www englishlutheran org
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608-784-9335
1509 King Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

September/October, 2026

# the Voice of english lutheran

The SEASON of ORDINARY TIME

## Congregational Meeting

OCTOBER 4

After prayerful deliberation the Vision Board decided at its August meeting to proceed with forming a Call Committee.

The Vision Board will present a slate of candidates for the Call Committee to the congregation for approval.

Forming a Call Committee is an exciting and significant moment for us as a congregation in this season of transition.

Please join us
Sunday, September 27
following worship
for this important meeting!

## Greetings FROM PASTOR STEVE

It is both a privilege and a challenge to be your interim pastor in a time of great transition in the life of this congregation. It humbles me when I think of the work ahead for us as we prepare for the new chapter of ministry to which God is calling us. But I take courage from our confidence that the Holy Spirit is among us and will both guide and strengthen us for the "perilous crossing" I referred to in my sermon on Sunday.

One of our first tasks is to rethink and re-articulate our mission. In my experience, too many mission statements fail to connect the church to the world in which we live. I believe we need to look honestly at our world and then say clearly how Christ is leading us to respond to it. I also believe that when we do this, we help our members see again the importance of being a faithful community in this time and place. I would urge everyone to ponder this, to share your thoughts with one another and to pass them on to your council members. None of us knows the whole truth of where Christ is leading us but all of us together can catch a clearer glimpse of it.

Though I am only half-time and must focus a lot of my attention on administrative matters, I am eager to get to know as many of you as I can. Stop by sometime or grab me after worship and we'll chat. As I will be saying at some point in an upcoming sermon, face to face and heart to heart conversation is the lifeblood of the church.

*~ Pastor Steve Minnema*

IN CHRIST
We Welcome, Worship & Work
IN THE WORLD

## Office Hours

**Monday - Thursday**
**8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**
***or by appointment***

## English Ringers

**Rehearsals resume**
September 16
6:30 - 7:30
in the Music Room.

**The tentative schedule**
for playing at both services
will be confirmed at the
first rehearsal.
October 11
November 8
December 13

*For information, contact Jim:*
*jim@fistlu.org*

# Worship Services

As summer closes and fall begins, programing and worship evolve as well. Here is an overview of some upcoming weekends.
*Unless otherwise noted, all Saturday and Sunday services are at 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. respectively.*

September 12/13 ..... Rally Weekend
October 24/25..... Reformation/Confirmation
*A third service will be added on Sunday at 10:45 for Confirmation.*
October 31/November 1... All Saints Sunday
November 28/29 ..... Advent begins
December 19..... Singing Bowl/Taizé service with the Spirituality Center.
*No Communion at the 5:00 p.m. service*
December 24..... Christmas Eve 3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. services
December 25..... Christmas Day 9:00 a.m.
December 26..... no Saturday 5:00 p.m. service
December 27..... usual 9:00 a.m. service

## Vocal Choir

**Choir rehearsal begins**
September 16
at 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
in the Sanctuary
*Child care is provided.*

**The choir sings in worship**
September 20
October 4 and 18
November 1 and 15
December 6
December 19 at 5:00 p.m.,
Taizé/Singing Bowl Event
Christmas Eve at 5:30 p.m.

Please join if you enjoy singing. We have a seat, folder and music for you!

*Contact Trevor:*
*trevor@englishlutheran.org.*
*or 608.767.6774*

# *Greetings* FROM PASTOR LISA

I don't know about you, but I save Facebook posts that speak to me. Sometimes I even share them in sermons or newsletter articles.

Here is a post I saved from writer Gold Mathias:
Maybe we've misunderstood what it means to have a calling. Nehemiah wasn't called to do what Ezra did. Ezra wasn't called to do what Esther did . . . Nehemiah rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem. Ezra restored the people to God's Word. Esther protected God's people from destruction. Three different people. Three different callings. One God.

Maybe that's the lesson for us. Not everyone is called to the same assignment.
Some are called to build.
Some are called to teach.
Some are called to protect.
But every calling matters when it advances the Kingdom of God. Maybe we've spent too much time comparing our assignment to someone else's, when God has never asked us to. Maybe your calling doesn't have to look like someone else's to be significant.

Gold added: The Kingdom is strongest when every believer is faithful to the assignment God has placed in their hands, instead of wishing for someone else's. Your calling doesn't have to look like theirs to be significant. Faithfulness is what God asks.

In this time of transition, we all need to reassess our callings. Are we truly doing what God would have us do? This is true of us as individuals, as committees and groups, and as a congregation and community. The next weeks and months will be filled with much reflection. Fasten your seatbelts as it may seem like a bumpy ride at times. No matter the twists and turns, ups and downs of the journey, God will walk with us all. Thank God for that promise and gift.

My call to English is technically called a "Bridge Pastor." That is what the Synod designated me to be. What I am here to do is pastoral ministry. I will be making home and hospital visits. I will be the first call for funerals. I will lead worship on the 4th and 5th Sundays (with associated Saturdays). You may see me on an additional Saturday or two.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve with you here at English Lutheran. With God's grace, we will get through this transition to the calling of your new pastor.

*~ Pastor Lisa Shank*

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**KITCHEN COORDINATOR/ CUSTODIAN - day**
Taylor Killilea
taylor@englishlutheran.org

**CUSTODIAN - night**
Rick Rux
rick@englishlutheran.org

## Sewer Repair & Restroom Update

The new sewer pipe has been installed from the bathrooms near the Narthex to the main city sewer line on 16th Street. The new sewer line will allow the bathroom waste to drain correctly preventing sewage backups.

The asphalt on the north entrance has been replaced with new concrete with additional zero clearance access points to allow for a safer and more inviting north entrance. Bases for the two entry lights are installed.

The next phase will consist of connecting the new sewer line to the existing bathroom plumbing, bathroom modifications and replacing the parking lot pavement.

The construction crews are doing an excellent job. Steiger construction is coordinating the work of the sub-contractors in an efficient manner. The project is expected to be completed by October. *Article written as of August 7, so more will have happened by the time you read this issue of the newsletter.*

*Tom Nigon, Property Committee*

## Gifts, Memorials and Pastoral Acts

COMMUNION FUND

*In honor of:* Pastor Becky Goche
by Sarah and Kyle Olson, Clarence and Marcia Brodt

*In memory of:* Boyd Engbloom
by Tarry and Mary Hall

ENDOWMENT FUND

*In memory of:* Dennis Ryan
by Bruce and Pam Walters

UNDESIGNATED

*In memory of:* Mary Ann McEuen
by Karen Guptill

*In memory of:* Julia Hagen
by Linda Zoerb, Sarah and Patrick Lamke, Deborah Hanson

*In memory of:* Dennis Stannard
by Cynthia Dietrich, Charles and Carmen Gustafson, Howard and Nancy Mills

WORLD HUNGER

*In honor of:* Howard and Nancy Mills' 50th Wedding Anniversary
by Howard and Nancy Mills, Robert Schweers, June Luett, Deloris Kramer, James and Julie Farley

BAPTISMS

08/23... Mira Grace Ailabouni
child of Jon and Kate

08/23... Desmond Christopher Alabouni Liechty, child of Caleb and Karis

DEATHS

We extend the sympathy of the Gospel to the families of:

06/w05 Dennis Ryan

06/10... Julia Hagen Grunke

06/12... Helen Coleman

## Pastor Becky Goche's *Farewell Sunday*

View more photos at www.englishlutheran.org/news

# ELC Youth

## Youth Chime Choir

REHEARSALS BEGIN
Wednesday, September 9
continue weekly
from 5:30-6:00 p.m.
Music Room

Play for worship one Sunday each in October, December, February and April.

We welcome all school age children in kindergarten through sixth grade and would enjoy having more members help us "make a joyful noise" for worship.

If you know of a young person interested in joining or currently have a family member planning on returning this fall, please contact Barb at: barb@englishlutheran.org by September 6, so she can have your music all set and ready to play.

## PACK

**September 11 and October 9**
Activities and Fellowship for Grades 4th, 5th, and 6th once a month!

## Trunk or Treat

**Saturday, October 28**
**6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

Join us for Halloween games and trunk or treating!

## Affirmation of Baptism

**Reformation Sunday**
**October 25 at 10:45 a.m.**

## Confirmation Update

Our confirmation program is being reimagined. The new vision includes you. Mentors are an important part of youth ministry. Consider participating alongside one of our youth.

Sign up at the Welcome Center or ask Jared Kronback, Emily Farmer, Scott Gabriel, or Bonnie Martin to share more about how you can be involved.

## Confirmation Orientation

**September 9**

## youth events

Youth & Children's Dates & Events
September 9 – Confirmation Orientation
September 11 – PACK
September 13 – Rally Day
October 9 – PACK
October 25 – Affirmation of Baptism/Reformation Sunday
October 28 – Trunk or Treat

Questions, contact Jared Kronback:
jared@englishlutheran.org

## *Rally Sunday* September 13

Special blessing during worship
for Sunday School teachers and students.
Special activities during Sunday School time at 9:45 - 10:30 a.m.

***First day of regular class September 20, 9:45 - 10:30 a.m.***

Jared Kronback,
Director of
Faith Formation

English
LUTHERAN CHURCH
1509 King Street • La Crosse, WI 54601

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## September/October

ORDINARY TIME

### OUR VISION

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

608•784•9335
www.englishlutheran.org

## *Vacation Bible School Was Fun!*

Thanks to all who attended this year.

*For more photos, check out the photo section of our website.*
www.englishlutheran.org/news

## 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.