

# May 2026 Newsletter

**Morning Prayer M—F  
8:00 AM**

**As for me and my  
house, we will serve  
the Lord  
Joshua 24:15**



And divided tongues as of fire  
appeared to them and rested on  
each one of them.

**Acts 2:3**

## **FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Office Hours: 8:30—Noon  
Monday thru Friday and by  
appointment**

### **Emergency Calls:**

**Church office: 507.346.2793**

**Church Email:**

**felcsvmn@gmail.com**

**Pastor Wessel home: 346-1073**

**Pastor's email:**

**loelwessel@msn.com**

**President Jim Edgar**

**507-271-4419**

### ***From Pastor Wessel***

**With high delight  
Let us unite  
In songs of great jubilation.  
Ye pure in heart,  
All bear your part,  
Sing Jesus Christ, our salvation.  
To set us free  
Forever, He  
Is risen and sends  
To all earth's ends  
Good news to save  
Every nation.  
(LSB 483st.1)**

As the Easter season draws to a close this month, three events remind us of the worldwide fellowship of believers that has resulted from the good news of Christ's resurrection from the dead being proclaimed to the ends of the earth. The first of those events is Ascension Day. Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven. He left behind His apostles with this commission: "Go and make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28:19) We are among the fruits of their mission work and that of many others. We will celebrate Ascension Day on May 14 with a 7:00pm Divine Service at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Chatfield, together with the members of St. Paul's and St. John's – Wykoff. You should be there.

Another event coming up in May is the arrival of our summer vicar, Timothy Yang. Timothy will be our third summer vicar – a student at the seminary who is preparing to be a pastor. Our former vicars are currently serving congregations in North Dakota (Rev. Brock Schmeling) and Kansas (Rev. Matthew Goehring). Timothy comes to us from Dawukou, a small (by Chinese standards) city in the Ningxia Region of China.

The Christian Church in China has endured many hardships over the past century, but the faith endures and God sustains His children there as He does here. Please welcome Timothy into our congregation and into your home as he gains practical experience this summer in many areas of pastoral ministry.

The third great event in the church during the month of May is the Festival of Pentecost on Sunday, May 24. Pentecost has been called the "birthday of the Christian Church," for on that day – which was a harvest festival in Old Testament time – God poured out the promised Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of His apostles, the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ might be carried to every nation. With grateful hearts we are living witnesses to the fulfillment of God's promise: "I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20) Good news to the end of the earth and to the ends of the earth!

## Thank You for Your Support

The Spring Community Dinner, held on Sunday, April 12, 2026, was a huge success. First, we had almost 300 people from the community attending (including carry-outs). Second, we raised \$6,733 for our three designated beneficiary organizations. This represents a \$3,000 increase over the total funds collected in 2025. The very important part of this event was the enthusiasm the attendees showed, with compliments about the event. This community event brings others into our church, introducing them to our members, and showing First English's support of our local community.

This year, First English covered the cost of the event through our budget. The designated beneficiary organizations: The Spring Valley Area Food Shelf, Lutheran Early Response Team for Southern Minnesota, and the Sudanese Lutheran Congregation in Austin, will each receive \$2,244.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped on Saturday and Sunday. We had over 35 people help set up, cook, provide pies, serve, wash dishes, and clean up. This was a wonderful fellowship event for our church and community!



### Craft Day April 18th

**Quilting, Cardmaking,  
Sewing, Crocheting,  
Cross Stitching,  
Chrismons, and  
Paper Craft**

**Thank you to the  
Altar Guild for your  
faithfulness  
throughout the year  
and especially  
during Lent, Holy  
Week, and Easter.**

***WELCOME TO OUR VICAR  
Welcome to our summer vicar,  
Timothy Yang, arriving May 16th.  
Timothy will be installed on  
Sunday, May 17th.  
The congregation of First English  
will do all we can to support you  
and help you grow in your calling.***

