



Cross Beams

September 2023



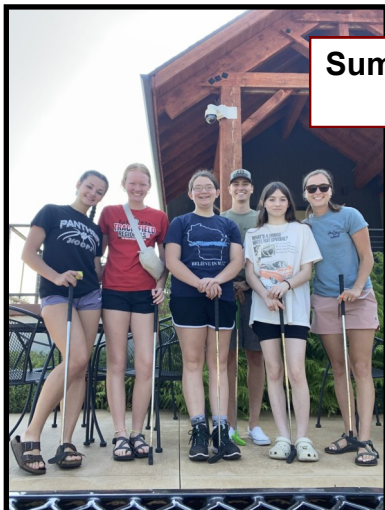
www.englishlutheranchurch.org

Our Vision: A Christ-centered, serving community.



The Pierce County Fair was a huge success this year!

Thank you to all the help from our volunteers and those who stopped by for food.



Summer Youth Day Trip



What's Inside:

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





Attitude of Gratitude

When I graduated from high school, my parents hosted a big party at their house. We invited all our family, friends, and neighbors to come to the house for food and beverages. We cooked so much food, way too much food. So much in fact, that when I came home for Thanksgiving break, mom was pulling pans out of the freezer of leftover graduation food for us to eat. That was awesome! The other great thing was all the gifts and cards that I received from the guests. That was really awesome! But it also meant that I had to say thank you. When we ordered my invitations, Mom also ordered the Thank You cards for me to send out after the party. And that stack of Thank You cards with the list of gifts sat on the dining room table forever. All summer long, Mom would "remind" me that I needed to do my thank you cards. It was weird, it was awkward, and I didn't like doing it, so rarely did I ever do it again. But it always gnawed at me in the back of my mind, that I should send out a Thank You card after I received a gift.

When I finally gave up the fight and listened to God and went off to seminary to study to become a minister. People from back home were extremely excited and they were generous with their cards and well-wishes as I left home and went back to school. I had a list of people that I needed to send a thank you to and eventually I did send out a letter. It was amazing to see how many people said thank you for the thank you! It brought a nice, warm fuzzy feeling to my heart. But something more important changed within me as I was writing those thank you notes, it helped me to see the blessings in my life, rather than focusing on the bad things. My mood changed as I wrote those thank you notes. It is hard to be angry or sad when you are focusing on something good that is happening. In Alcoholics Anonymous, we call this an Attitude of Gratitude. When we look for the good things in life, we find them. If all we focus on is the bad, then that is what we will find. Unfortunately, in our world today, there are many people who are making a lot of money by making us feel bad about anything and everything. If you spend all your time watching the news, you will be driven mad by all the bad things that they tell us about. And they make money by making us angry and outraged by what other people are doing. They sell ads and we get a rush from the anger that we are feeling. So, we watch more of it, and they sell more ads and make more money. Meanwhile, the ads are telling us that something is wrong with us and if we just buy the product that they are selling, then we will be happy. And we gobble it down, buy it up, and soak it into our brains. And we cannot figure out why we are more miserable and even poorer than we were before we bought this, that, or the other thing.

Our world tells us to focus on the bad because it has figured out how to make money on that. I'm not saying that we need to be Pollyanna or think that the entire world is bubblegum and rainbows, because we are human. There is bad stuff out there, BUT there is also a ton of great things out there too!! If we turn off our TVs, put down our phones, close our laptops, turn off the talk-radio, we can begin to create space for us to see the good in our lives and in our world. We can begin to see the blessings in our lives. I encourage you, grab a piece of paper or a thank you note and say a quick thank you, or even send a note saying Hi to a long-lost friend. You may never know what that note means to the recipient, it may change their day for the better. I do know who will change, YOU! By bringing a little gratitude into our lives, we let a little bit of joy and sunshine in our hearts and souls. A little bit of peace enters our lives. Now, brothers and sisters in Christ, may the peace of God that passes all human understanding, may it guard your hearts and minds in Christ.

Amen.

Pastor Pete

CHURCH NEWS

Landscape Project

The English Lutheran landscape project is complete! The grounds around the church were in need of repair, and thanks to all of your donations, it was finished!

A special thank you to Reuver's Nursery as well for doing this project for English Lutheran.

Thank you again to all who donated!!



Women's Bible Study

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

We will begin with a three session bible study entitled "Holy Places." The discussion and study will center around what holy places mean. And not only the Holy Land of the bible, but Holy Land for each of us, whatever that may be.

We use the 'Gather' magazine, but if you don't have it, bring your bible and join us!



Hostess is Nancy Ellefson

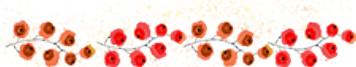
First Communion

We will be holding a first communion class for those who have not received their first communion and wish to do so.

More information to come at a later date.

Please contact anyone on the Children, Youth, and Family Team with any questions you have.

We're looking forward to seeing all of the children in September!



Fair Stand

The English Lutheran food stand at the Pierce County fair was a huge success!

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time, or who stopped by for a tasty meal.

A special thank you to Paul & Jon Tonsager, and Dan Klaustermeier for all the hard work they put in. The fair stand would not be possible without them!

There is left over soup! One bucket of soup is \$10 each.

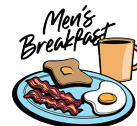
We can't wait for next year at the fair!



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.

ELC Softball

Congratulations to the English Lutheran Softball team for winning the Ellsworth Church Softball League Tournament!

The tournament was on Sunday, August 27 at Our Savior's Ballfield, where they won first place!



Sharing Shed

Please remember English Lutheran's Sharing Shed for your extra clothing and other household extras.

Drop off directly into the Sharing Shed, just outside the south door of the church.

Thank you for your donations!

Sunday School

We're excited to begin our Sunday School year! Children ages 3 through 6th grade can join us on Sunday mornings following communion during the worship service for about 30 minutes. Times will be 9:45 to 10:15 am. Children will worship with their families and then when they go up for communion or a blessing with their families they will be dismissed with their teachers to classrooms. Class times will include some large group lesson time, large group activity, and music.

Rally day is Sunday, September 17th. We will not hold regular classes on rally day, instead, this will be a kick-off day with games and treats for all following the worship service.

We have lots of fun things coming up for Sunday School - here are some important dates for your calendar! Note - these dates are also on our church calendar available on our church website.

Important Dates:

- September 17 - Teacher Installation & Rally Sunday
- October 4 - we will be piloting a program for our students grades 4K-6th grade for an afternoon worship program from 3:30-5. Students can ride the bus from school to English Lutheran to participate.
- October 8 - Sunday School students sing in church & Bible Sunday - 3rd graders & 7th graders will receive Bibles in worship
- November 11 - Sunday School students sing in church
- December 10 - Christmas Party & Sunday School students sing in church
- Christmas Program - TBD
- No Sunday School class - November 26 and December 17, 24, & 31



Confirmation

Our confirmation year kicks off, Wednesday, Sept. 20, at 6:00 pm for students in 7th-10th grade with a dinner and orientation for students and parents. Please feel free to invite a friend!

Classes: Our lessons will be based on the Old Testament. It is a 3-year rotation where everyone learns the same thing each year, Old Testament, New Testament and then the Small Catechism. We will also have a discussion guide for the small groups each week. Our schedule for class times is below:

Schedule - 6:00 Meal

6:20 Announcements

6:30 Whole Group Lesson

6:45 Small Group Time

7:00 - 7:30 Activity/Game

Dates -

Sept. 20 - Orientation/kickoff for parents and students

Oct. 4th & 18th - Class

Oct 28 - Saturday - Affirmation of Baptism Brunch & Rehearsal @ 9:00 am - Brunch for 10th graders - 9th graders and parents serve.

Oct. 29 - Affirmation of Baptism Service @ 9:00am

Nov. 8 - Hand out Thanksgiving flyers in town

Nov. 15 - Pick up food for Thanksgiving baskets

Nov. 30 - Class

Dec. 6 - Class

Dec. 20 - Christmas Party - bring a \$5 gift for the exchange game



Meals

We will do the meals the same as last year - we need parent volunteers to sign up for a date and we will provide funding for the meals. Thank you in advance for your time!

YOUTH NEWS, ENDOWMENT

Endowment

The Endowment Committee had their most recent quarterly meeting in August. Disbursements from the previous quarter included the following items from the Children's Fund:

- † Treats used for hospitality following the service honoring our graduating seniors as they received quilts from our quilting ministry
- † Vacation Bible School expenses
- † Scholarships for youth to attend Luther Point Bible Camp

Newly approved requests from the Children's Fund: (no requests were received for the General Endowment or Women's Endowment Funds)

- † Rally Sunday & Backpack Blessing activities for children
- † Food for "Sunday School" on Wednesday nights
- † Affirmation of Baptism worship service items and food for the family banquet
- † Meals for our confirmation youth served on class nights



If your ministry has funding needs, please submit a request to the church office. Forms can be found online and on the forms shelf outside the church office. Forms should be submitted by November 1 to be considered for the next quarterly meeting.

If you wish to make a donation to the Endowment Fund, please contact the church office.

Endowment Committee—Warren Johnson, Peter Carr, Traci Maxwell, Dixie Basch, Diane Wiskerchen, Mary Sokolik, and Trina Groen.

Choir

Choir is starting up again and new members are encouraged and welcome to join! No experience necessary... on the job training will be provided! To begin the year we will have some Sunday and Wednesday practices. If you can't make all the practices, don't worry! Hope to see you there!

New format for Kids choir: Missy and Ava will meet on the first Wednesday of the month starting in October to familiarize the kids with the song of the month they will be singing for service. During Sunday School, the teachers will lead the kids in practicing the song. Kids choir is scheduled to sing the Sunday following the first Wednesday of the month.

Adult Choir

8.30 Wednesday- Practice @ 6:00
9.6 Wednesday- Practice @ 6:00
9.10 Sunday- Practice after Service
9.13 Wednesday- Practice @ 6:00
9.17 RALLY SUNDAY- Choir Sings
9.24 Sunday- Practice after Service
10.1 Sunday- Practice after Service
10.8 Sunday- Practice after Service
10.15 Sunday- Practice after Service
10.22 Sunday- Practice after Service
10.29 Confirmation- Choir Sings
11.5 Sunday- Practice after Service
11.12 Sunday- Practice after Service
11.19 Choir Sings
11.26 Sunday- Practice after Service
December- Practice this month might change
12.3 Sunday- Practice after Service
12.10 Sunday- Practice after Service
12.17 Sunday- Practice after Service

Kids Choir

9.24 Sunday- Practice during Sunday School
10.1 Sunday- Practice during Sunday School
10.4 Wednesday- Practice during Wednesday Class
10.8 Sunday- Kids Choir Sings
10.15 Sunday- Practice during Sunday School
10.22 Sunday- Practice during Sunday School
10.29 Sunday- Practice during Sunday School
11.1 Wednesday- Practice during Wednesday Class
11.5 Sunday- Kids Choir Sings
11.12 Sunday- Practice during Sunday School
11.19 Sunday- Practice during Sunday School
11.26 Sunday- Practice during Sunday School
12.3 Sunday- Practice during Wednesday Class
12.6 Wednesday- Practice during Sunday School
12.10 Sunday- Kids Choir Sings

WELCOME
BACK, CHOIR 

August Council Meeting

- † Reviewed the property that the church owns and the nine parcels. Discussion was held to consider selling the large wooded parcel. Further research is necessary.
- † Seeking bids to enable front doors to be handicap accessible.
- † English Lutheran hosting an outdoor worship on September 3.
- † Looking for a member of the congregation to join the Stewardship Team.



- † The next council meeting will be **September 19th at 6:30 pm.**

Financial Update

July 30, 2023 Cash Balances:

General Fund = \$104,190.99
Dedicated Fund = \$85,445.30
Total = \$189,636.29
Thrivent = \$97,308.23

July General Fund:

Income = \$12,251.58
Expenses = \$16,172.01



The next finance meeting will be **September 12th at 6:30 pm.**

PRAYER REQUESTS

Healing:

Rachel Proulx, niece of Julie Davis
~ Breast Cancer

Liz Krohn

Mikey Krohn

Judi Nielsen

Nathan Baar

Tucker Thoen

Jerry Baggenstoss

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

Rob Mathis

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 September ~ 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

WORSHIP
with us

Cross Beams

Published monthly by:
English Lutheran Church
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Email:
office@englishlutheranchurch.org



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September 2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUN 27	MON 28	TUE 29	WED 30	THU 31	FRI Sep 1	SAT 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Worship 10am Fellowship Hour 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Men's Breakfast 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Outdoor Worship Service 10am Fellowship Hour 	Labor Day			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Men's Breakfast 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Worship 10am Fellowship Hour 10:30am Outdoor worship at Our Sav 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Finance Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Women's Bible Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Men's Breakfast 	Deadline for Newsletter Articles First Day of Hispanic Heritage Month	
Rally Sunday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Worship 10am Rally Sunday 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Church Council Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Confirmation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Men's Breakfast 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Worship 10am Fellowship Hour 10am Sunday School 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Men's Breakfast 		

