Cross Beams
November 2026

english LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.englishlutheranchurch.org

Kingdom Kids enjoying the nice weather in October

Children in service filling the front of church

Confirmation brunch and service

Pastor Appreciation with personalized video and gift for Pastor Pete

What's Inside:

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- Events
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- Council Minutes
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A Christ-Centered, Serving Community

Do Kindness

November 2026

"Praise Him, Praise Him all ye little children. God is love! God is love! Praise Him, praise Him all ye little children, God is love! God is love!!"

Did you ever sing that song in Sunday School? We did and we would insert different words for "praise." The teacher would ask for other one syllable verbs that we could sing that would tell us what we can do to praise God. "Love" was always a popular one. "Thank" was another one. Thank Him, thank Him, all ye little children. God is Love! God is Love!

Do you have that song running through your head now? I know that I'll be singing it for a few days. But that is a pretty good thing. Especially since we are now coming up on Thanksgiving. It's that wonderful day where we celebrate by gorging ourselves with too much turkey and football and the floodgates for the shopping season are officially wide open...

Wait a minute, what was this holiday about? Oh yeah, it's called Thanksgiving. Give thanks for what we have received. It is amazing how an attitude of gratitude changes us not only mentally, but physically as well. Distrust, fear, jealousy, envy, hatred, all of those things have a negative impact on us. It takes away the joy in our lives and sows the seeds for discontent. And we are bombarded by this every single day. Every. Single. Day!! And not just once in a while, but all the time! The advertisements we see and hear constantly tell us that we are not good enough, that we need more to be happy. If only we do this one thing, buy this one product, go to this one store, then we will be happy and our lives will be complete.

But that's not how God works. We do not need one more thing to be whole. We do not need one more experience to be complete. God loves us just the way we are. There is nothing we can do to make him love us more. And there is nothing that we can do that will make him love us less. Wow, that is amazing!! And it is all free! We did nothing to earn this! It is Christ who does this for us!

When we realize that we can be free from fear, jealousy, anger, and such; it not only eases the burdens on our minds, but it also gives us a physical relief. Our shoulders relax, the tightness in our chest can go away, and we can simply breathe. We are given a freedom to be exactly who God created us to be. Flawed and imperfect human beings that God calls to be his own. We do not need to fear or be jealous. In the end, God has us and for that we can be grateful. And we can Thank him, thank him, all ye little children. God is Love, God is Love!

Amen.

Pastor Pete

CHURCH NEWS/EVENTS

Sharing Shed

We have a new team that has volunteered to take care of the Sharing Shed! Thank you so much for stepping forward. Please remember the Sharing Shed for your extra or no longer needed clothing or small household items. Please put directly in the Sharing Shed outside the back door of the church.

Luther Point annual meeting and listening session

Luther Point will host its annual meeting at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 8, at camp in the Shalom building. This meeting will include the first in a series of board listening sessions to find out from you what you would like Luther Point to do for you.

Over the last 25 years, Lutheran churches in the area we serve have experienced significant declines in membership and congregational giving. Luther Point is navigating a similar decline. The board has imagined three scenarios for Luther Point for the next 12 months, and we need your input. Please come ready to share your ideas for the future.

Pastor Pete will host a dinner at English Lutheran at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 10, and the listening session will follow at 6 p.m.

Luther Point BIBLE CAMP

On Friday, November 6, 2026 Pastor Pete will be offering a first communion class. The class will take place at 3:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. They will then celebrate their first communion at service on Sunday November 8th.

Holy Communion is open to all baptized persons. Children may be communed at any age with their parent's consent. Children ready to receive first communion can contact the church office by November 4, 2026

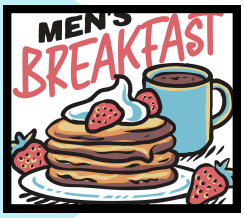
Women's Brunch & Bible Study

Pastor Pete will prepare brunch for all women of the church on Wednesday, **November 11, 2026 at 9:30 A.M.** A donation of $5.00 is appreciated for the cost of food.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!!

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 **November 12 and 19.**



Thanksgiving Basket Season

We need items for our Thanksgiving Basket initiative:

Cranberries

Boxed instant mashed potatoes

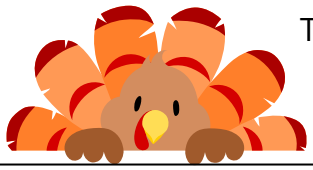
Boxed instant stuffing

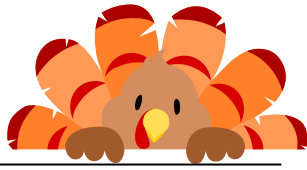
Gravy packets or Jars of Gravy

Canned fruits and vegetables

We appreciate your consideration and donations to fill the baskets.

Thank you!





Confirmation in the Community

Our Confirmation youth will have two special outings this month. November 11 they will be delivering flyers around Ellsworth for Thanksgiving basket donations. Then on November 18, they will be going back around to pick up the donation. This is a great way for them to give back to the community. If you would be interested in driving a few of the youth around town, please let the office or Pastor Pete know.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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
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!

2026 Ellsworth Gift Box

They are accepting applications for families in need during the holidays. The Family Application and Wish List Forms are due November 13th to one of the Ellsworth Community School District buildings or by emailing: EllsworthGiftBoxProgram@gmail.com. This is open to families, with or without school-aged children. (See link for the form(s) or stop at any school district building to pick up the form.)

https://www.ellsworth.k12.wi.us/page/gift-box-program

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.

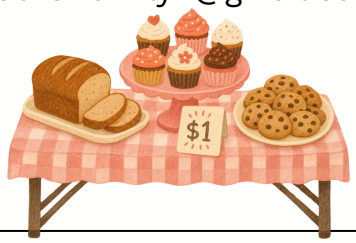
Heart is here to lend a helping hand to families who need support during tough times. We have access to furniture, school supplies, laundry soap, coats, bikes, toys, and an array of other items.

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.

Sweet Treats for a Sweet Purpose

Piper will once again be hosting her annual bake sale with all proceeds going to KS95 for kids radiothon benefiting Gillet Children's Hospital and Masonic Children's Cancer Center.
She is looking for volunteers to help bake, donate supplies, donate baked goods, or even sponsor her event. Please reach out if you are interested in helping. Email her at nockerfamily4@gmail.com



Basics for Local Kids (BLK)

What “Basics” are we actually talking about? Winter wear for children in need-winter jackets, snowpants, boots, warm hats, gloves/mittens, and new socks. Who are these “Local Kids?” Children in need from newborn through age 18 who reside in Pierce or St. Croix County in Western Wisconsin.

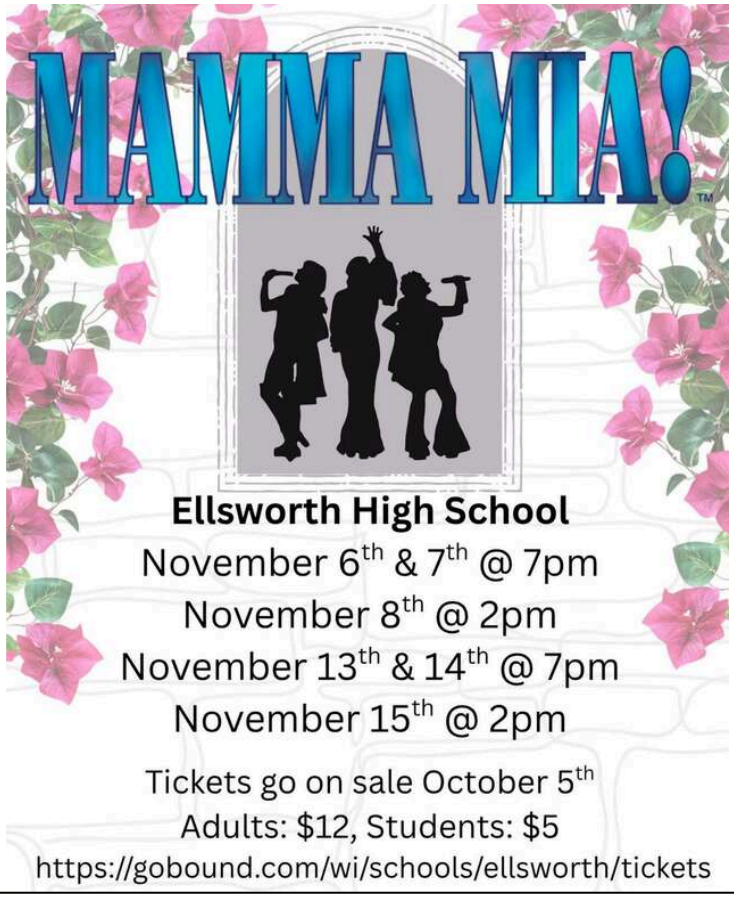
Something you may not know about the needs in our community- last year Basics for Local Kids (a local nonprofit) served over 1000 children in our area! Since 2010, BLK has quietly and efficiently outfitted appreciative families with what they need for our Wisconsin winter weather with absolutely no cost to the parent/caregiver. To find out more go to BasicsforLocalKids.org

Options are available to shop in person with an appointment, family pick up only after placing a specific request for a child, or case manager/school staff application and pick up. Look for all the details on the BLK webpage by scrolling down to 2026 Winter-Wear Sign Up and following the directions in both English and Spanish. Volunteers as well as donations are always needed and appreciated- see the site for this info also. Winter is coming! Thanks for your support!!

COUNCIL MINTUES

English Lutheran Church Council Minutes
October 20th, 2026
Members Present: Pastor Pete, Danielle Chollett, Eric Van Nocker, Cindy Baird, Mike Harris
Absent: Miranda Mewes, Mark Groen
The meeting was called to order by Mike Harris at 6:35 PM.

1. The mission statement was read.
2. Pastor Pete read a devotion.
3. Tonight's meeting agenda was approved.
4. September 15th, 2026 council meeting minutes were approved previously via email correspondence.
5. REPORTS:
    a. Finance / Treasurer's Report - See new business re: piety street repair The envelope offering was up this month given a large annual donation received. Thrivent account (August 2021 PPP) for Piety street payment will be reflected in the November finance report. The finance report is approved.
    b. Property - Spoke with concrete contractor (Rush River) for steps on Main Street; weather pending either this year or early Spring 2027. Hallway light to be replaced. Handicap inner front door fix remains on list. Recommendations made to replace carpet in the youth room. Kitchen renovation; on hold until the property committee can meet to discuss this topic further. Railing work ongoing by Eric; hope to finish by Christmas.
    c. Worship and Music - Next meeting date to be determined and as needed if any acute concerns develop.
    d. Children, Youth & Family - Confirmation going smoothly combined with the other local churches. Confirmation Sunday upcoming October 25th. Kingdom Kids with 31 registered children.
    e. Endowment - Next meeting November.
    f. Pastor's Report - 5 funerals in 5 weeks. Both Our Saviors and Svea/Eisvold both have prospective interim pastors.
6. OLD BUSINESS:
    a. Fair stand - Winterization considerations discussed. August 2026 council meeting fair stand recommendations reviewed and will return to fair stand discussion again at March 2027 council meeting.
    b. Sharing Shed - 4 people have come forward to offer to support the sharing shed; Jasmine, Karen, Jackie, Dawn. Need to check the shed, straighten up and organize items are primary jobs to be completed.
7. NEW BUSINESS:
    a. Village Assessment for Piety Street repair - Bill for the Piety repair was $24,189.80. Main street sidewalk repair bill was $2,268.37 (paid with $1,500 budgeted for this; remainder to be paid from fair stand dedicated fund). Property committee delegated council to make a decision on how the Piety Street repair would be paid. Discussion had; recommendations were made to pay in full; possibly pay with gains from Thrivent investments. Motion was made to pay the bill in full; passed. Motion was made to pay Piety street bill with investment gains associated with the Thrivent account; passed.
8. LORD'S PRAYER & ADJOURNMENT – Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 PM. Next Scheduled Meeting, Tuesday, November 17th, 202



CHILDREN AND YOUTH NEWS

On October 25, eight of our youth were Confirmed. Congratulations to Katen Achenback, Gavin Heschke, Luke Jahnke, Evan Ladwig, Haylee Maher, Bobby Mathis, Oliver Myers, and Joey Saver. May God Bless you.
Joey Saver and Gavin Heschke were also baptized during the service. The rest of their class served as sponsors.

Kingdom Kids
4k through 5th grade students can join us on the first Wednesday of the month after school from 3:30 to 5:00pm. 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.

Confirmation
6th -9th grade students are invited to join us for Confirmation Wednesday nights. Dinner will be served from 5:30-6:30 each night followed by class and activities from 6:30 to 7:30. There are a lot of fun activities planned and would love to have you join us. Please reach out to the office or Pastor Pete if you have any questions.

November 2026 English Lutheran Church Calendar

Church Calendar, Holidays in United States

Nov 2026 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Daylight Saving Time ends 9am - Worship 10am - Fellowship Hour 10:15am - Choir Practice 6pm - Recovery Prevention	2 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.	3 Election Day 1pm - Game Day (Sr. Ctr.)	4 3:30pm - Kingdom Kids 5pm - Kingdom Kids Family & 6:30pm - Confirmation	5 6pm - Recovery Support	6 1pm - Pool Players (Sr. 4pm - First Communion Class	7
8 9am - Worship 10am - Fellowship Hour 10:15am - Choir Practice 6pm - Recovery Prevention	9 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.	10 11am - Discovering Tuesdays 5:30pm - Luther Point Bible 6:30pm - Finance Meeting	11 Veterans Day 9am - Community Veterans 9:30am - Women's Brunch & 5:30pm - Supper & 6:30pm - Endowment Meeting	12 8am - Men's Breakfast 1pm - Euchre (Sr. Center) 6pm - Recovery Support	13 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.	14
15 9am - Worship 10am - Fellowship Hour 10:15am - Choir Practice 6pm - Recovery Prevention	16 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.	17 9am - St. Croix Valley Pastors' 6:30pm - Church Council	18 5:30pm - Supper &	19 8am - Men's Breakfast 10am - Senior Center Board 6pm - Recovery Support	20 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.	21 9am - Thanksgiving Basket 10am - Thanksgiving Basket
22 9am - Service of 10am - Fellowship Hour 10:15am - Choir Practice 6pm - Recovery Prevention	23 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.	24 1:30pm - Celebrating Seniors	25	26 Thanksgiving Day	27 Black Friday Deadline for Newsletter 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.	28
29 9am - Worship 10am - Fellowship Hour 10:15am - Choir Practice 2pm - Advent Social @ 6pm - Recovery Prevention	30 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.	1 1pm - Game Day (Sr. Ctr.)	2 3:30pm - Kingdom Kids 5pm - Kingdom Kids Family & 6:30pm - Confirmation	3 8am - Men's Breakfast 6pm - Recovery Support	4 1pm - Pool Players (Sr.	5

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
Julie Gore
Destin Kirchhoff
Bob & Debbie Lundberg
Judy Morrow
Elaine Wegerer

Church COUNCIL

2026 Church Council Members

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

Financial Update

August 31, 2026 Cash Balances
General Fund = $73,502.34
Dedicated Fund = $118,149.05
Total = $191,651.39
Thrivent = $122,468.57

General Fund
Income = $42,778.77
Expenses = $15,706.93

The next finance meeting:
November 10 at 6:30 p.m.

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 November is Melba Smith

Staff

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Finance Administrator & Accompanist: Ava Maxwell
finance@englishlutheranchurch.org

Music Director: Missy Kowalchyk
music@englishlutheranchurch.org

Custodian: Tami Place

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www.englishlutheranchurch.org
Find us on Facebook!
EnglishLutheranEllsworth

Office Hours
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