed to make the church more accessible so the addition was built on the north side of the church that included the elevator, new bathrooms, and a gathering space for fellowship.

I guess that the next question is: What should we build next? Honestly, I do not think that we need to add on, we have plenty of building for now. Perhaps we should look at improving and updating what we already have. We have been doing that with some smaller projects, like replacing the carpet in the foyer and basement hallway this last fall and we have been slowly upgrading our lighting around the church to be more efficient. If you have been reading the council minutes, you will see that there has been discussion about our kitchen and by extension, the fellowship hall. I think those spaces in our church home that need some love.

A team has been assembled to look at what we would like to do with the kitchen and fellowship hall and Sheila Mach has been coming up with some design ideas for what



we can do. The hard part is that the kitchen is surrounded by thick foundation walls on three sides so we are unable to expand the kitchen. However, there are things that we can do to improve the space and make it more user friendly. I also think that we need to freshen up our fellowship (dining room) as well. The room dividers were removed a number of years ago and so the tracks can come down from the ceiling. Also, this past winter, we stripped and waxed the floor and discovered that most of the tiles have come to the end of their life expectancy. So we will need to replace the flooring in the fellowship hall as well. I think that it is now time to show that part of the building some love.

As I said, we are in the process of drawing up plans now. We hope to make the kitchen a more user-friendly space as well as brighter and more cheerful. It is an area of our building that is seeing more use again as we continue to recover and rebuild from the Covid time.

Speaking of which, Covid robbed us of a 100th anniversary party back in 2020. There has been talk of doing something this year, but we have not had anyone step forward to take the reins. So if you like to throw parties, talk to me and we will see what we can come up with. It doesn't need to be big and extravagant. We can save that for the 125th. We had commemorative cups printed to celebrate our 105th anniversary that we will hand out this year at the fair stand!! Perhaps this fall we can do some sort of a tailgate party in the parking lot. Who knows?! If you have a fun idea, talk to me and let us see what we can come up with.

Peace, Pastor Pete

## **Children, Youth, & Family Updates**

### **Sunday School**

We will have a blessing of the backpacks, students, & teachers ceremony on Sunday, September 7, 2025 during the worship service! Sunday school will start during communion and then run until 10:30 am on most Sunday mornings. Keep an eye out for when the registration will open.

### **Kingdom Kids**

Kingdom Kids will resume on the first Wednesday of the month on October 1st. This year, we are adding a family meal after Kingdom Kids. After the kids are done with Kingdom Kids, we are inviting the kids and their families to join us for supper at 5:00 PM.

### **Confirmation**

Confirmation will begin on Wednesday, September 17th with orientation and registration. This year, we are opening it up to 6th thru 9th graders and it will be from 6:30 to 7:30 PM on Wednesday Nights. We need volunteers for the confirmation program, if you are interested, please talk to Pastor Pete.

# CHURCH NEWS

## Fair Stand Sign-Up Time



Volunteers are needed to work in the English Lutheran Church fair stand for the Pierce County Fair in August (7th-10th). The sign-up forms are located in the

back of the church. Or, you can contact the church office or Dan K. to sign up for a shift or two. We appreciate you! Thank you for your time!

## Pie Baking (At Church)



We need help Baking the Fruit Pies for the church stand at the Pierce County Fair. We will be baking **at church** August, 6, 7, and 8 starting at 2 p.m. each day. There is a sign-up at the back of the church, or you can contact the church. We always have fun when we all work together.

## Pies Needed!

The fair stand committee is requesting the donation of 2 pies or a \$20.00 donation per family for pies to be sold at the fair stand. (We will also be baking pies at the church.) Please only donate pies that **do not** require refrigeration (no cream pies, please). Pies can be dropped off at the fair stand during operating hours or at church August 6, 7, and 8 between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Thank you!



## Relapse Prevention Group

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

## Fellowship

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

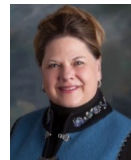


The suggested donation is \$5.00 to help cover the cost of food.

## Summer Retreat

St. Croix Valley Conference  
Saturday, August 16, 2025

Trinity Lutheran Church, 1250 Broadway, Hammond  
\$15.00 Admission Fee (Includes Program & Lunch)  
8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. Registration/Coffee  
9:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Event w/lunch to follow



Pati Kachel, Hanging on to Hope  
A collection of scriptures, stories, and songs to encourage you to persevere through those difficult and discouraging times we all face. Hope is a gift from Heaven to help us on earth.

## 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.



## Women's Bible Study

During the months of June, July, and August we do not have a Bible Study. Please join us again in September.

# CHURCH NEWS


## From Our Savior's Softball Field



We are excited to announce that on **August 23rd** we will be hosting an 1860 Softball League tournament at the park. This will be amazing - these guys will be playing ball like they did back at the start of softball - no gloves, old-style bats, old-style balls, they bring their own bases, and the umpire will be in top hat and coat. They will be bringing 4 teams to play from 10 am to 4 pm. We will have full concessions and are very excited about this event. Mark it on your calendar!

Reach out to Donna if you have any questions.  
Thanks, Donna Constant [constant.donna@yahoo.com](mailto:constant.donna@yahoo.com)

**Vintage Base Ball**  
1860 Rules - The Way the Game Was Meant to be Played

 **August 23, 2025 | 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**  
**Our Savior's Lutheran Church Ball Field**  
**Lawton, Wisconsin**

Teams: Menomonie Blue Caps, Sand Creek 9 and Afton Red Socks

**W5364 County Road N**  
**Beldenville WI**

**Parking & Shuttle Parking Available**

**Concessions Available**

### Back to School Coming Soon

Ellsworth Community Schools has Interim Session Days on August, 26, 27, and 28. The 1st Day of School is September 2nd.

**This also means our youth programs will be starting. We need assistants to help with our programming. Please contact Pastor with questions or to indicate your interest. It promises to be a fun year!**

## 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 which is located just outside the south door of the church. Thank you!



## Random Acts of Kindness

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".



# August 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
August 31 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship					1 1:00pm Pool Players (Sr. Ctr.)	2
3 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	4 1:00pm Pool Players (Sr. Center)	5 9:00am Footcare (Sr. Ctr.)	6 2:00pm Pie Baking	7 PC Fair 2:00pm Pie Baking 6:00pm Relapse Prevention Recovery	8 PC Fair 1:00pm Pool Players (Sr. Ctr.) 2:00pm Pie Baking	9 PC Fair
10 PC Fair 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	11 1:00pm Pool Players (Sr. Center)	12 6:30pm Finance Meeting	13	14 1:00pm Euchre (Sr. Ctr.) 6:00pm Relapse Prevention Recovery	15 Newsletter articles due 1:00pm Pool Players (Sr. Ctr.)	16
17 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	18 1:00pm Pool Players (Sr. Center)	19 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	20 6:30pm Endowment Meeting	21 8:00am Men's Bkfst 10:00am Sr. Ctr Board Mtg 6:00pm Relapse Prevention Recovery	22 1:00pm Pool Players (Sr. Ctr.)	23
24 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	25 1:00pm Pool Players (Sr. Center)	26	27	28 8:00am Men's Bkfst 1:00pm Euchre (Sr. Ctr.) 6:00pm Relapse Prevention Recovery	29 1:00pm Pool Players (Sr. Ctr.)	30

## English Lutheran Church S.W.O.T Analysis: Strengths

**Please answer the following questions (related to the strengths of our church) with one or two sentences OR a list of items. Please return this form to the office.**

1. What is English Lutheran Church known for?
2. What unique resources or talents does our church have?
3. What do our members love about our church?
4. What are we doing that other churches do not do?
5. What are our assets?
6. Which of those assets is the strongest?
7. What makes us stand out from other churches in the area?
8. What are things that people say we do well?
9. What are the advantages we have over other churches?
10. What is special about our member base?



### Prayer requests:

Janet Arndt  
Addison Closs  
Linda During  
Vern Ellefson  
Tomi Erlandson  
Matt Feuerhelm  
Steve Fogle  
Julie Gore  
Mikey Krohn

Lila Larson  
Dean Mewes  
Judy Morrow  
Steve Pieczykolan  
Melba Smith  
Sophia Sokolik  
Elaine Wegerer

### Military service prayers:

Josh Bechel  
Jonathan Bergman  
Kohl Flock

*"God is our refuge and strength."*

— Psalm 46:1



### Financial Update

June 30, 2025 Cash Balances  
General Fund = \$93,051.49  
Dedicated Fund = \$96,455.27  
Total = \$189,506.76  
Thrivent = \$109,345.16

June General Fund Balance  
Income = 17,316.57  
Expenses = \$17,193.16

The next finance meeting: August 12 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 August is Mary Sokolik.

### 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