

The Link May 2025

St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church

7459 MN 19 | Cannon Falls, MN 55009 | 507.263.3645

www.stansgars.org



Please join us on May 4th at 10:45 to revel in the music with which this church is blessed. We have 9 vocal or instrumentals lined up to perform. These talents deserve an audience, so we hope you will support them. This occasion is open to the public so invite your friends. See you there.

WE NEED SUMMER VOLUNTEERS FOR SPECIAL MUSIC

The choir will be singing through Sunday, May 18th and then they will be taking a summer break. Do you sing or play an instrument? If so, we encourage you to sign up for a Sunday this summer to sing or play an instrument during the service. If you need help in selecting a song Cindy Hayward or Jane Bracken are here to help you. Please feel free to contact us. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex with dates available.

Thank you!
Cindy Hayward,
Choir Director



Please join us for our outdoor services on:

June 8

July 13

Aug 10

In case of inclement weather services will be held indoors. Please bring your lawn chairs.

Pastor's Message

The Season of Easter – Death and Resurrection

The angel spoke to the women at the tomb, “There is nothing to fear here. I know you’re looking for Jesus, the One they nailed to the cross. He is not here. He was raised.” (Matthew 28: 5-6)

“The old nature in us should be drowned by daily repentance, and die, and, in turn, a new person daily come forth and rise from death again.” (Martin Luther, Small Catechism)

Hello! I am looking forward to serving as St. Ansgar’s as interim pastor. And I am grateful I started right before Holy Week. I enjoyed worshiping with you during Holy Week services. I look forward to getting to know you and this community of faith. The Easter season highlights death and resurrection. Jesus shows us how to die, and how to live. What do we need to die to? How is the Spirit raising us up again? Death and resurrection is happening all the time. In the spring, buds come out on the trees, and the flowers push up out of the dirt. In nature, in our lives, and in the life of a faith community, death and resurrection is a sign of growth. What at St. Ansgar’s may be dying? Where is the Spirit bringing new life? I look forward to exploring both of those questions with you. There is a question on the Ministry Site Profile that asks “Energy – what energizes your congregation?” I’d love to hear your thoughts!

Peace,

Pastor Paul

Fun Facts about Pastor Paul:

- Grew up in Chicago area
- Attended St. Olaf and the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago
- Spent a year in the Lutheran Volunteer Corps
- Married to Kelly Debnam
- Two kids – Zoe (22) and Isaiah (19)
- Has served as a pastor for over 20 years, serving in churches in Wisconsin and Minnesota.
- Also has worked as a Mental Health Practitioner
- Lives in Northfield
- Is part of the Order of Lutheran Franciscans
- Serves on the Southeastern Minnesota Synod’s Amparro (migrant ministry) team.
- Enjoys music, walking in the Arb, and is addicted to on-line chess and Star Wars.

Gracias - Tusen Takk - Dankeschön - Merci

The Altar Guild extends a huge THANK YOU to everyone who joined us for our Tator Tot Hotdish Supper for the last week of Lent; it was a grand success.



To all those, on the Altar Guild, who brought hot dishes, salads, rolls and bars/cookies - your help and support is so greatly appreciated.

And of course - who brought pies and a wonderful turnout. 22 pies were brought success.



THANK YOU to everyone those who bought pies. It was and sold! We call that a huge

Barb Middaugh brought her handmade dish cloths to sell and donated all the proceeds to our end total.



Barb, you are so gracious and giving. Thank you!

Until next year, we wish you a year filled with blessings and love!

St. A's Altar Guild.

Grazie - Mange Takk - Mahalo



Congratulation's to St. Ansgar's graduating seniors.

**Ethan Deutsch
Tysen Lind
Annabelle Otte
Thomas Otte**



Well, if you haven't heard.. It was a spectacular turn out for the Easter Egg Hunt this year. I mean... WOW!

It was very well attended. Our parking lots were full, plus there were around 50-60 cars parked on the grass, A big thanks to Owen H and Mitchell for directing folks safely to park.

We had 19 St. A's volunteers come and enjoy setup and cleanup and Maggie from the Chamber of Commerce and her son came to help also!!

The CFFD brought out 2 fire trucks for the kids to climb on and through and investigate. and the FFA group had 5 girls showing 4 bunnies and a bunch of baby chicks. I asked the girls if there were more people than the fair, and they said "yes!" I made paracord cross "swag bags" with cookies for those extra volunteers to take home and enjoy.

A Super big Thanks to Tony B and Megan H for being an Easter Bunny dream team, getting everyone through the line and all the hugs and waves to the more timid little guys. So much fun and love from them!! Awesome

And I want to Congratulate and THANK everyone here at St. Ansgar's for a HUGE win on this Community Outreach. You guys are the best helpers and I love feeling all your support when we create something this Grand. My heart is full of gratitude and still shocked at the crowd that gathered together here!

Many Thanks to you!
Robin



Easter Volunteer's



CAN

Community Assistance Network

Helping People. Changing Lives.

Globe Offering for May, we will be collecting money for the "Assistance Network". Make checks payable to St. Ansgar's and write "Assistance Network" in the memo.

Assistance Network is a fund to help members of St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church who are in financial difficulty, (ie., heat, electric, water, daycare, rent, phone or food). Money/checks may be placed in the Globe sitting out in the narthex or in your pledge envelope.



PLEASE JOIN US THIS
SUMMER FOR VBS!

WHO: K-5TH GRADE
WHERE: 1ST ENGLISH CHURCH CF
WHEN: JUNE 22-26TH 8:30AM-3PM
GOOD EARTH VILLAGE WILL BE
LEADING US.
ALL FEES ARE COVERED BY ST.
ANSGAR'S
ADDITIONAL INFO WILL BE
AVAILABLE ONCE SIGN-UP IS
COMPLETED

Register Today for Vacation Bible School Day Camp!

Good Earth Village is leading VBS Day Camp at First English this summer! There will be a kickoff event on Sunday, June 22 and the program will be held from 8:30AM – 3PM **Monday, June 23, through Thursday, June 26**. Camp will be for students currently in grades K-5. If we get the volunteers necessary, preschoolers can attend as well.

If you need a form please contact Kim in the office at 507-263-3645 or email sachurchoffice@gmail.com

APRIL 2025 COUNCIL MINUTES

St. Ansgar's Library – Tuesday, April 15, 2025

1. Meeting Called to Order – Megan Hansen

Devotion – Sue

Vision Statement: A Welcoming Church focused on Christ, together actively reaching out to the community.

Mission Statement: Proclaiming God's Love and salvation for everyone through Jesus Christ.

2. Approval of April Agenda – ***Motion, Second, Passed***

3. Communion sign-up (**Pass Around**)

4. Approval of March Minutes – ***Motion, Second, Passed***

5. Financial Report – Megan - ***Motion, Second, Passed to accept***

Treasurer's Report

March Financial Report:

- a. Income \$ 17,580.00 YTD: \$67,381.10
- b. Expenses \$13,074.70 YTD: \$55,095.62
- c. Over/Under: \$ 4,545.30 YTD: \$12,285.48
- d. Designated Savings: \$154,035.70
- e. Designated Income: \$ 2,635.97
- f. Designated Expense: \$4,579.23

We owe ourselves \$0

Parking Lot loan balance: \$35,837.88

6. Reports:

- a. Minutes from Worship & Education Committee meeting

4-7-2025 - ***Received***

7. Old Business:

- a. Pastor Kira's Exit Interview – *We discussed several items and observations. The feedback from Pastor Kira will be helpful as we approach the next call.*
- b. St. Ansgar's Ministry Site Profile review – *Tabled until May meeting.*
- c. St. Ansgar's Ministry Needs – Big Picture – *We have had a couple of informal conversations with First English around possible opportunities to share resources, similar to what we've done with VBS and Summer Stretch. The goal is cost savings and Christian fellowship*

8. New Business:

- a. Welcome Pastor Paul
- b. Begin Call Process – *We split into teams and will review our Ministry Site Profile from 2022. Based on that review we plan to determine how much of it can be reused as is or slightly modified.*

9. Review 2-month Calendar

10. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, May 20th 2025 6:30pm

Devotions – Shari

Respectfully Submitted,

Tony Busiahn

Council Secretary



Worship & Education Ministry Committee Minutes

Date: Monday, April 7 @ 6:30pm

Council Representatives: Bill Berg -Taking minutes, Jeff Samuelson, Bob Durdahl – Convener

Staff Support: Worship Leaders, Christian Education Coordinator

1. Vision and Mission Statements were read along with the Reflection Question – Our committees should be guided by the Mission and Vision statements. Consider how this ministry committee is fulfilling this mission and vision.
2. Business Ministry Review 3 months
 - a. Finance Team
 - i. Financial Update – Paul submitted our report Bob updated that everything was on track for the budget for this committee so far.
 - b. Worship Team
 - i. Altar Guild nothing new to report – communion will remain the 1st and 4th Sundays.
 - ii. Ushers/Greeters – We are going to scale back to having 3 ushers rather than 4.
 - iii. Readers – Nothing to report
 - iv. Music – Jane, Cindy, Doug
 1. Cindy has picked music out for the rest of the year.
 2. The choir will have three Sundays left after Easter and then off for the summer.
 3. Cindy mentioned that she wanted to find a contact at the Synod office to try to donate the (35) old choir robes.
 4. She will start a sign-up sheet for Summer Soloists.
 5. We will move forward with having outside services this summer on the second Sunday of June, July, and August.
 - v. Offering Counters – Finance
 1. We are good and scheduled with enough counters.
 2. The Updated Policy was handed out at the last meeting.
 - vi. Tech Support (Streaming & Sound)
 1. Doug has come up with a plan for the microphone set up on Easter Sunday.
 - vii. Liturgy – Pr Paul
 - 1.
 - viii. Funeral Volunteers – Sue B. & Shari E.
 1. The Teams seem to be running well.
 - c. Education – Robin
 - i. One more Confirmation Class left.
 - ii. Children – Robin
 - iii. Confirmation/Mentors
 - iv. High School Youth – Carie

- v. Adult Forum
 - 1. Blending Forum into the end of the service was taken off the table for now.
 - vi. Bible Study Groups/WELCA – Jim L. & Cindy H.
 - 1. Cindy mentioned merging the women circles into one this fall.
 - 2. Having a day retreat for the circles was discussed.
 - 3. Men's Bible Study seems to be growing nicely.
 - vii. Pub Nights
 - 1. Doing Pub Nights again was discussed but will need someone to take the lead on it. Bob will talk to Pr. Paul about taking the lead.
 - viii. VBS
 - 1. Dates are posted on the board and will be with First English with the people from Good Earth running it.
 - ix. Devotional
 - 1. Books are ordered.
 - x. Library
 - 1. Making the library a part of Sunday school was discussed. Such as bringing kids up to read a book, or having a book read to them.
3. Additions to be added to the Business Ministry Committee
- a. Senior Blankets will be handed out on Senior Recognition Day.
 - b. Fall Festival – we would like to bring this back. Dates and more information to follow at the July meeting.

Meeting Adjourned. Attendees - Jeff S. Deb N. Doug A. Barb M. Megan H. Bob D. Donna N. Robin M. Bill B. Cindy H. and Pastor Paul.

Worship & Education Next Meeting – July 7, 2025 – 6:30pm



Spring cleanup at the Church will take place on May 16 & 17 starting at 8am. The Property Committee will be responsible for outside grounds and building cleanup including all outside windows. We will need volunteers from committees and other congregational members to help with the cleaning of the interior. There will be sign up sheets in the Narthex. Interior cleanup will be Friday and Saturday.

Serving Schedule (May)

Date 2025	Acolyte	Computer	Usher's & Greeters & Bell	Sound board	Live Streaming	Reader	Communion
4-May	Bryer Gustafson	Cashden Cassidy	Jeff, Maureen & Charlie	Bob	Eastin	Kris Sande	Megan, Bill & Bob
11-May	Rowen Bollinger	Kylie Sindt	Tony, Shari, Bill	Doug	Bob	Carter Hayward	
18-May	Volunteer	Volunteer	Megan, Scott & Donna	Bob	Carie	Deb Norstad	
25-May	Logan Otto	Volunteer	Liz, Lydell & Deb	Doug	Paul	Linda Henderson	Bob, Sue & Josh

Altar Guild

Barb Monroe & Cindy Hayward



Offering Counters

May 4 Debra & Mary

May 11 Gary & Cheryl

May 18 Bryce & Danielle

May 25 Donna & Debbie



As a community of faith, we invite you to hold these people in prayer this week:

Linda Rifenberick, Sue Samuelson, Cindy Hayward, Glenn & Lou Schulz, Marty Dettling, Marcus Cherwinka and Danielle Lingenfelter, Linda Norstad, Rod Anderson and Mary Lindahl.

We pray for those who have been called to active military service and for our mission partners around the globe.

May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Senior Recognition Sunday 9:30am Worship Service with Communion	28 6:30pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Ruth Circle	29 7:00am Lydia Prayer Group	30 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	1 National Day of Prayer 6:00pm Cub Scouts - Round Table	2	3 7:00am Men's Bible Study
4 9:30am Worship Service with Communion 10:45am St. A's Talent Show	5 6:30pm Cub Scouts	6 7:00am CFBC 7:00am Lydia Prayer Group	7	8	9 3:00pm CF Bombers Track and Field - Fellowship Hall	10 7:00am Men's Bible Study
11 Mother's Day 9:30am Worship Service	12 8:00am Finance Team 1:00pm Mission Quilting 6:30pm Cub Scouts	13 7:00am Lydia Prayer Group 7:30am CF Courage Retreat - Fellowship Hall 6:30pm Community Outreach Ministry	14	15	16	17 7:00am Men's Bible Study
18 9:30am Worship Service 12:00pm Fellowship Hall Reserved (Mary Spidahl)	19 1:30pm Elizabeth Circle	20 7:00am CFBC 7:00am Lydia Prayer Group 6:30pm Church Council	21	22	23	24 7:00am Men's Bible Study
25 9:30am Worship Service with Communion	26 Memorial Day 7:00pm Ruth Circle	27 7:00am Lydia Prayer Group	28	29	30 2025 Synod Assembly	31 2025 Synod Assembly 7:00am Men's Bible Study

When scheduling an activity at the Church please contact the office at (507-263-3645) or email sachurchoffice@gmail.com as soon as possible for availability and fill out a "Facilities Use Request" form.

The Link



Staff Contact Information:

Church Office: 507-263-3645
Hours: M-F 8am –12pm

Pastor Paul Graham
Direct Line 507-757-1050
paulg1121@outlook.com

Kim Durdahl
Office Manager
Direct Line: 507-757-1051
sachurchoffice@gmail.com

AnnMarie Otto:
Finance Director
Direct Line: 507-757-1053
safinances7459@gmail.com

Children, Youth & Family Coordinator
Robin McManus
saofficecyf@gmail.com

Council President: Megan Hansen
Ministers: EVERY member of the congregation
Organist: Jane Bracken
Choir Director: Cindy Hayward
Contemporary Director: Doug Anderson

WORSHIP WITH US

Sunday Morning
9:30am Worship Service

Our Vision Statement:
“A welcoming church, focused on Christ,
together actively reaching
out to the community.”

Our Mission Statement:
“Proclaiming God’s love and salvation for
everyone through Jesus Christ.”

**Return Service
Requested**

**Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Cannon Falls
Permit #65**

