



First English Evangelical Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod



The Parish News

Rev. Paul E. Kaldahl, Jr.
Pastor

Kristin Kaldahl
Emily Bernau
Organists

Julie Moran
Office Manager

Tammi Harrison
Preschool Director

Ruth Obermeier
Preschool Secretary

Trevor Loehr &
Tony Kladstrup
Custodians

Sunday
Worship Services
8:00 & 10:45 A.M.
Fellowship
9:00 A.M.
Nursery 9:15-Noon
Sunday School &
Bible Classes
9:30-10:20 A.M.

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The Pastoral Office as Christ's Own Work

Dear friends of Christ and members of FELC and CTK, I continue Part 3 on my Newsletter article series regarding the office of the public ministry. We will soon be calling a pastor. What is our duty and responsibility to him? Last month we looked at our Confessions. This month I simply want to examine the clear words of scripture and let their authority stand alone and speak truth into our hearts.

Hebrews 13:17, "*Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls as those who will have to give an account.*"

Why it matters: This is the clearest New Testament command for congregational obedience to spiritual leaders. LCMS teaching applies this to pastors because God has entrusted pastors with the care of souls through Word and Sacrament.

1 Thessalonians 5:12–13, "*Respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you... esteem them very highly in love because of their work.*"

Why it matters: Paul ties respect not to personality but to the work—preaching, teaching, admonishing. This is foundational for the LCMS understanding that the pastoral office deserves honor because of Christ's institution.

1 Timothy 5:17, "*Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.*"

Why it matters: "Double honor" includes both respect and material support. The LCMS applies this to pastors as the "elders" (presbyters) who preach and teach publicly.

Acts 20:28, "*Pay careful attention... to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God.*"

Why it matters: This passage grounds the pastoral office in the Holy Spirit's call. If the Spirit places overseers, the congregation is called to receive them as such.

Ephesians 4:11–12, "*He gave... pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry.*"

Why it matters: Pastors are a gift Christ gives to His Church. Respecting the office is respecting Christ's own ordering of His Church.

1 Peter 5:1–5, *“Shepherd the flock of God that is among you... Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders.”*

Why it matters: Peter commands both faithful pastoral leadership and congregational submission.

Luke 10:16, *“The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me.”*

Why it matters: This is a cornerstone of Lutheran pastoral theology. Rejecting the faithful preaching of a pastor is treated as rejecting Christ Himself.

The Bible teaches that the pastoral office is divinely instituted. Pastors are called through the congregation but placed by God. Obedience is owed insofar as the pastor teaches and acts according to Scripture and the Confessions. Respect for the office is not optional—it is commanded for the sake of good order and the care of souls.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Paul Kaldahl

Special Voter's Meeting—July 12, 2026

The Call Committee for First English Lutheran Church has evaluated the 15 candidates on our Associate Pastor Call List provided by Iowa District West President, Rev. Paul Egger.

The Committee has selected four (4) candidates to present to the Voters at a special meeting on Sunday, July 12th at 1:00 p.m. In the FELC Fellowship Hall.

Please plan to attend this important meeting to call an Associate Pastor to First English.

Paul Salton, Chairman, Board of Elders



**No July Guild Meetings for
Esther/Naomi Guild
Sarah Guild**

Lydia Guild—No Meeting
Pray for Our Nation,
Leaders and Our Soldiers



Stewardship Corner

As a country, we declared our independence from England on July 4, 1776. We fought the British in a war for the next few years until the British surrendered at Yorktown, Virginia, on October 19, 1781, effectively ending the war.

George Washington became the first president of the United States in 1789. By God's grace through Jesus, we are so very blessed to be citizens of a country with all of its freedoms, especially the freedom of worship.

We can attend church services and Bible studies without the threat of punishment or death. Let us not take our freedoms for granted but thank God daily for our great country and its wonderful freedoms that we have enjoyed for 250 years.

CTK Closing Worship Service

Christ the King Lutheran Church, 500 4th Ave. SW, Spencer, Iowa will officially close in August 2026.

You are invited to join us for our closing Worship Service on Sunday, August 2nd at 2:00 p.m.

We would be honored to have you attend this special time of worship, remembrance, and fellowship.

Refreshments will follow the service.





July 2026

Walk with the wise and become wise,
for a companion of fools suffers harm.
Proverbs 13:20

Wednesday Nights: High School Grades 9-12 (STARTS @ 7:00)

- ★ Wed July 1 - Led by Wendy Rees & Laura Hallgren
- ★ Wed July 8 - Led by Wendy Rees & Laura Hallgren
- ★ Wed July 15 - Led by Wendy Rees & Laura Hallgren
- ★ Wed July 22 - Led by Wendy Rees & Laura Hallgren
 - HS week at Camp Okoboji
- ★ Wed July 29 - Led by Youth

Youth Servant Opportunities

- Sun 7/12 @ 8am
 - ◆ non-communion service
 - ◆ usher only
- Sun 7/19 @ 8am
 - ◆ communion service
 - ◆ usher & coffee clean-up



**TENTATIVE COMBINED LYF/JLYF ACTIVITY
GRADES 6-12TH**

- DATE TBD
- TIME TBD

Stay informed with *BAND*:

- download the BAND app from your phone's app store
- join the FELC Youth group for future communications

YOUTH MINISTRY



Stewardship Emphasis:



What do you say when asked the question, “How are you?” Do you respond by saying, “I’m blessed”? It is safe to say that Christians more often than non-Christians respond with the words “I’m blessed.” This article will address two questions that differentiate how Christians and non-Christians view being blessed.

These questions are:

- Where do your blessings come from?
- What do you do with your blessings?

Through faith as Christians, we acknowledge that God is our creator and provider of all things. As the Apostle wrote, *“What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?”* (1 Corinthians 4:7). By God’s grace, we understand that our time, family, friends, abilities, resources, and spiritual blessings are all gifts from God. We do not create or earn things on our own. Our blessings are from God, so there is an attitude of humility rather than pride. It would be foolish for us to brag about our accomplishments or things that we own because all we are and have are gifts from God. Jesus’ half-brother, James, states this truth succinctly, *“Every good and perfect gift is from above...”* (1:17). As Christians, we know that we are “blessed.”

Non-Christians have the mind-set that who they are, what they own, and what they have accomplished are dependent upon themselves. They live with the attitude that a good and happy life is in reach if they achieve status with their peers and if they can acquire more possessions, so they have a secure financial future. They consider themselves self-made and are convinced they can fulfill their dreams through their own effort. There is no thought or reliance on God. The word “blessing” is not part of their vocabulary.

Another difference between Christians and non-Christians is what they do with their blessings. Christians acknowledge that their blessings are gifts from God, so they are thankful to Him for what they have received, and they are accountable to Him. Christians seek God’s will and guidance in how they use and employ God’s blessings. They express their love and gratitude to Him through how they live their lives, how they help their neighbors, and support Christian causes. As Christians, we become part of God’s plan to advance His Church, and He works through us to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). Non-Christians are responsible to themselves only. Their status or success is determined by what they have accumulated, the power they have achieved, or the goals they have accomplished. In their self-interest, they keep what they have for themselves

Our 2026 stewardship emphasis, “Blessed to Advance God’s Church,” will focus on the above two questions and much more. May God help us be faithful stewards of all that He entrusts to our care.

Blessings on your Stewardship Journey!

Members present: Leonard Langner, Paul Salton, Janet Iedema, Amber Christianson, Corey Langner, Pastor Kaldahl, and Karen Hargens.

Pastor Kaldahl opened with devotions.

L. Langner called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Agenda was amended to include two items under new business: IDW inquiry regarding holding meetings at FELC in June of 2027, and special voters meeting to be held July 12, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. regarding calling an associate pastor.

J. Iedema made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, P. Salton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Secretary's report – The minutes from May 2026 were reviewed. J. Iedema made a motion to approve the secretary's report. A. Christianson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report – submitted

C. Langner made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, P. Salton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approve bills – No bills.

Pastoral items:

- VBS is ready to go.
- Pastor has been and will continue to make calls to Christ the King members.
- His vacation time is approaching.
- Preparation continues to be made for Pastor's retirement.

IGLLS – Leonard Langner

- The school has hired a new kindergarten teacher and filled the open 4th grade teacher position.
- Enrollment for '26-'27 stands at 171 students.
- Christ the King has voted to gift their facility to the school, along with half of their remaining funds.
- National Lutheran Schools accreditation begins next spring.
- Annual meeting was held, and all previously-sitting board members were re-elected.

New Horizons – no report

Board of Elders – Paul Salton

- Julie will be on vacation June 29th and 30th.
- Pastor Kaldahl has substitute pastors scheduled during his upcoming vacation.
- Paul Salton reported Kelly Hartmann was going to call the engineer in Des Moines regarding the sound system. The Elders want a consultation done by the Des Moines firm by August 1st or we will look for other sources for a consultation.
- The Call Committee has met three times and reviewed 15 Associate Pastor candidates. The list was narrowed to eight. The call committee met again on Sunday, June 14th and narrowed the list to four that will be presented to the voters.

Board of Trustees – no report – no meeting in June

Preschool Board – Corey Langner

- The board didn't meet in June, but the following are items from Tammi's preschool report. For next year we currently have 28 3-year-olds and a waiting list of 8, and 24 4-year-olds.
- We are looking for a new bus driver for next year. We have someone that might be interested.

- We did not have a parade entry this year as Kasen wasn't able to drive the bus.
- Preschool graduations went well.
- End-of-the-year staff reviews were done and everything sounded positive about the year. All staff contracts have been signed and returned, and all staff will be back for next year.
- IDW Early Childhood Conference will be August 7th. All staff, including our new secretary Shannon and Pastor, will be able to attend.

Board of Education – A. Christianson

- The Board of Education is still working on finding a Worship Director for GIFT next year.
- Summer Sunday is underway. The new curriculum is working well. The Board will be working on rooms and space for Regular Sunday School. We are planning to clean out the 1st and 2nd grade room sometime in July. Rally Day will be on August 30th, and we are working on getting the Bibles ordered for the 3-year-olds and 3rd graders. Invitations will be sent out in July for this.
- VBS is scheduled for June 22nd-25th and registration is open.

Board of Christian Life/Outreach – no report – no meeting in June

Board of Youth – Janet Iedema

- Youth Group is learning Apologetics. They will be starting Creationism.
- Youth Group 7/29, 8/5, 8/12 & 8/19 will be led by the youth that attended Youth Lead. Lori Gamble will work with them as they prepare to lead and teach other youth what they learned at this event.
- All Youth event in July: TBD
- Fishing event went well. 13 youth attended.
- Rise Fest- 7 youth attended.

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. IDW asked for permission to utilize First English's facility for synod meetings in June 2027. FELC would be providing coffee and snacks, and no meals. P. Salton made a motion to approve their use of our facility, C. Langner seconded. Motion carried.
2. A special voters meeting was set for July 12, 2026, at 1 p.m. The agenda will contain voters reviewing and choosing one of the four candidates for associate pastor.

Next meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Hargens



| Week | Attendance | | | Communion | | | Offering | Sunday School | |
|---------|------------|------|-------|-----------|------|-------|----------|---------------|----------|
| | Early | Late | Total | Early | Late | Total | (Total) | Kids/Adults | Offering |
| June 7 | 140 | 70 | 210 | 132 | 54 | 186 | | 7 / 53 | \$ 2.00 |
| June 14 | 118 | 65 | 183 | | — | | | / 47 | \$.00 |
| June 21 | 122 | 128 | 250 | 106 | 90 | 196 | | / | \$.00 |
| June 28 | | | | | | | | | |



THOSE WHO SERVE — July, 2026

8:00 A.M. Services

| | July 5 | July 12 | July 19 | July 26 |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Elder | Gaylin Fey Ken Schroeder | Mark Rees | Ken Schroeder Jeff Chalstrom | Tom Roti |
| Acolyte | Reegan Homby | Hudson Frankenstein | Laura Harman | Cannon Caven |
| Organist | Emily Bernau | Emily Bernau | Kristin Kaldahl | Emily Bernau |
| Ushers | # 9 Ken Chalstrom | # 1 LYF | # 1 LYF | # 3 Tom Roti |
| Altar Guild | Deb Claus & Pam Polson → | | Dan Knaak & Karen Hargens → | |
| Service Builder | Kelly Hartmann | Amber Christianson | Ranae Kehoe | Corey Langner |
| Presenter | Lori Gamble | Bob Cody | Lori Gamble | Dan Knaak |
| Sound Board | Bruce Gamble | Kelly Hartmann | Bruce Gamble | Abbey Ruden |
| Live-Stream | Matt Ruden | Matt Ruden | Alex Halverson | Matt Ruden |

10:45 A.M. Services

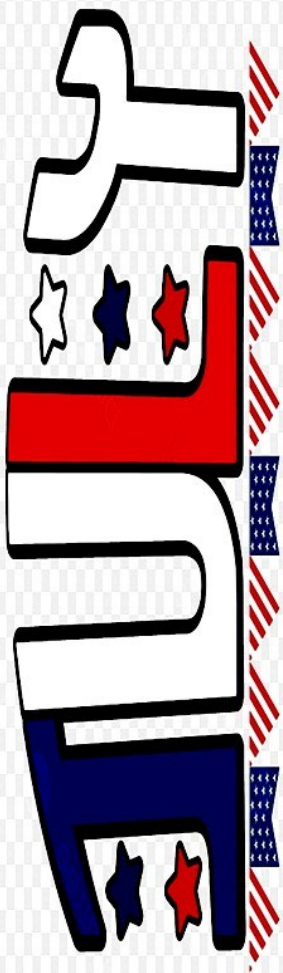
| | July 5 | July 12 | July 19 | July 26 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Elder | Travis Harman Jerry Enderton | Cole Brenden | Paul Salton Jerry Enderton | Cole Brenden |
| Acolyte | Hana Loehr | Karson Koenecke | Mia Fuhrman | Grant Langner |
| Keyboardist | Emily Bernau | Emily Bernau | Kristin Kaldahl | Emily Bernau |
| Usher Team | # 6 John Hargens | # 6 John Hargens | # 10 Mark Bergstadt | # 10 Mark Bergstadt |
| Presenter | Charlie Peterson | Jerry Enderton | Michael Schauer | Steve Hallgren |

1 PETER 4:10



AS EACH HAS RECEIVED A **Gift**
USE IT TO **serve**

ONE ANOTHER, AS GOOD **stewards** OF GOD'S VARIED GRACE:



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|------------------------------------|--|
| | | | | | | |
| <p>SUMMER OFFICE HOURS Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Friday 8:00 a.m. to Noon</p> | | <p>1 6:30 Men's Bible Study 8:30 Finance BD 2:00 Worship Service on SMU 7:00 LYF</p> <p>Pastor Kaldahl Vacation June 29—July 17</p> | <p>2 7:00 Spirit Lifters 7:00 Board of Elders</p> | <p>3 Pastor's Day Off Offices Closed</p> | <p>4 Happy 250th USA! </p> | |
| <p>5 Rev. Mike Sharp Preaching 8:00 Divine Worship w/ Communion 9:00 Fellowship w/ coffee & donuts 9:15-Noon Childcare in the Nursery 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Bible Class 10:45 Divine Worship w/ Communion</p> | <p>6 6:00 Preschool Board</p> | <p>7 8:00 Worship Service on SMU</p> | <p>8 6:30 Men's Bible Study 8:30 Finance BD 2:00 Worship Service on SMU 7:00 LYF</p> | <p>9 7:00 Spirit Lifters</p> | <p>10 Pastor's Day Off</p> | <p>11</p> |
| <p>Junior High Week at Camp Okoboji July 5-11 6th—8th Graders</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>12 Rev. Glenn Bohmer Preaching 8:00 Divine Worship 9:00 Fellowship w/ coffee & donuts 9:15-Noon Childcare in the Nursery 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Bible Class 10:45 Divine Worship</p> | <p>13</p> | <p>14 Happy Birthday Pastor Kaldahl 6:30 Board of Youth 7:00 Board of Education 7:00 Board of Trustees 8:00 Worship Service on SMU</p> | <p>15 6:30 Men's Bible Study 8:30 Finance BD 2:00 Worship Service on SMU 7:00 LYF</p> | <p>16 7:00 Spirit Lifters 7:00 Church Council</p> | <p>17 Pastor's Day Off</p> | <p>18 LCMS Synod Convention Begins Phoenix, AZ</p> |
| <p>Concordia Cub Week II, Camp Okoboji July 12-18 3rd-5th Graders</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>19 8:00 Divine Worship w/ Communion 9:00 Fellowship w/ coffee & donuts 9:15-Noon Childcare in the Nursery 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Bible Class 10:45 Divine Worship w/ Communion</p> | <p>20</p> | <p>21 8:00 Worship Service on SMU</p> | <p>22 6:30 Men's Bible Study 8:30 Finance BD 2:00 Worship Service on SMU 7:00 LYF</p> | <p>23 7:00 Spirit Lifters</p> | <p>24 Pastor's Day Off</p> | <p>25 Pastor Vacation July 23—28</p> |
| <p>LCMS-Synod Convention—Phoenix July 18-23, 2026</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>Youth Week at Camp Okoboji July 19-25 Highschool Students</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>26 Rev. Peter Maisenbach Preaching 8:00 Divine Worship 9:00 Fellowship w/ coffee & donuts 9:15-Noon Childcare in the Nursery 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Bible Class 10:45 Divine Worship</p> | <p>27</p> | <p>28 8:00 Worship Service on SMU</p> | <p>29 6:30 Men's Bible Study 8:30 Finance BD 2:00 Worship Service on SMU 7:00 LYF</p> | <p>30 7:00 Spirit Lifters</p> | <p>31 Pastor's Day Off</p> | <p>Julie Vacation July 29—31</p> |



- July 1 Gerri Kourakis
- July 2 Laura Hallgren
Amber Jones
Levi Moranville
Mike Morfitt
- July 3 Megan Abel
Diane Determan
Tucker Kourakis
- July 4 Darrel Kramer
- July 6 Brenda Borsheim
Connor Stickrod
Dr. Amanda Young
- July 7 Sam Johnson
Campbell Morfitt
Rev. Mike Sharp
- July 8 Layton Dean
Dawn Fletcher
- July 9 Les Buchholz
Dr. Wendy Rees
Jon Stricker

- July 10 Cade Chalstrom
Julie Chalstrom
Kourtney Oviatt
- July 11 Stephanie McKewon
Brenda Truelson
- July 12 Lincoln Cody
Jenny Kuehler
Walker Wiest
- July 13 Shelly Bergstadt
- July 14 Rev. Paul Kaldahl
Gus Scroggin
- July 15 Adelynn Kladstrup
Mary McCloud
- July 16 Marty Eby
Dawson Sierck
- July 17 Clayton Wempe
- July 18 Kaylee Fuller
Carson Johnson
Dr. Dean Pingel
- July 19 Lori Abel
Shari Crew
Aaron Kaiser
Julia Kaiser
Sherry Kaiser
Jody Schendel



- July 20 Ashley Claus
Veronica Doede
Ben Hargens
Gannon McCarty
- July 21 Amber Claus
Wesley Lynch
Lydia Wallace
- July 23 Deanna Cole
Dr. Liz Kressin
Lynn Wee
- July 25 Marcia Fidler
Hannah Stickrod
- July 26 Ryder Erdman
Carol McKewon
Kelly Polson
- July 27 Bo Bland
- July 28 Cannon Caven
- July 29 Carol Gilbertson
Ron Muetzel
- July 30 Shyanne Johnson
Vickie Miller



- July 1 Stephen & Dani
Allison
- July 2 Drs. Mark & Wendy
Rees
- July 5 Aaron & Chrisy
Kaiser
- July 8 Matt & Abbey
Ruden
- July 12 Chris & Julie
Nissen



- July 12 Ryan & Beth
Frankenstein
- July 14 Steve & Linda
Kladstrup
- July 16 Troy & Jennifer
Huisenga
- July 19 Philip & Jessica
Bieber
- July 22 Dr. Sam & Kim
Butler



- July 26 Rich & Veronica
Doede
- July 27 Mark & Julie
Riessen
- July 29 Dean & Bev
Skinner
- July 30 Curt & Shelly
Johnson
- July 31 Tom & Kae
Roti



THE July '26 PARISH NEWS
First English Lutheran Church
1311 East 18th Street
Spencer, IA 51301

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