

November 2025

Cross Beams



Sunday School/Kingdom Kids
pictures from October



Safira Elora Onan Baptism
10-19-25



Madison Joy Dahl Baptism
10-5-2025



What's Inside:

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



Thankfulness.

What's your favorite season? I kind of dread hearing this question when I am in a group because there is always someone who says, "Fall or Autumn." And to be honest with you, I always dread the autumnal season. I think that it is because summer is over and everything is about to die. People say, "It looks so pretty with the leaves changing colors." In the back of my mind, I'm saying to myself, "Yeah, that's because they are dying. And soon, everything will look bleak and gray." I get moody and grumpy because I really notice how quickly the days shorten, the sun sets earlier each day. I think that that is main bit about it, the days are getting shorter and winter is coming. It will soon be cold and dark all the time! I guess that it's a good thing that I don't live in Alaska or Scandinavia. I would really struggle then in the winter. I suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder and ironically, for me, it's the worst in the fall. Once the snow flies, I'm fine, but until then, I can be kind of miserable to be around.

It is funny that I get like this because some of the best moments in my life have happened in the fall. It was in the fall of 2009 when I finally quit fighting God and applied to seminary. It was on October 20, 2011, that I drank my last can of beer and began living a new, sober life. Two years later, I quit smoking, and I met Kim in the fall. Three years ago, it was in the fall that I got to move to Ellsworth and began serving here at English Lutheran Church. So many life changing events for me have happened in the fall! I guess that I should learn to celebrate the fall, rather than dread it.

My life will change again this fall. On November 4, 2025, I will undergo Gastric Bypass Surgery. I have been overweight ever since the fifth grade and have struggled throughout the years. I've tried almost every diet plan that is available. I have tried all of the different shots and nothing has worked for me. This was not an easy decision for me to make, but back in February, my blood sugar was out of control and had to go back on insulin and that's when I said, "Okay, let's do the surgery." So I made the call to the Mayo Clinic to speak to someone. That was back in February and we have now come to November, and I will finally get to have my surgery. I thought that I would be able to have it done in August, but it wasn't meant to be. In addition to the surgeon having a number of hoops to jump through, the insurance company threw a couple in, just for fun (at least that's how it felt). In the long run, it'll be fine, I've had to wait seven months, but this will give me another thing to celebrate in the fall.

Speaking of that, we moved to Ellsworth three years ago. That is when I became the pastor at your church! Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve with you and share the Word of God with you! It has been a great three years and hopefully many more to come! I will be gone for two weeks while I recuperate, but I will see you when I return. And as these days begin to shorten, enjoy the beauty of the colors and have a Happy Thanksgiving! God Bless you all!

Peace, Pastor Pete

CHURCH NEWS

Women's Bible Study

There will NOT be brunch for our November Bible Study.



We will meet on **Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.** for the final session of our Fall Bible Study series. We will be using the third section in our Gather magazine for this month's study. Our focus will be on Generosity, Jesus' Teaching on money.

Please join us in the Fireside Room. All women of the church are welcome.

Our hostess for this month will be Bev Greeley. Questions please contact Melba Smith at 641-740-7855.

random
Acts of kindness

There are baskets located by the front and back doors of the church for donations of nonperishable food items to support the **Pierce County Food Pantry**.

The Food Panty is in need of the following items:
Flour, Oatmeal, Sugar, Baked Beans, Dry Soup Mix, Ramen Noodles, Cereal, Canned Meats, Vegetable Oil, Dish Soap, Laundry Soap, Paper Towels

To donate money online:
hungerpreventioncouncil.com, click on Give

Thank you for your "kindness".



Random Acts of Kindness would love to invite you to come as you are for a meal free of charge. Stay and hang out while you enjoy your meal or take it to go.

Community Meal

November 18

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Stay to eat or take your meal to go.
Free of charge.
Sponsored by Random Acts of Kindness



Relapse Prevention Group

A Recovery Meeting in the Ellsworth Area is held at English Lutheran on Thursday nights at 6:00 p.m.

Read and Discuss "Staying Sober".

Save The Date Advent Social

Save the date: Tuesday, December 16th, 6:30 p.m. for an Advent Social with Holiday Music and Refreshments. English Lutheran Church.



More information to come.



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

2025 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.)

SPONSORS NEEDED! We are looking for sponsors for our families in need. This can be done through shopping for a family or making a monetary donation to volunteers who shop for families. This is a great way to get into the holiday spirit and is fun for youth groups, organizations, or families. (See link for more information.)

CHURCH NEWS



NAMI St. Croix Valley
National Alliance on Mental Illness
namiscv@gmail.com

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of those affected by mental illness. NAMI provides education, advocacy, and free, confidential support groups where individuals and families can connect, share experiences, and find encouragement. All groups are led by trained facilitators. No reservation required to attend a group, just show up!

- FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP** For family members who are supporting a loved one with a mental health condition.
- PEER SUPPORT GROUP** For adults (18+) who have lived experience with a mental health condition and are in recovery.
- YOUNG ADULT SUPPORT GROUP** For young adults (18-25ish) who have a loved one with a mental health condition.

Thanksgiving Basket Season

We need items for our Thanksgiving Basket initiative:
Cranberries
Boxed instant mashed potatoes
Boxed instant stuffing
Gravy packets
Canned fruits and vegetables
We appreciate your consideration and donations to fill the baskets. Thank you!

Baptism News

October 5, 2025 we had a baptism service for **Madison Joy Dahl**. Her parents are Brett and Courtney Dahl. Her sponsors: Andy & Kelsey Balow and Katrina Smith. Please join us in welcoming her into the Lord's family.

October 19, 2025 **Safira Elora Onan** was baptized. Her parents are Peter and Michela Onan. Sponsors: Bridget Onan and Joseph Bertolami. Please join us in welcoming her into the Lord's family.

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.



S.W.O.T. - Opportunities

We invite each member of the English Lutheran Church community to lend their unique insights as we continue on this exciting S.W.O.T. Analysis journey together! Your participation is not only easy and accessible—simply scan the QR code (or click on the link below) to access the **S.W.O.T. Form-Opportunities**, or feel free to share your thoughts on Post-It Notes at the table in the back of the church. Every individual voice matters, and your contributions will play a crucial role in strengthening our mission. We are immensely grateful for your ongoing support and active participation, as your perspectives are the heartbeat of our growth and vitality. Let's envision a vibrant future for English Lutheran Church, one that is beautifully shaped by your collective wisdom and insights! Thank you for being such an integral part of our church family!

Opportunities

<https://forms.gle/zcb2n4JdFtx97yzc9>

ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

Members present: Pastor Pete, Mark Groen, Mike Harris, Cindy Baird, Eric Van Nocker, Danielle Chollette and Jill Hague

President Mark called meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

- Mission Statement was read by all.
- Pastor Pete gave devotions.
- Motion made by Mike to approve the minutes from the previous meeting and the agenda for tonight's meeting. 2nd by Eric.

Reports

- Treasurer's report was given by Paul. The profits from Fair Stand were discussed. Jill made a motion to move \$20,000 to the General fund. 2nd was made by Eric. Will be getting quotes on our Insurance for the year from Kris Flock. We have a CD coming due in November. Will discuss that at our October meeting. Motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Eric and 2nd by Mike.
- Property report was given by Mark. A general contractor will get us a bid on the kitchen remodel. Curt will contact a plumber for the drinking fountain by the bathrooms.
- Worship and Music report was given by Danielle. No new changes since the last meeting.
- Children, Youth and Family report. Confirmation will begin on Wednesday night. October 1st will be the start of Kingdom Kids for this school year. Will take flyers to the Elementary School to be handed out on Wednesday. So far there are 10 children enrolled in Sunday School.
- Pastors Report given by Pastor Pete. Getting geared up for the Fall programs to begin. Will be meeting with Julie for Thursday and Friday visitations. Has his pre-op appointment next week. Will let us know when more details are available. Several choices for a substitute Pastor were discussed and will be checked on.

Old Business

- Our SWOT project is still in progress. We are into the Weakness part of the process. The top 5 strengths were listed. We will leave the Strengths up for a few more weeks.
- Kitchen remodel project was discussed. We have heard nothing new from Sheila. The contractor the floor drain will have to be changed. Will give us a bid based on the same plan that Sheila used.
- Dedicated accounts were gone over. Danielle made a motion to add Kitchen remodel to #4 and was 2nd by Mike.

New Business

- Donation request was made by Heart. A motion was made by Paul and 2nd by Mike to donate \$500 from the Fair Stand funds.
- Grubby Sunday will be set for October 5th. A list of projects to be completed will be done.
- Community Service by a school group that will be done next Tuesday.
- Extra/ unused items around church were discussed. We will offer up to the congregation first, old folding chairs, old hymnals etc.

All recited the Lords prayer.

Eric made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was 2nd by Cindy. Next meeting to be held on October 23rd.

November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
9am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday School 10am - Fellowship Hour 10:15am - Choir Practice	1pm - Pool Players (Sr. Center)		6:15pm - Choir Practice	6pm - Relapse Prevention Recover	1pm - Pool Players (Sr. Center)	9am - Graduate Quilters
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday School 10am - Fellowship Hour 10:15am - Choir Practice	1pm - Pool Players (Sr. Center)	11am - Discovering Tuesdays (Sr.) 6:30pm - Finance Meeting	9:30am - Women's Bible Study 6pm - Confirmation (Thanksgiving) 6:15pm - Choir Practice	1pm - Euchre (Sr. Center) 6pm - Relapse Prevention Recover	1pm - Pool Players (Sr. Center)	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9am - Worship 9:45am - Sunday School 10am - Fellowship Hour 10:15am - Choir Practice	1pm - Pool Players (Sr. Center)	9am - St. Croix Valley Pastors' 6:30pm - Church Council Meeting	10am - Funeral Planning Session 5:30pm - Choir Practice 6pm - Confirmation (Thanksgiving) 6:30pm - Endowment Committee	10am - Sr. Ctr. Board Meeting 6pm - Relapse Prevention Recover	Deadline for Newsletter Articles 1pm - Pool Players (Sr. Center)	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9am - Worship 10am - Fellowship Hour 10:15am - Choir Practice	1pm - Pool Players (Sr. Center)	9am - Foot Care (Sr. Ctr.) 1:30pm - Celebrating Seniors (Sr.)	5:30pm - Choir Practice 6:30pm - Thanksgiving Eve Service 7:30pm - Pie Social after Worship	6pm - Relapse Prevention Recover	1pm - Pool Players (Sr. Center)	
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
9am - Worship 10am - Fellowship Hour 10:15am - Choir Practice						



See the church website for the most up-to-date calendar

Continued: S.W.O.T. Analysis

OPPORTUNITIES Questions

Note: Opportunities are external factors. Opportunities are elements in the external environment that can be used to improve our church.

1. What new outreach programs could our church start?
2. What are other area churches not doing that our church could do?
3. What needs in the community could our church fill?
4. What can our church do to attract new members?
5. What growth opportunities exist? What would be the ideal opportunity for us?
6. What are some of the new trends in other churches?
7. Which of the trends from question 6 would affect our church in a positive manner if we were to adopt/embrace them?



Prayer requests:

Janet Arndt
Max Beck
Addison Closs
Vern Ellefson
Tomi Erlandson
Matt Feuerhelm
Julie Gore
Connie Gossett

Dean Mewes
Judy Morrow
Steve Pieczykolan
Darren Place
Melba Smith
Sophia Sokolik
Elaine Wegerer

Military service prayers:

Josh Bechel
Jonathan Bergman
Kohl Flock



Financial Update

September 30, 2025 Cash Balances

General Fund = \$103,426.66

Dedicated Fund = \$108,358.31

Total = \$211,784.97

Thrivent = \$117,272.41

September General Fund Balance

Income = \$36,837.05

Expenses = \$16,637.06

The next finance meeting:

November 11 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.



English Lutheran Church
229 West Main Street
Ellsworth, Wisconsin
Phone: 715-273-4617

Church Website:

www.englishlutheranchurch.org

Find us on Facebook!

EnglishLutheranEllsworth

Office Hours

Please contact the office for an appointment

office@englishlutheranchurch.org
715-273-4617

Staff

Pastor Pete Warren

pastorpete@englishlutheranchurch.org
218-760-6974

Communications Coordinator: Julie Winger

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Finance Administrator & Accompanist: Ava Maxwell

finance@englishlutheranchurch.org

Music Director: Missy Kowalchyk

music@englishlutheranchurch.org

Custodian: Malerie Mathis