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 Dickman
Preschool Director

Shannon Halsrud
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
9:30-10:30 A.M.

1311 E. 18th Street
Spencer, IA 51301
712-262-5598 Phone
712-262-8396 Fax

Website —
www.spencer-church.com

E-Mail —
felc5598@gmail.com

Preschool
712-262-3699

IGLLS
712-262-8237

The Pastoral Office as the Means by Which God Cares for Souls

Dear friends of Christ and members of FELC,

I continue Part 7 on my Newsletter article series regarding the office of the public ministry. We continue to work on calling a pastor. What is our duty and responsibility to him? Let's see how God uses pastors to accomplish His good will for His bride—The Church.

The pastoral office exists for one simple reason—the care of souls. Scripture describes pastors as shepherds, overseers, and stewards of God's mysteries. The Augsburg Confession affirms this by grounding the Public Office of Holy Ministry in the Gospel. Pastors are Shepherds, as 1 Peter 5:1–4 exhorts those who are called to serve, ***"Shepherd the flock of God that is among you… not domineering… but being examples to the flock."*** Acts 20:28–31 also exhorts pastors, ***"Be shepherds of the church of God… I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in."*** God has "called" and "sent" pastors to guard, feed, and protect the flock.

Pastors are also Stewards of the Gospel, ***"This is how one should regard us: as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God"*** (1 Corinthians 4:1). The "mysteries" are the sacraments and the Gospel itself.

The Augsburg Confession, Article V says the ministry was instituted **"so that we may obtain this faith"** and that the Gospel is given **"through the Word and Sacraments."**

Consequently, and in summary, pastors are instruments of God's saving work. Their authority is ministerial, not lordly. Their task is spiritual care, not personal power. And because pastors care for souls, Scripture commands the congregation to respond with: Obedience (Hebrews 13:17); Respect (1 Thessalonians 5:12–13); Honor (1 Timothy 5:17); Hearing the Word (Luke 10:16). This is not blind obedience but obedience to Christ's Word spoken through His servants.

The pastoral office is Christ's means of caring for His people. Pastors deliver the Gospel, and Scripture commands the Church to receive their ministry with honor and obedience. The office exists for the salvation and protection of souls. This concludes our series on the Public Office of the Holy Ministry.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Paul Kaldahl



Thursday, November 26th

9:30 a.m..

First English Lutheran Church

Please join us as we give thanks for all the Lord has done for us!

- Mid-Week Advent Services
  Wednesdays 6:00 p.m. December 2nd, 9th & 16th
- Children's Christmas Program
  Sunday December 13th – 10:45 a.m.
- Christmas Eve Services Thursday, December 24th at 5:00 & 6:30 p.m.
- Christmas Day Services—Friday, December 25th 9:00 a.m. at First English Lutheran Church
- New Year's Eve Service —Thursday, December 31st at 6:30 p.m. with Holy Communion at First English Lutheran Church



Discipleship



Week	Attendance			Communion			Offering	Sunday School	
	Early	Late	Total	Early	Late	Total	(Regular & Electronic)	Kids/Adults	Offering
Oct. 4	143	74	217	129	62	191		3 / 56	$
Oct. 11	131	85	216	———				16 / 57	$
Oct. 18	155	95	250	132	69	201		24 / 61	$ 1.00
Oct. 25	Unity Sunday		198		155		$	17 /	$

November Youth News



Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Ps 118:1, 29 (NIV)

November 2026

Wednesday Nights: High School Grades 9-12 (STARTS @ 7:30pm)

- ★ Wed Nov 4 - Led by Wendy Rees & Laura Hallgren
- ★ Wed Nov 11 - Led by Wendy Rees & Laura Hallgren
- ★ Wed Nov 18 - Led by Wendy Rees & Laura Hallgren
- ★ Wed Nov 25 - NO LYF/HAPPY THANKSGIVING



Youth Usher Dates/Times
Sun Nov 29 @ 8am service (non-communion)

- ➔ Save the dates for future volunteer opportunities:
  - 12/2 Advent Meal
  - 12/13, bake sale
  - 3/28, Easter Breakfast

Combined LYF/JLYF Activity (6-12th)

- ➔ Mamma Mia
  - 11/13 7pm in Okoboji
  - meet at FELC for carpooling at 6:15pm
  - $10- adults, $5-students
- ➔ How To Succeed In Business Without Trying
  - 11/15 2pm in Spencer
  - meet in HS lobby at 1:40pm
  - $10- adults, $5-students
  - contact Jody Schendel or Janet Iedema if you need a ride

Stay informed with *BAND:*

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



November, 2026



G.I.F.T.

Growing In Faith Together

THEME / SNACK PROVIDER

November 4	Campfire Night Wear Your Favorite Jacket or Stocking Hat	Lindy Hornby
November 11	Special Activity—Movie at the Palms Theater in the Southpark Mall—No snack, bring money for concessions Parents bring your student(s) to the theater by 4:00 and pick them up promptly at 5:30	
November 18	Thanksgiving—Bring an item you are thankful for	Emily Jacobs
November 25	**No G.I.F.T. Happy & Blessed Thanksgiving** Join us for Thanksgiving Worship at 9:30 a.m. Thursday 11/26	

Please arrive by 5:00 p.m. and stay through clean up.

	DESSERT	PROVIDER	KITCHEN HELP
November 4	S'Mores Cookie Bars	Colby Beachler	Victoria Bern
November 18	Pumpkin Bars	Colby Beachler	Sarah Kladstrup



Confirmation Supervisors — Wednesdays 7:15 to 8:45 pm

Date	Parents	Elder
November 4	Liz & Derek Hoffman, Jill Harman	Jerry Enderton
November 11	Colby Beachler, Jill Harman	
November 18	Sarah Kladstrup	Ken Schroeder
November 25	No Confirmation—Happy & Blessed Thanksgiving	



Church Council Minutes
Thursday, October 15, 2026

Members present: Leonard Langner, Dan Knaak, Paul Salton, Libby Stricker, Doug Kading, Jon Stricker, Amber Christianson, Abby Ruden, Pastor Kaldahl, and Karen Hargens.

L. Langner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Kaldahl opened with devotion.

L. Langner amended the agenda to add some items under new business: L. Stricker will need to be replaced as the treasurer due to the fact this is her third term. Agenda for the call meeting on November 1st.

A. Christianson made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, D. Knaak seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Secretary's report – The minutes from September 2026 were reviewed. P. Salton made a motion to approve the secretary's report. D. Kading seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report – Libby Stricker

Balances

P. Salton made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. A. Christianson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approve bills – No bills.

IGLLS – Leonard Langner

1. Current enrollment sits at 171 students.
2. Staff will be headed to Seward for conference.
3. The board has met with Pastor Nitzel at CTK for the third visioning meeting.
4. Discussion about adding 9th grade, more information needed.

New Horizons – Doug Kading

1. The board gave $300 to two youth for Camp Restore, $25 to five youth for camp, $50 to seven middle schoolers for the Youth Gathering in Des Moines.
2. The slate of board members Doug is asking the council to approve for New Horizons is Beth Frankenstein, Tim Christensen, Steve Hallgren, Dr. Pingel, Doug Kading, Vickie Miller, and Libby Stricker. A. Ruden made a motion to approve the board members; A. Christianson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Board of Elders – Paul Salton

1. The elders have received an estimate from RDI to update the sound system. They will continue to assess our needs and find out who would be best to help meet those needs.
2. Cole Brendan has agreed to take over leadership of Altar guild. There was discussion about the need to add members to the Altar guild as some members have chosen to retire. The approximate number needed to facilitate communion every Sunday would be roughly 25 or more.
3. Call committee has a new list of five names for the voters to consider.
4. The slate of elders for 2027 will be brought before the voters meeting to be approved.
5. Church office manager position will be advertised sometime in November/December. Would like to have someone hired by February 1st.
6. Upcoming door offerings: November 1st for St. Luke's auxiliary and November 15th for the Seminary-Food and Clothing Coop.

Board of Trustees – Jon Stricker

1. Review and troubleshooting of the sanctuary east wall/window leaks continues.
2. Preventative maintenance on boilers was completed. Glycol has been ordered.

Preschool Board – no report

Board of Education – Amber Christianson

1. GIFT has started. There are 25-30 youth enrolled.
2. Kelly Hartmann and Michael Schauer will be teaching 6th-8th grade Sunday school. Looking for a high school teacher.
3. Amber will inquire with Julie Chalstrom if she would be willing to do the Christmas program this year, which is December 13th.

Board of Youth – Abbey Ruden

1. All youth event to Little Sioux Orchard was well attended with 14 youth.
2. Senior Youth Gathering was attended by 5 youth.
3. Junior Youth Gathering is coming up, October 24-25. 7 youth attending.
4. Wednesday LYF- youth have been inviting friends from outside the church to come!
5. Will be working on scheduling events and advent meal the next two months.
6. Next Board of Youth meeting is Tuesday, October 20.

Board of Christian Life/Outreach – Doug Kading

1. November 8th is the veterans and active military appreciation recognition during coffee time.
2. Local Care fund special door offerings will be November 22, 29, and December 6. Offerings will be used for Holiday gift cards.

Old Business:

1. The proposed budget was reviewed and completed.
2. Call meeting on November 1, 2026. There will be five names on the list.
3. Sound system – have two estimates. More evaluation and deliberation needed.
4. Stewardship campaign – discussion about hiring a company to facilitate a capital campaign versus a letter to all members versus a sermon series by Pastor. Tabled until next meeting.

New Business:

1. Insurance Co. Inventory – Dan Knaak and Matt Ruden completed the videotaping of the rooms. The janitors will provide the SKU numbers for larger contents, and then this project is complete.
2. Libby Stricker will be finished with her treasurer duties at the end of the year. Need to appoint a new treasurer. Names were discussed and will be brought to the voters meeting.
3. Reminder of the call meeting on November 1, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. Reviewed agenda.

Next meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2026

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Hargens

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Jesus Christ above all Philippians 2:9

Thursday, November 5th
Topic -"When Service Isn't Sparkly" p. 18 Fall Quarterly
Esther / Naomi Guild— 9:30 a.m. at FELC
Hostess & Topic – Terry Chalstrom

Sarah Guild—6:30 p.m. at FELC
Hostess—Ruth Obermeier
Topic — Kristin Kaldahl

Sunday, November 8th
Lydia Guild at FELC — 9:00 a.m.
Welcome New Participants
Service Project: Plan for Christmas Tea
Pray for: Give Thanks for Families

Friday, December 4th — Bingo at St. Luke's Lutheran Home 2:30 p.m. (need prizes & 2-3 helpers)

Suggestions include cheese & crackers, figurines, snack size bags of chips & Chex mix, gum, toothpaste, body/hand lotion, fun sized candy bars, diabetic candy, small bags of nuts, seasonal items. The items can be left in the box marked for bingo in the fellowship hall. Supplies are needed by December 2nd. **Please check expiration dates. We cannot use expired food items.**
Thank you for your support.

Ingathering for Upper Des Moines Food Pantry

In November & December the LWML will be collecting food for UDMO. They are in need of soups of all kinds, tuna and hamburger helpers, oatmeal, jelly, and peanut butter. Double check expiration dates as we cannot use outdated products!!

PLEASE find it in your heart to help those less fortunate.

Please place the items in the LWML In-gathering box in the Opportunity Corner by December 27th.



IOWA GREAT LAKES LUTHERAN IGLLS SCHOOL

Blue & Brilliant Auction 2026

The Annual Iowa Great Lakes Lutheran School (IGLLS) Fall Benefit Auction will be held **Saturday, November 21st** at The Waterfront in Arnolds Park.

Make plans to attend now. **AUCTION TICKETS** – Purchase your tickets at: https://iglls.ejoinme.org/2026auction. Ticket costs are $45 per ticket or $320 per table. Deadline is November 11th.

On-line bidding can be done on this site as well.



This year's auction will feature many theme baskets, silent and live auction items & the popular dessert auction.

Come, enjoy good food, fellowship and fun, and help support **Iowa Great Lakes Lutheran School!**

Giving Thanks to God

As we approach Thanksgiving and then, shortly thereafter, the end of 2026, we are reminded of the many blessings that God has given to us. The question that we should be asking is, "How do we begin to thank God for all that He has done and continues to do for us?" High on our lists of things to thank our Heavenly Father for should be our new lives in Christ. In spite of our sinful ways, God demonstrated His awesome love for us by sending His only Son to the Cross on our behalf. Through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, we live as forgiven, redeemed people with the assurance of life eternal with Jesus. We certainly will also thank Him for our families as well as our material blessings. How blessed we are that God provides for all that we need to sustain our lives, and, through faith that He provides, He will give us life forever with Him.

I want to suggest another wonderful blessing for us that we should always give thanks for and that is God's faithfulness to us. As the prophet Jeremiah wrote, *"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness"* (Lamentations 3:22-23). God's faithfulness to us never wavers, even though we vacillate in our faithfulness to Him.

Because of God's faithfulness to us, God has blessed us so we can be a blessing to others. Recognizing our blessings are so freely given to us causes us to want to share our blessings. Through faith, we willingly *"share with God's people who are in need"* (Romans 12:13). *"Christ's love compels us"* (2 Corinthians 5:14 NIV) to respond to the needs of others, both physical and spiritual needs. Through the working of the Holy Spirit, we become channels through which God works.

Those who are a blessing to others reflect and live with an attitude that is described as "an attitude of gratitude." To live with "an attitude of gratitude," means we truly understand that God is the source of all blessings. Understanding God's grace, love, and mercy, we are motivated to live lives which reflect our gratitude for what God is doing in our lives. Living with an attitude of gratitude moves our attention from daily frustrations and hardships to recognize the small and ordinary comforts, big and small. We will operate from a place of having enough rather than constantly chasing more to feel happy. Thankfulness becomes a daily habit.

Have a blessed thanksgiving with your family, enjoy some turkey, and possibly watch some football. Happy Thanksgiving!



THOSE WHO SERVE — November, 2026

8:00 A.M. Services

	Nov. 1	Nov. 8	Nov. 15	Nov. 22	Nov. 29
Elder	Jeff Chalstrom Tom Roti	Mark Rees	Mark Rees Gaylin Fey	Ken Schroeder	Gaylen Fey
Acolyte	Morgan Beachler	Zayla Ruisenor	Cannon Caven	Corley Hamrick	Morgan Beachler
Organist	Kristin Kaldahl	Kristin Kaldahl	Kristin Kaldahl	Kristin Kaldahl	Kristin Kaldahl
Ushers	# 7 Mike Morfitt	# 7 Mike Morfitt	# 9 Ken Chalstrom	# 9 Ken Chalstrom	# 1 LYF
Altar Guild	Deb Claus & Pam Polson ----------		Pat Millard & Diane Higgins ----------		
Service Builder	Corey Langner	Ranae Kehoe	Kelly Hartmann	Amber Christianson	Kelly Hartmann
Presenter	Ranae Kehoe	Lori Gamble	Sylvia Ruden	Bob Cody	Lori Gamble
Live-Stream	Alex Halverson	Matt Ruden	Matt Ruden	Alex Halverson	Matt Ruden
Sound Board	Kelly Hartmann	Bruce Gamble	Abbey Ruden	Kelly Hartmann	Bruce Gamble

10:45 A.M. Services

	Nov. 1	Nov. 8	Nov. 15	Nov. 22	Nov. 29
Elder	Jerry Enderton Paul Salton	Travis Harman	Jerry Enderton Cole Brenden	Cole Brenden	Paul Salton
Acolyte	Mia Fuhrman	Grace Hoffman	Karson Koenecke	Kallub Joslin	Grant Langner
Organist	Kristin Kaldahl	Kristin Kaldahl	Kristin Kaldahl	Kristin Kaldahl	Kristin Kaldahl
Ushers	# 6 John Hargens	# 6 John Hargens	# 10 Mark Bergstadt	# 10 Mark Bergstadt	# 2 Paul Salton
Presenter	Charlie Peterson	Jerry Enderton	Michael Schauer	Steve Hallgren	Charlie Peterson



Nov. 26
9:30 A.M.

Elder:
Ken Schroeder

Acolyte
Katelynn Guerttman

Ushers
2 Paul Salton

Organist
Kristin Kaldahl

Builder
Corey Langner

Presenter
Jerry Enderton



November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 ***Daylight Savings Time Ends*** *Door Offering-St. Luke Auxiliary* 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 Pastor's Bible Class 10:45 Divine Worship w/ Communion 1:00 Special Voter's Meeting 5:00 Langner's Home Bible Study	2 9:45 PS Fire Drill 6:00 Preschool Board 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study-Fellowship Hall K. Kaldahl	3 9:45 PS Disaster Drill 3:30 Hargens-Fellowship Hall & Kitchen 8:00 Worship Service on SMU	4 6:30 Men's Bible Study 8:20 IGLLS Chapel 8:30 Finance BD 10:00 Ladies Bible Study 11:30 PS Staff Meeting 2:00 Worship Service SMU 3:45 GIFT Grades 1-6 7:00 Choir 7:15 Confirmation 7:30-9:00 LYF	5 7:00 Spirit Lifters 9:30 Esther & Naomi Guilds at FELC 6:30 Sarah Guild at FELC	6 **Pastor's Day Off**	7 5:00-7:00 Wiest Family Birthday Party F. Hall
8 8:00 Divine Worship 9:00 Veteran Appreciation w/ coffee & cake 9:00 Lydia Guild 9:15-Noon Childcare in the Nursery 9:30 Sunday School / Bible Class 10:45 Divine Worship 5:00 Langner's Home Bible Study	9 **Veterans Day** 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study-Fellowship Hall K. Kaldahl	10 9:00 Pastors Circuit Winkle– at Hartley 9:30 Library Board 3:30 Clover Kids-Gym 7:00 Board of Education 7:00 Board of Trustees	11 6:30 Men's Bible Study 8:20 IGLLS Chapel 8:30 Finance BD 9:45 Preschool Chapel 10:00 Ladies Bible Study 11:30 PS Devotions 2:00 Worship Service SMU 3:45 GIFT Grades 1-6 7:00 Choir 7:15 Confirmation 7:30-9:00 LYF	12 7:00 Spirit Lifters 9:45 Preschool Chapel 7:00 Elders	13 **Pastor's Day Off**	14
15 8:00 Divine Worship w/ Communion 9:00 Fellowship w/ coffee & donuts 9:15-Noon Childcare in the Nursery 9:30 Sunday School / Bible Class 10:45 Divine Worship w/ Communion 5:00 Langner's Home Bible Study	16 **No School Preschool & IGLLS—Teacher's Inservice** 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study-Fellowship Hall K. Kaldahl	17 **PARISH NEWS DUE** 8:00 Worship Service on SMU 6:30 Board of Youth 8:00 Worship Service on SMU	18 6:30 Men's Bible Study 8:30 Finance BD 10:00 Ladies Bible Study 2:00 Worship Service SMU 3:45 GIFT Grades 1-6 7:00 Choir 7:15 Confirmation 7:30-9:00 LYF	19 7:00 Spirit Lifters 5:15 Board of Christian Life / Outreach 7:00 Church Council	20 **Pastor's Day Off** Preschool 3 yr olds Makeup Day	21 5:30 p.m. IGLLS Fall Benefit Auction at The Waterfront Arnold's Park
22 8:00 Divine Worship 9:00 Fellowship w/ coffee & donuts 9:15-Noon Childcare in the Nursery 9:30 Sunday School / Bible Class 10:45 Divine Worship 5:00 Langner's Home Bible Study	23 2:30 Dismissal IGLLS 3:00-7:00 Conferences 6:30pm Ladies Bible Study-Fellowship Hall K. Kaldahl Preschool 4 yr. olds PT Conferences Mon.—Tues. dismissal 2:15	24 No School IGLLS 11-7 Conferences 8:00 Worship Service on SMU	25 6:30 Men's Bible Study 8:30 Finance BD 10:00 Ladies Bible Study 2:00 Worship Service SMU 7:00 Choir 7:30-9:00 LYF **NO GIFT / Confirmation**	26 **OFFICE CLOSED THANKSGIVING DAY** 9:30 Thanksgiving Worship 10:30 Kladstrup/Johnson Families Thanksgiving (Kitchen & F. Hall) **Thanksgiving Break Preschool & IGLLS Nov. 25– 27**	27 **Pastor's Day Off** **Office Closed** (Julie Vacation Day)	**28**
29 1st Sunday of Advent 8:00 Divine Worship 9:00 Fellowship w/ coffee & donuts 9:15-Noon Childcare in the Nursery 9:30 Sunday School / Bible Class 10:45 Divine Worship 5:00 Langner's Home Bible Study	30		Every Wednesday all Preschool classes dismiss at 11:15 a.m.			



Nov. 1 Karson Koenecke
Nov. 2 Dilan Bartley
Lori Dallman
Hudson Frankenstein
Kollyns Snyder
Nov. 4 Bennett Clemens
Brooke Wiest
Nov. 5 Tony Marshall
Darrell Nordman
Hayley Rossiter
Nov. 7 Joann Gaudian
Nov. 8 Madison Burhans
Nov. 9 Shari Dorman
Griffen Jacobs
Nov. 10 Katie Carstens
Rhonda Hintz
Janet Iedema
Nov. 11 Deb Essick
Collen Lewis
Karee Muilenburg
Nov. 12 Gracy Elsenbast
Nov. 13 Robert Allison
Lindy Hornby
Nov. 14 Kathy Geerdes
Maverick Kindwall
Ben Norgaard
Nov. 15 Dylan Baccam
Andrew Shelton
Nov. 16 Presley Winterboer
Nov. 17 Allyster McClain
Ken Riessen
Rachel Ruisenor
Nov. 19 Margaret Wuggazer
Nov. 20 Emily Bernau
Raymond Kaiser
Kade McKeever
Nov. 21 Harper Allison
Mason Bartley
Avarie Knaak
Holly McClain
Nov. 22 Stacey Geerdes
Nov. 23 Torie Abel
Sophia Bern
Calista Frankenstein
Ana Gonzalez
Lisa Meyer
Nov. 24 Khloe Dorman-Heath
Nov. 25 Jeff Chalstrom
Jerry Clausen
Veronica Stickrod
Nov. 28 Bob Elsenbast
Nov. 29 Beckett Dean
Melissa Loehr
Nov. 30 Marjie Betz
Briana Dandy
Emma Lowder
Shelby Scroggin







Nov. 2 Mike & Lynn Huffman

Nov. 3 Jason & Emily Jacobs

Nov. 4 Ben & Becky Norgaard

Nov. 6 Tim & Susan Christensen

Nov. 8 Jim & Jane Echtenkamp

Nov. 22 Darrel & Lori Kramer

Nov. 23 Jac & Sydney Radcliffe

Nov. 23 Randy & Jennifer Essick

Nov. 23 Rev. Virgil & Bonnie Ewoldt

Nov. 25 Duane & Karen Willrett

Nov. 28 Kenny & Rachel Hoffard

Nov. 29 Brad & Lynette Bernardy

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1311 East 18th Street
Spencer, IA 51301

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Join us for Thanksgiving Day Worship
Thursday, November 26th at 9:30 a.m.