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July/Aug, 2026

the Voice of english lutheran

The SEASON of ORDINARY TIME

Synod Assembly - June 6

The La Crosse Area Synod (LAS) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) held its annual gathering in Onalaska on June 6. This formal conference is held each year to discuss policies of social and community concern, to discern and approve administrative functions, and establish priorities for ministry within the LAS. The theme for the Assembly was "Repairers of the Breach" from Isaiah 58. We are reminded that God requires the body of Christ to be "restorer of the streets to live in". It is not enough to be righteous, we must also address injustice by sharing bread, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, offering comfort to the grieving. Bishop Malpica challenged the worshipers to see injustice in our world and ask how God is calling us to respond. Synod Assembly attendees participated in Bible Study, and Worship Service with Holy Communion and we heard updates from the Bishop's Office and several Partner Ministries. The 2026 Synod Assembly Designated Offering was given to Lutheran Campus Ministry (LuMin)

As part of the Assembly agenda we celebrated Ordination /Consecration and Anniversaries for several pastors in our midst. Among those pastors that were recognized were:

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Saying Goodbye is Never Easy

Saying goodbye is never easy. Goodbyes are painful because the depth of the parting reflects the depth of the care and love, leaving one feeling like they are letting go of a piece of their own life's story. On July 15, I will be leaving full-time ministry as your Pastor at English Lutheran Church. Soon, I will enter into a new and unknown, yet exciting, chapter of my life called retirement.

It is difficult to put into words what these past nine years as your Pastor have meant to me. Together, we have lived through the various rhythms and seasons of life. We have shared laughter, shed tears, lived through a world-wide pandemic, experienced changes in pastors and staff, discerned how to be more welcoming of all people, gathered around the Lord's Table, and shared the love of Jesus Christ as his hands and feet with our neighbors both near and far. You have welcomed me into your families and your hearts. For that immense privilege, I will be forever grateful.

Leaving a community I love brings a sense of sadness, but it also brings a deep sense of peace. I look forward to the slower pace of retirement, spending more time with Cheryl, family, and friends, and discovering what God has in store for my next chapter.

At the same time, I am filled with excitement for the future of English Lutheran Church. Change and its ensuing transitions can feel uncertain and even scary. Change also brings the promise of renewal. Remember this is God's church and God is with us, guiding us! English Lutheran is blessed to have an amazing and

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IN CHRIST
We Welcome, Worship & Work
IN THE WORLD

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

No River Service

Copeland Park is under construction this summer. Because of this, the annual Trinity/English Lutheran River Service will pause this year. We will resume in 2027!

Although it feels like we just welcomed her, we are now bidding a farewell and good luck to Erica Ashley, Administrative Assistant. Erica's partner, John, will be completing his engineering degree soon and has accepted a promotion at Trane Company, taking them and their sweet dog Milo to North Carolina! In her short time here, Erica fit right in with our staff and was a warm and welcoming presence to our members and visitors. In addition to her day-to-day duties at the front desk, we want to especially thank Erica for our upgraded volunteer sign up and commend her for the detailed and good work of updating our website with a fresh new look! We give John our heartfelt congratulations and give thanks to God for the time Erica spent with us here at English Lutheran!

Saying Goodbye - cont'd from front page

passionate staff who have been and continue to help coordinate and guide the day-to-day ministries. The Vision Board is working on a transition plan as you prepare to call a new pastor. I trust that the Holy Spirit is already preparing your next pastor to guide English Lutheran Church into its next beautiful season of ministry.

My final weekend of leading worship will be July 11 and 12. We will have an opportunity to celebrate our time together at a reception following each service. I hope to see you there so I can thank you for your love, your grace, and your partnership in the Gospel.

Thank you for everything. English Lutheran Church will always be a part of me. I will hold you in my heart and prayers, trusting the words found in Psalm 121:8 – "The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore."

With love and gratitude,
Pastor Becky Goche

Synod Assembly - cont'd from front pg.

5 Years- Rev. Paul Sannerud
10 Years – Rev. Dione Stepanek
25 Years – Rev. Mark Carr
50 Years – Rev. Mark Solyst
55 Years – Rev. Glenn Borreson

Attending the 2026 Synod Assembly were: *Voting Memebers*
- Deb Daehn Zellmer, Barb Oettel, Emily Farmer, Avery Farmer and Paul Moe.

Synod Council Members
- Pam Strittmater and Maddie Sweeney
Pastor Becky Goche

Please visit the LAS web site: www.lacrosseareasynod.org for additional information about the Assembly.

Call Process

At our May meeting, the Vision Board agreed to begin the call process. Upon completion of the congregation-wide workshops and an onsite retreat for the Vision Board with our church consultant Cathy Cowling, we believe the congregation and the Vision Board have had ample opportunity to reflect back on the ministry and work and legacy of English Lutheran and also look toward the future, as we continue to build on our foundation of faith, service, and a shared mission.

At our annual meeting, a balanced budget that supports one full-time pastor was presented. The congregation approved the balanced budget. After much prayerful deliberation, the Vision Board believes the most reasonable path forward move forward with the process to call one full-time pastor.

The Vision Board received names from English Lutheran members who are interested in serving on the Call Committee throughout the month of June. Those interested in serving on the Call Committee were asked to complete a Call Committee Member Profile by June 30. The Vision Board plans to present six names to the congregation for approval to serve on the Call Committee. A congregational meeting will be held later in July, after Pastor Becky Goche's farewell services and receptions. Please watch for notices on the date of the congregational meeting.

Any questions on the call process can be directed to: Paul Moe, Vision Board President: paulandlorimoe@gmail.com or Cara Hartfield, Vision Board Vice President: carahartfield@gmail.com.

Gifts, Memorials and Pastoral Acts

BAPTISMS
05.03 .. Alison Grace Burman, child of Caroline and Chris

DEATHS
04.12 .. Scott Strangstalien
05.02 .. Wayne Jacobson
05.05 .. Dennis Ryan

MEMORIALS

In memory of LOU WEUNSCH
Undesignated
by John Torgerson, Jon Shong, Carol Taebel, Mike and Sally Lindahl, Bill and Karen Newburg, Chuck and Carmen Gustafson, Dennis and Lois Peterson, Howard and Nancy Mills, Tom and Kathryn Barth, Richie and Terri Johnson, Kay Taylor, Pat Lawyrnk and Louise Sedevie-Lawrynk, Arthur Melby and Sandra Thompson-Melby, Tom and Karen Oliver, Jim and Claudette Giblin, Pam and Todd Strittmater, Linda Zoerb, Dave and Denise Strudthoff, Deb Hanson, Mark and Carol Solyst, Mark and Roxie Flaten, Mark and Debra White, Dave and Judi Konop, Ruth Olson, Kurt and Barb Oettel, Don and Janet Melby, Ruth Kuntz, Jean Davis, Scott and Sharon Jones, Kent Johnson, Mark and Sharon Jolivette, Diane Midland, Karen Guptill, Pat and Sarah Lamke, Judy Bouffler, Kent and Mary Sween, Helen Munson, Joan Allen, Sharon Odahl, Candice Brieske, Mary Wisneski, Aaron and Rebecca Cohen, John and Sarah Herath, Jon and Kathy Hageseth, Duane and Beth Johnson, Morgan and Emily Farmer
Endowment Fund
by Bruce and Pam Walters

In memory of SCOTT STRANGSTALEIN
Undesignated
by Dennis and Lois Peterson, Kent and Mary Sween, Ruth Kuntz, Howard and Nancy Mills, Family and Friends

In memory of SUSAN LINK
Endowment Fund
by Bruce and Pam Walters

In memory of WAYNE JACOBSON
Undesignated
by Howard and Nancy Mills
Endowment Fund
by Bruce and Pam Walters

Welcome New Members! Received May 17, 2026

Therese Boudreau, Ryan and Lindsay Burner and children Eric, Kyle, and Alex, and Jerry McMullin were received into our church community.

Joint Council and Vision Board

At English Lutheran Church, our elected Vision Board provides oversight and leadership to our vision, mission and ministry to all who can be reached with the Gospel of Christ. Also, the five Leadership Councils (or our Five Big Rocks) work to reflect the five biblical purposes of our congregation. Each of the five Leadership Councils has a Vision Board liaison. They are: Worship (Pam Strittmater), Discipleship (Ryan Clark), Ministry (Denise Strudthoff), Evangelism (Kathy Hageseth) and Fellowship (Kasey Crawford). This summer, the Vision Board and members of each Leadership Council will meet to plan, coordinate, and communicate the various ministries and programs at English Lutheran Church.

Our focus will be the recent congregational workshops in which members identified four chief priorities of the congregation for the next three -five years: Lay Ministry, Christian Formation, Administration and Communication and Worship. Additional agenda items will be planning a Ministry Fair to be held later his fall to help members learn about the work of these councils and how to become involved. Look for more information in the coming weeks about this opportunity.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

July/August

The SEASON of ORDINARY TIME

OUR VISION

By the grace of God, English Lutheran Church shall be a healthy, mission-focused congregation *full of life*

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www.englishlutheran.org

Confirmation

September 9
Orientation and Updates

Confirmation this year is going to consist of 7th and 8th grades. Ninth grade will be up until Reformation Sunday.

Confirmation is getting a little bit of a remodel this year as well.
Many updates to look forward to!

Jared Kronback
Director of
Faith Formation

Welcome Statement

The faith community of English Lutheran Church is rooted in Christ and committed to living life generously.

We celebrate diversity of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, economic status, marital status, physical or mental ability.

We are united in the Holy Spirit as we embrace our differences. We welcome all as we strive to be a community equipped for God's mission in the world.

We invite you to join us as we seek to promote racial equity, social and economic justice, and care for our environment.
Wherever you are on your faith journey, there is a place for you here.