The First Edition

October 2025

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Searching for Sheep on Rally Sunday

First English Lutheran Church kicked off our fall programming with Rally Sunday on September 14 beginning with a search and find during worship for the children. They also participated in their first Shaker Hymn this season.

Then everyone had the opportunity see what we are up to and to learn how to get engaged in our ministries. Families also were able to get their kiddos registered for Sunday School or Confirmation classes. In the Fellowship Hall, treats and coffee were enjoyed along with another project for the children to enjoy, a handprint poster for Sunday School (see page 4). We hope our families got this program year off to a good start! Thank you to everyone who helped with planning and preparations for our Rally Sunday.

First English Lutheran Church
Cannon Falls

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Denise Holz
Tiffany Kiffmeyer
Kathy Swanson

Visit our Website for Updates!

www.firstenglishchurch.com

Pastor Luke

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Note from the Pastor

People of FELC,

It has been a busy month as we launch into another school year! One could quickly get overwhelmed by the workload being short-staffed, or weighed down by the constant divisiveness and tragic headlines. And I'd be lying to you if I said I never experienced either of those feelings. However, I continue to feel the energy of the Spirit stirring up something special here at First English.

We are seeing an increased number of registrations in both Confirmation and Sunday School, AND we kicked off the program year this month with more beautiful baptisms. While these are wonderful things, honestly, it is about so much more than that for me. It is so important to me that I lead authentically, empower those around me, and create safe spaces that are fun in our youth programming. In my experience, this leads to a sense of community where kids feel they belong and they actually want to show up. We are starting to see this at First English and it is leading to more engaged conversations with youth and their families about their faith. Thank you to all who lead, support, and participate in these ministries with me! I so enjoy being a part of these vibrant ministries where together we experience God's love for us and pursue God's desire for peace and justice in our world.

This leads me to something I have noticed in our gospel readings over the last several weeks. Something we don't shy away from at First English and is a very part of our identity. Jesus was often contradicting the religious and political leaders of his time. In the gospel of Luke, Jesus regularly served and advocated for the sick, the poor and the marginalized. He brought to life God's vision for the world of an expansive love that reached the wild and dark places. This love calls to action peace and justice for ALL especially for those without power and wealth. This message is so pertinent today. When we live out this call to action, when we prioritize outreach and take seriously our call to serve our neighbors and advocate for peace and justice, we are bringing God's very kingdom to earth. Let us continue trusting that God's love is indeed so immense that we are freed to share it with one another, especially those who look, live, worship, and believe differently than we do.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Luke

Live Streaming Worship Services

The livestream of our 9 am worship service is available on YouTube via our website, www.firstenglishchurch.com
And aired on the local HBC Channel 12
(check local listing for schedule)
& MediaCom cable channel 12
(11 am on Tuesday, 3 pm Wednesday, and 4:30 pm on Saturday)

Gods Work, Our Hands Service Day Held Sept 7

After worship on September 7, about 75 people gathered for a generous breakfast of pancakes, sausages, rolls and fruit, before heading out to do various projects. Over 50 people helped with these projects:

- Yard Clean-Up at the LSS House
- Cleaning Community Members Windows
- Making Fleece Blankets for Our Graduating Students
- Yard Clean-up Outside the Church
- Coloring Personal Cards-Youth Project
- Sing-along at Cannon Rivers
- Interviewing Community Residents
- Serving and Clean-up of the Brunch

Thank you to our volunteers who prepared and served the brunch as well as all those that helped with the other service projects.

Eagle Project at First English

This fall, our own William Holz will begin his Eagle Project, a service leadership project that must benefit the community. William has selected First English as the community he would like to benefit from this project. This will be one of his final steps to becoming an Eagle Scout. William has already made a detailed plan and budget for some landscaping at First English which will include a butterfly garden in the southwest corner of our property. He met with the church council who voted to support his project at the last council meeting. Please keep a lookout for more information, as William will need volunteers to help support this project in the coming months.

Let Us Know

When Your Contact Info Changes

In this day and age when phone numbers, mailing addresses and email addresses are frequently changing, getting ahold of our church members can be challenging, especially when unexpected or emergency situations develop.

If your address, email or phone number has changed, please call (507-263-3042) or email (kathye@firstenglishchurch.com) with your current information. We will do our best to keep you informed of important notices.

Youth Program Updates

Confirmation

Confirmation programming kicked off mid-September with a lot of fun! We played sanctuary foosball, an energized game of Family Feud, and learned about what we will be doing in confirmation this year. We started the evening with food from Dudley's Pizza and ended with a lovely worship service. Over 40 6th-9th graders are currently registered, with more registrations still rolling in. Pastor Luke is excited to be leading confirmation this year!

A couple of upcoming highlights: in November we will be collaborating with St. Ansgar's for two classes, "Breaking Barriers to Brain Health" led by NAMI and "Migrant's Journey" led by the synod; confirmands will be encouraged to volunteer at the Feed My Starving Children, Mobile Pack Event on November 8.

Sunday School

There is much hope for the church when we see all of our littles gather up front for the Children's Sermon in the sanctuary. They continue to bring us all life and joy and for that we give God thanks! As they sang in worship, "Praise the Lord with Trumpet Sounds!"

We have about 60 Prek-5th Grade students registered for Sunday School this fall and we are thankful for our fearless Sunday School teachers who are willing to volunteer their time to lead them. Sunday School will focus on fun, community, and learning about the same Bible stories that we will hear in worship this year.

Additionally, in December, our Sunday School students will lead our Christmas Program again this year.

High School Youth Group

This are off to a slow start for our High School Youth Group this year. Being short-staffed has made logistics challenging on Wednesday nights. That being said, Pastor Luke is eager to continue programming for our high school students. We will begin gathering on Wednesday nights in October. High Schoolers are invited to join us for pizza at 6pm, then hang out downstairs from 6:30-7:30pm, and, of course, worship at 7:30pm.

Youth group will be a mixture of fellowship, fun, and some faith experiences this year. October 8 we will meet for pizza, then walk over to John Burch park for the Fields of Faith event. On November 5 we will participate in "Breaking Barriers to Brain Health," an interactive learning experience led by NAMI. November 12 we will meet at Saint Ansgar's for the first of two sessions entitled, "Migrants Journey," led by Synod staff. Please reach out to Pastor Luke if you have any questions regarding youth group and thanks for your patience as we get into a new rhythm!

CarePortal Caring for Families Together

We are excited to share some wonderful news! Our church, along with other area congregations through the Community Church Interaction Council (CCIC), is partnering with CarePortal — a tool that helps connect churches directly with families in need right here in our community.

Here's how it works: when a family is identified by a local school or social worker as needing support, CarePortal allows that need to be shared with our church family in real time. These requests are often very practical — things like clothing for children, furniture for a family moving into a new home, or transportation help so a parent can get to work or an appointment. Each request is an opportunity for us to show Christ's love in a tangible way.

By working together with other churches through CCIC, we can multiply the impact of what each of us is able to do alone. No single church can meet every need, but when we join together, the body of Christ becomes a powerful network of care and encouragement. This partnership allows us to not only meet immediate needs but also to build relationships with families, walking alongside them with compassion and hope.

This is more than just a program — it's a chance for us to live out the Gospel in our community. Scripture reminds us that when we serve "the least of these," we are serving Christ Himself. Every gift of time, resource, or encouragement becomes part of a much bigger story of God's love at work.

Stay tuned for more information on how you can be part of this exciting ministry. Whether it's responding to a specific request, helping deliver items, or praying for the families being served, there will be ways for everyone to get involved. Together, we can bring hope, encouragement, and the love of Jesus to our neighbors in very real and meaningful ways.

Community Churches Interaction Council (CCIC) Update

The CCIC continues growing and increasing its presence in the Cannon Falls area. In September, over 20 clergy and lay leaders from several churches attended our last meeting. A new website was created and presented by Pastors Luke and CJ Boettcher. Please check it out at www.cciccf.org. With the creation of this website, CCIC will be able to participate in Minnesota Give to the Max Day, held annually in November. GiveMN.org has become Minnesota's digital home for generosity and has raised millions of dollars for Minnesota non-profits. This year, Give to the Max Day is November 20 and CCIC hopes to raise additional funds to support its local ministries: Good Samaritan, FMSC, Community Meals, Thanksgiving, and new initiatives like CarePortal.

It continues to be the goal of CCIC to better meet the needs of the community by coming together as an ecumenical group of churches who follow Christ's way of living in the world. The more we come together to promote love and serve our neighbors, the better.

Emery Alice Pearson was baptized on Sunday, September 21, 2025. Emery was born on July 14, 2025 in Fairfax, VA. Her parents are **Katie (Noble)** and **Bjorn Pearson**. Her sponsors are **Austin** and **Cora Noble** and **Bethany Nelson.**

Aelin May Hartl was baptized on Sunday, September 21, 2025. Aelin was born on September 9, 2025 in Red Wing. Her parents are **Victoria** and **Nolan Hartl**. Her sponsors are **Angie** and **Ben Davis, Braden** and **Jacqueline Hartl.**

Collin Edward Ohmann was baptized on Sunday, September 28, 2025. Collin was born on May 13, 2025 in Minneapolis. His parents are **Alyssa** and **Mike Ohmann**. His sponsors are **Evan Heather** and **Emily Edlund.**

New Baby?

We want to know!

Are you expecting a child through birth or adoption? Do you have a new infant at home? In these sacred times of welcoming a baby, First English Lutheran Church is here for you. We have resources to support the whole family and look forward to connecting with you! Contact our office for more information.
For baptism requests, please fill out the Baptism Request form found on our website at www.firstenglishchurch.com.

Love in Outreach Ministry

Prayer Wall to Continue into Fall

The Love in Outreach ministry will continue its prayer wall for the fall season. Check out the frame on the wall in the narthex with our prayer requests. Anyone can write a prayer request on a ribbon and tie it on the wire netting. Take a moment to stop and pray for the requests. Multiple people praying for an issue or person can have a powerful impact. If you have questions, please reach out to Sue Josephson, Betty Nelson or Pastor Luke.

Women of FELC Gathering

And Bible Study

The next gathering of the Women of FELC group will be held on **Tuesday, October 14** at **10 am** in the Family Room. Join them for fellowship and bible study!

FELC Office Hours

Our church office hours are
Monday-Friday,
9 am-Noon, 1-3:30 pm
Closed on Holidays

Join us for a Feed My Starving Children MobilePack™ event to provide lifechanging meals where they are needed most. We welcome volunteers of all abilities, ages 5 and up!

We ask that you please register in advance to participate in the packing event..

7-8 NOVEMBER 2025

CANNON FALLS HIGH SCHOOL
820 MINNESOTA ST. E.
CANNON FALLS, MN 55009

Scan QR code to register as a volunteer or to make a donation.

Donations by cash or check can be left in your churches' collection plate. Please specify donation is for CCIC-FMSC.

Checks made payable to First English Lutheran Church (CCIC-FMSC in the memo).

In addition, there will be a **Quilt Drawing Fundraiser** for the Cannon Falls Feed My Starving Children Event. Donate to purchase a ticket for the drawing. $5 for 1 Ticket, $10 for 3 tickets, $20 for 6 tickets, and $30 for 7 tickets and a t-shirt. The drawing will be held at 4 pm on Saturday, November 8. Do not need to be present to win. Contact Denise Jacobson with any questions about the Feed My Starving Children event.

Council Highlights

The First English Lutheran Church Council met at their scheduled meeting on September 18, 2025. Here are some highlights.

Approved August 21, 2025, regular council minutes.

Received Pastor Hollander's written report and comments.

Approved Treasurer's Report, subject to audit.

William Holz presented his proposed Eagle Scout landscaping project, complete with diagrams and cost estimates.

Approved $2,000 from undesignated memorials to materials for phase 1 and 2 of landscaping project plan (north side cross garden and area surrounding north entryway).

Call committee: Bill Peterson reported that the committee had selected a candidate.

A special congregational meeting will be held on October 5 to vote on extending a call to the candidate recommended by the Call Committee.

Pr. Luke presented the proposed Personnel Manual. Council approved the Policy on Sexual Harassment and Sexual Abuse, which will be signed by all employees of the congregation. The remaining sections on the manual will be considered at the October council meeting.

Stewardship Campaign—

- Various people will give a short talk during worship on October 19 and 26 and November 2 and 9 reflecting on how FELC has impacted their lives and the live of the community.
- Finance Committee will have the proposed 2026 Budget for council review at November 20 council meeting.
- Pledges are good as a reminder of what was given (last year and this year to date) and offer an opportunity to reflect on one's commitment to the congregation.

Faith and Life Conversations will be offered on first and third Sundays.

CF Breakfast Club: FELC with host the breakfast on December 2, February 3, March 3, and April 7. Julie Gergen will coordinate.

Property Team reported that the security cameras have been installed and are working; the additional three cameras have yet to be installed. The $5,021.34 rebate on the lighting project was received in September.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Johnson

Next Council Meeting:

Thursday, October 16, 2025

In Memory of Jerry Serres
Elvena Schmugge

In Memory of Donna Kimmes
Elvena Schmugge

In Memory of Jim Pagel
Scott and Brenda Safe
Dar Qualle
Kenneth and Margaret Johnson
Rose Pedersen
Kevin and Beth Nerud
William and Lydia Midness
Diane Johnson
Ken and Betty Behnken
Dean and Marcia Kautz
Stewart and Ann Johnson
Sharon Aamodt
Thomas and Pamela Keul
Kay Sabin
Kaler and Eileen Bole
Sharon and Lowell Anderson
Dallas and Jan Larson
Elvena Schmugge

In Memory of Linda Norstad
Elvena Schmugge

In Memory of Douglas Johnson
Terry Johnson

In Memory of Jim & Arletta Soule
Brenda and David Deutsch

In Memory of James Deutsch
Brenda and David Deutsch

First English Lutheran Church-Cannon Falls

300 likes · 328 followers

October 2025

OCT 1, WEDS
1 pm Staff Meeting
6 pm Confirmation Supper and Classes
7:30 pm Wednesday Worship

OCT 2, THU
3-6 pm CF Food Shelf

OCT 5, SUN
9 am Communion Worship
Special Congregational Meeting after Worship
10:15-10-45 am Sunday School Classes

OCT 8, WEDS
1 pm Staff Meeting
6 pm Confirmation Supper
7 pm Fields of Faith Event

OCT 9, THU
3-6 pm CF Food Shelf

OCT 12, SUN
9 am Worship
10:15-10-45 am Sunday School Classes & Faith and Life Conversations

OCT 14, TUES
10 am Women's Group Gathering and Bible Study

OCT 15, WEDS
1 pm Staff Meeting
No Confirmation

OCT 16, THU
3-6 pm CF Food Shelf
6 pm Church Council Meeting

OCT 19, SUN
9 am Communion Worship
No Sunday School
10:15-10-45 am Faith & Life Conversation

OCT 22, WEDS
1 pm Staff Meeting
6 pm Confirmation Supper and Classes
7:30 pm Wednesday Worship

OCT 23, THU
3-6 pm CF Food Shelf

OCT 26, SUN
9 am Worship
10:15-10-45 am Sunday School Classes

OCT 29, WEDS
1 pm Staff Meeting
6 pm Confirmation Supper and Classes
7:30 pm Wednesday Worship

OCT 30, THU
3-6 pm CF Food Shelf

First English Lutheran Church
511 W Belle St
Cannon Falls MN 55009

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Notice

Special Congregational Meeting

Date: Sunday, October 5, 2025
Time: Immediately following the 9 am worship service
Purpose: To hold election for the associate pastor of First English Lutheran Church

Vote by written ballot by voting-eligible members; two-thirds majority vote required for election.

Conversations Fall Schedule

In August, this fall's Faith and Life Conversations topics and schedule were developed.

Below in the schedule for our upcoming conversations.

Oct 12	**Parenting in Today's World**, led by Pastor Luke
Oct 19	**Who was Martin Luther?,** led by Brian McDonald
Nov 2	**So What's the Difference?** Part 1, based on the book by Fritz Ridenour, led by Sandy Meglic
Nov 16	**So What's the Difference?** Part 2, led by Sandy Meglic
Dec 7	**Historic Overview of Cannon Falls Churches**, led by Jody Sjoblom and Brian McDonald

Join us in the Family Room after worship on any or all of these dates! The next planning meeting will be held in December for future topics.