



Cross Beams

May 2019

www.englishlutheranchurch.org

Our Vision: A Christ-centered, serving community.

english
LUTHERAN CHURCH



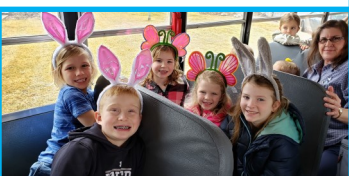
Easter Sunday Worship



Palm Sunday Worship



Easter Basket Delivery



First Communion

PICTURES

Maundy Thursday Agape Meal

Easter Festival

Kayden Hager Baptism

First Communion Class

Confirmation Lock-In

Sunday School
Assembling Easter
Baskets

Palm Sunday Brunch



Grace and peace to you all!

*To everything there is a season,
and a time for every purpose under heaven:
a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot... Ecclesiastes 3:1-2*

I don't normally express a lot of personal opinion in this column, but one particular topic's been on my mind recently. One thing I've learned in my years as a pastor is that, in an effort to be comforting, people can say some things about God that probably aren't true. While I understand the desire to provide comfort, and the difficulty in knowing what "the right thing to say" is, I'm afraid sometimes saying nothing, would be better than saying the wrong thing, especially if it paints an inaccurate picture of our God.

Things people say that fall into this category include things like after the death of a child, "God must have needed her more than you," or "God doesn't give us more than we can handle." But one that really rubs me wrong is, "Everything happens for a reason." Really!?? So that boy getting thrown off the 3rd floor at the Mall of America was God's plan? Or Jayme Closs getting kidnapped and her parents' murder was part of God's plan? Or Hitler's genocide of the Jews was God's plan? I don't buy that for a second. I believe in a loving God who wants the best for all God's children and who weeps when we weep. I believe bad things happen due to evil, due to sin, and sometimes, just because of our own free will and the natural forces of our fallen creation. Of course, I also believe that God gives us the strength and ability to respond to bad things in our lives so that good might come from them. But I don't believe God puts bad things in our lives to teach us some sort of lesson or to prove to us how strong we are, etc.

So there you have it, a rare opinion piece from your pastor! I hope you all had a blessed Easter and that you will know the love God has for you in Jesus Christ and God's desire for the well being of ALL creation!

In Christ's Name,

Pastor Jeff



Graduation Time Sunday, May 19

We will honor graduating high school seniors on Sunday, May 19. Quilts will be given to each graduate during worship services. If your graduate did not receive the letter about Graduate Sunday, please contact the office so all are included.

Congratulations to all who are graduating this spring from high school and college!



First Communion

Congratulations to the students who received their First Communion in April (see cover photos):

April 18—Joey Lewis

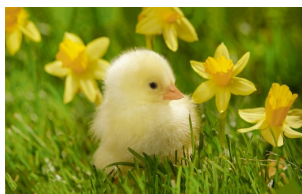
April 21—Wyley Myers & Oliver Fleming

April 28—Ellie Holst



Chicks & Goats!

We collected \$880.24 for chicks & goats, to be provided for communities around the world who are in need through the *ELCA Global Hunger Program!* Thank you for your generosity!



Baptisms in April

Bevyn Lou Harris became our sister in Christ through Holy Baptism on Sunday, April 7. Bevyn's parents are Taryn & Collin Harris and her sponsors are Dominic Harris & Stacey Rohl.

Kayden Duane Hager became our brother in Christ through Holy Baptism on Sunday, April 28. Kayden's parents are Katie & Jackson Hager and his sponsors are Danielle & Joe Goodier and Brandy Liddle.



Reverend Erin Nelson

Rev. Erin Nelson will be our guest preacher on Sunday, May 12. Erin is the Director for Evangelical Mission in our synod office. Her role includes congregational vitality, call process, mission support & stewardship initiatives, and aligning the synod with Future Directions 2025. As part of her sermon, Rev. Nelson will share with us about an exciting project called Faithful Innovations Network (FIN). FIN is a joint project with the 6 synods of Wisconsin and the U.P. of Michigan that have joined together seeking to learn how to be church in the 21st century. FIN includes listening for God's voice, experimenting with new actions, and sharing with others what we learn. We hope you'll join us in worship on May 12 to hear Rev. Nelson's message!



In Memory

Judy Truax died April 16, 2019. Her funeral was April 23 at *English Lutheran Church*. Remember her family and friends in your prayers.



100 Year Anniversary!

English Lutheran Church turns 100 years old next year, 2020! We are looking to get a team together to prepare for this celebration. We'd also love to have your input/suggestions for our 100th year celebration. Contact the church office or a member of the church council if you are interested in being a member of the team and with your ideas.



In the beginning...

English Lutheran Church had its official beginning on July 12, 1920, but its origin dates back to the 12th day of August, 1914, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Hanson, when a Ladies Aid was organized through the assistance of the Reverend L. K. Aaberg, Pastor of South Rush River Lutheran Church, rural Ellsworth--now known as Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Twelve members were present.

A year after the formation of the Ladies Aid, concern was shown for the need of worship services on Sunday in addition to regular Aid meetings. Mainly, through the devoted efforts of Mr. Charles M. Hanson and Mrs. O.H. Olson, arrangements were made to conduct Sunday worship services in St. John's Episcopal Church (corner of Piety and Strickland Streets). Proper assistance was sought, and through the Rev. Dr. C. O. Solberg, President of the *English Association of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America* (later, through mergers, becoming what is now known as the *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*) and under his supervision, services were conducted by students (and sometimes professors) of *Luther Theological Seminary* at Saint Paul, Minnesota. This arrangement continued until the formal organization of the congregation and the calling of the first pastor.

The first entry on the official records of the congregation (handwriting of Arthur L. Rustad) reads:

"Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor." Timothy 5:17.

Organization of English Lutheran Congregation of Ellsworth, Wisconsin, effected and constitution adopted July 12, 1920. Mr. C.M. Hanson, chairman, and Oscar Halls, secretary. Student A. L. Rustad serving as pastor since Sunday, May 23, 1920.

... and that's how it all began!

(The above is from the English Lutheran Church book of history, available in the church office.)

Red Geraniums for Pentecost

Sunday, June 9

The color for Pentecost Sunday is **RED**.

Consider ordering one or more red geraniums to decorate our sanctuary and add festivity to the day. We are ordering the plants from *Reuvers' Nursery*.

Orders must be received no later than Monday, May 20. You may take your geranium home after 10:00 a.m. worship on June 9, 2019. Plants not picked up will be planted in our church garden.

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS OUT TO: REUVERS' NURSERY

I would like to order _____ geranium(s) at \$4.25 each.

Total paid \$ _____

Name _____



Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible study will meet May 8 at 10:00 am in the Fireside Room.

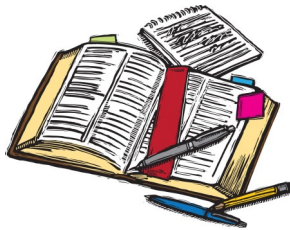
Our bible study is on giving and receiving blessings. Prepare by reading Psalm 145:1-13. Those of you who subscribe to Gather will find it printed on p. 24 of the magazine.

*The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*

*The Lord is good to all,
and his compassion is over all that he has made. (Psalm 145:8-9)*

This will be our last meeting until fall when we will meet again.

May hostess is Vi Wilhelm.



Graduate Quilts

**Monday, May 6
6:15-8:15 pm**

Please join us as we craft together beautiful, handmade quilts for our High School Seniors who will be graduating this year.



You do not need sewing skills as the tops are sewn by some of our members at home, and we meet to assemble and "tie" the quilts together at church.

Materials and monetary donations are welcomed to help support this ministry.

For additional information contact:
Judy Erickson @ 715-603-5197
or Tammy Brenner @ 715-273-3591

Music Corner

Thank you to all the musicians involved in Holy Week services!

Join the Kids Choir for Mother's Day!

Sunday, May 12 at the 10AM service, the ELC Choir is inviting kids to join them in honoring our Mothers. Rehearsals will be held May 4 & 5 as listed below.

ELC CHOIR REHEARSAL:

Saturday, May 4, 10:00 - 11:30 am

(Kids Choir will join us from 10:30-11:30AM)

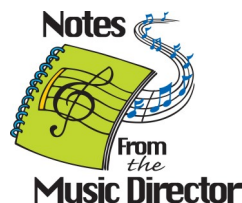
Sunday, May 5, 11:00 - 11:45 am (with Kids Choir)

ELC CHOIR PERFORMANCE:

Good Friday, April 19, 6:30 pm

Easter, April 21, 8:30 & 10 am

Mother's Day (with a Kids Choir),
May 12, 10AM service only



~ Jess Monett
music@englishlutheranchurch.org



Thank you to our Sunday school kids, parents, teachers, coordinators, and bus driver for assembling and delivering the 50 Easter Baskets. We visited 18 homes and Preferred Senior Living. 34 kids helped deliver the baskets with many adult volunteers. Thank you!

Thank you to all who volunteered to help with our Lent and Easter worship services.

Thank you to those who helped in the office with all of the bulletins and other materials for worship services and Lent/Easter events!

Thank you to the Worship and Music team for serving the Agape Meal! A great experience!

Thank you to the Altar Guild team for setting up and changing the décor for all of the Holy Week and Easter events.

Thank you to all of our volunteers who help with the funeral luncheons at ELC.



Happy Mother's Day!

It's hard to believe that our Sunday School year will be wrapping up in just 4 short weeks! I want to thank everyone involved for making this a successful year! Thank you to the teachers for your dedication to our children. Thank you to the parents for your support and bringing your children every Sunday. The children have had a wonderful time and have done some amazing work from delivering 50 Easter baskets to local shut-ins to making prayer shawls and decorating lunch bags to collecting and donating money to the Ellsworth School District Food Service. I am very proud to have been a part of this year's Sunday School Program.

As we wrap up this year, we will be celebrating the Moms of the congregation. On Sunday, May 12, our Sunday school children will be helping out and sharing their talents during both services. They will also be singing during the 10:00 services. In preparation for the performance, we are asking that the children stay after Sunday School for 45 minutes on April 28, May 6 to practice with our Music director, Jess Monet. We will also be practicing on Saturday May 4 from 10:30-11:30. Please pick up your children from the sanctuary at 11:30 on these days.

Month		Event
May Saturday	4	Music Practice 10:30-11:30
	5	Lesson Music Practice after Sunday School 11-11:45
	12	Mother's Day Children assisting both services Children singing at 10:00 service
	19	Last Class Lesson

Vacation Bible School

We are excited to welcome Luther Point Bible Camp counselors back this year to lead our Vacation Bible School in June. We are going to go back to afternoon VBS this year. The week of June 17, 12:30 to 4:30 pm. Summer School kids will be bussed to the church from school. Registration forms are available now, see page 8 of this newsletter. If you are interested in volunteering to help with VBS, please contact the church office.



Luther Point Bible Camp

The Schedule for Summer 2019 is out and registration is open. Be sure to check out the *Summer Discounts* section, including the *member church* discount.

Take a moment to visit our website and get familiar with the schedule and the new camps being offered this summer!

- Family Get-Away Camp
- Family Arts Camp
- Weekend Family Fish Camp

www.LutherPoint.org

See page 13 of this newsletter for more *Luther Point Bible Camp* information.





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School

June 17-20, 2019

Monday-Thursday ~ 12:30-4:30 pm

**Luther Point Bible Camp Counselors
will lead our VBS.**

Games, Crafts, Bible Study, Lunch,
Songs, and lots of fun!!

Lunch is served every day!!

Children ages 3 – 6th grade welcome.

Hosted by English Lutheran Church.

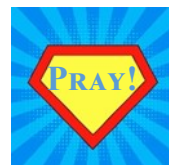
Community is welcome.

Children in summer school will be
bussed to the church immediately
following summer school.

FREE!!!!!!!!!!

Call English Lutheran Church office at
715-273-4617 or email
office@englishlutheranchurch.org
with any questions.

Register today!



2019 Vacation Bible School Enrollment Form

Student Name #1: _____ Age: _____ Grade just completed: _____

Student Name #2: _____ Age: _____ Grade just completed: _____

Student Name #3: _____ Age: _____ Grade just completed: _____

Student Name #4: _____ Age: _____ Grade just completed: _____

Parent's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Address: _____

Enrollment forms due by May 31, 2019.

Return Forms to: English Lutheran Church
229 West Main St.
Ellsworth, WI 54011
Forms can also be returned to your school office.

PRAYERS

Special Prayers:

Prayers for the family of Judy Truax who died in April.

Prayers for the family of Burt Larson whose brother, Lowell died.

Healing:

Joyce Hines

Maxine Luchsinger ~ Medical Issue

Timothy Nagel, Nephew of Jeff & Kate Smith ~ Open
Heart Surgery

Clint Olson

Jerome Huppert ~ Broken Hip

Long-term:

Verneal Johnson, Lisa Boettcher's Mother ~ Hospice

Kim Morth ~ Hospice

Karen McAdams, Linda & Gary Onan's Daughter ~ Multiple
System Atrophy

Judy Hince, Darla Moquin's Cousin ~ Stroke

David R. Johnson

Deb Pierce, Trina Groen's Mom ~ Alzheimer's

Ed Sanders, Diane Wiskerchen's Dad

Joyce Geister, Julie Baggenstoss & Carol Melstrom's Mother

Hazel Wegerer ~ Dementia

Mackenzie Marks, Connie & Adrian Gossett's Granddaughter

Tomi Erlandson ~ Seizures & Health

Dale & Marianne Melstrom

Mary Dee Prokop, Mother of Eileen Mewes

Muriel Jeffrey, Nancy Ellefson's Sister

Sherry York

Wendy Wegerer ~ Health Issues

Esther Risberg, Julie Davis' Mother

Military service:

Zack Daleiden, Cody Tschida & Johnathan Bergman



John 14:27, NRSV

Deaconess

The role of the Deaconess consists of sending thoughts, well wishes, and congratulations to members of our church to let them know we are thinking of them.

Please notify the church office or any deaconess worker with any prayers.

Deaconess for May
~ Vi Wilhelm

2019 General Fund

<i>Month</i>	<i>Actual Monthly Income</i>	<i>Actual Monthly Expense</i>	<i>Actual YTD Income</i>	<i>Actual YTD Expenses</i>
January	13,311.10	24,796.61	13,311.10	24,796.61
February	11,698.10	19,719.90	25,009.20	44,516.51
March	38,575.62	30,103.14	63,584.82	74,619.65

Worship Attendance

Week of:	8:30	10:00	6:30 Wed.	Good Friday	Total
March 31	45	81	31	-	157
April 7	44	96	14	-	154
April 14	60	148	45 (Thurs.)	80	333
April 21	134	159	-	-	293
April 28	33	99	-	-	132
Totals:	316	583	90	80	1069
Average:	63	117	-	-	180
2019 Sunday Avg.	48	92	-	-	141

Mortgage

As of April 7, 2019, the mortgage balance is \$13,104.69.

Payments due are \$1,315.

We received a generous donation of \$10,000 towards the mortgage in March! This payment was sent to Thrivent with the March payment and is reflected in the April statement.

The current payment of \$1,315 consists of \$1,263.13 principal and \$51.87 interest.



April Council Notes

- † Discussion of setting 2-3 goals/priorities for the Council
- † Approval of Synod Assembly offering amount of \$300 from the Endowment Committee for Malawi (2/3rds) and World Hunger (1/3rd). MSC.
- † Audit/Auditor-Gary Onan will address the Finance Committee to find an auditor.
- † Discussion of the Finance Committee addressing various committees to combine money to pay for the new microphones. Possible committees: Rental Property, Christikon, and Memorial. Discussion tabled until next Council meeting.
- † Joyce Karlstad will be the Council liaison to the Stewardship Committee.



Mortgage Update

In the last couple of years, many of our fellow church partners in ministry blessed English Lutheran with significant gifts to our mortgage principal. Due to their generosity our mortgage is now just under \$10,000, down from over \$156,000 two years ago! We are now so very close to being able to burn our mortgage and celebrate being debt free as we head into our 100th year as a church! Without the monthly mortgage payment of \$1,315, we can dream and pray about what new ways God is leading us to build the kingdom of God in Ellsworth and beyond!

We are asking you to prayerfully consider helping us reach this goal to pay off our mortgage. Would you join us in reaching this goal?

Many of you have joined us in reaching this goal. As of April 30, we have received \$2,180. Thank you for your generosity!

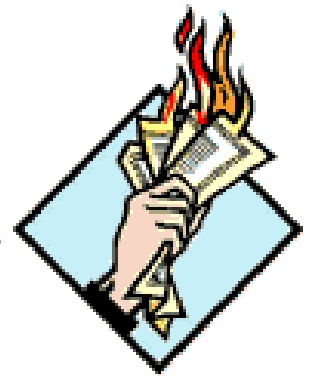
Note: If gifts above and beyond the remaining almost \$10,000 needed to pay off the mortgage come in, we will put them in a dedicated Building & Property Fund to be used for any buildings or grounds maintenance that we don't currently have general funds to cover. (i.e. a new furnace, repairing our leaky basement, repairing sidewalks and landscaping, etc.)

When making your gift, please write "Mortgage Appeal" in the memo line or on the envelope.

Additionally, you should know, due to the streak of cold, snow, and ice we had in February and early March, our Sunday attendance and therefore envelope offering was down. The smaller than expected offering, combined with a very large snow removal bill and a new furnace, put us in a bigger deficit for the year than we'd like.

So we also humbly ask you to consider supporting our on-going mission and ministry by catching up on any offering you intended to make this winter but couldn't due to the tough weather conditions we had.

Finally, THANK YOU again for all the ways you generously support God's work at English Lutheran Church! We truly could not do the ministry we do in Christ's name without you!



Mission Endowment

The Mission Endowment Committee had their quarterly meeting in April. Requests were approved for:

- ~ Children's Endowment in the amount of \$1,400 for Vacation Bible School
- ~ General Endowment in the amount of \$300 to be used for offering at the Synod Assembly in May. This will go to Malawi (2/3rds) and World Hunger (1/3rd).

Other requests were deferred to a later date to gather more information/approval from other committees.





On Your Mark, Get Set, Go!

Register today for First Choice Clinic's 5k Run & Walk for Life – Sat. June 15th

Please join us for a fun-filled morning. In addition to the 5K Run/ Walk and Kid's Fun Run, there will be a bouncy house, card making for Father's Day and crafts, and silent auction.

All activities will take place at Bay Point Park in Red Wing, MN.

Go to www.FirstChoiceClinicRW.com under the events tab to for more information and to register or call FCC at (651) 267-4357.

Early Bird Registration NOW – May 30th **guarantees you an event t-shirt.**

Same day registration/check in begins at 8am, kids run – 9am, 5k - 9:30

Have questions? Call (651) 267-4357 or email info@firstchoiceclinicrw.com

Cheese Curd Fest

June 21-22, 2019

The *Ellsworth Chamber of Commerce* contacted us about an exciting fundraising opportunity. We are recruiting volunteers to help with this year's *Cheese Curd Festival*. The festival will donate \$10/hour back to us for each hour volunteers work on behalf of our organization. Plus, we also earn a share of their profits from the sales of deep fried cheese curds at the event! Last year's participants ended up getting \$25 per hour after profit sharing!

The Chamber volunteer site is now open, see the online link on our website: englishlutheranchurch.org. Volunteer positions include: set-up, clean-up, kids' activities, selling cheese curds, and taking orders...

Be sure to designate *English Lutheran Church* as the organization you are volunteering on behalf of.

Thank you for your time!



LUTHER POINT BIBLE CAMP



Summer Camp Registration is Open!

Register for Summer Camp today and take advantage of our Early Bird Discount! Luther Point offers camps for all people and ages. Visit our website to learn more and register.

[Click Here for More Information and to Register!](#)



May Work Days

We need your help on **May 4 & 11** to get camp ready for our summer campers!

We will be cleaning out camper cabins and getting the grounds ready!

May 4: 9-noon

May 11: 9-2 (Lunch Served!)

Garden Install Party

May 11 from 9 - 2 we will be installing Luther Point Gardens. Constructing raised beds, filling with dirt and planting our first produce and flowers!

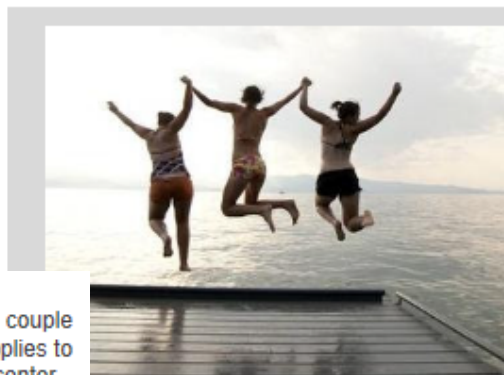
To learn more about our gardens and to help make them a reality please visit [click here!](#) We are still seeking donations to make this project the best it can be! We are still \$1,100 from our initial goal of \$2,500!



Luther Point needs your help in donating a couple items. These range from arts and craft supplies to garden supplies and linens for our retreat center. Please take a moment to visit our Amazon wish list to see how you can help!

[Click Here to See LPBC's Wishlist!](#)

If you have trouble with the link please visit [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and search "Luther Point" in the list search option.



Break-in-the-Lake

Break-in-the-Lake will be held during lunch on **May 11!** If you want to see the staff get wet or be one of the first people in Big Wood Lake in 2019 come and join us for this fun time!



English Lutheran Church
229 West Main Street
Ellsworth, Wisconsin
Phone: 715-273-4617
Fax : 715-273-5974
Church website:
<http://www.englishlutheranchurch.org>
Find us on Facebook!

Staff

Pastor, Jeff Smith

pastor@englishlutheranchurch.org

Office: 715-273-4617

Cell: 651-235-7204 (preferably 9 am-9 pm)

Call or text any time for urgent pastoral care.

Communications Coordinator & Finance Administrator, Trina Groen

office@englishlutheranchurch.org

Custodian, Julie Baggenstoss

Music Director, Jess Monett

music@englishlutheranchurch.org



The church office is open:
Monday, Wednesday, &
Thursday 9:00 am—3:00 pm
Friday 9:00 am—1:00 pm
Closed on Tuesdays.

Congregational Council

President: Warren Johnson

Vice President: Dennis Boettcher

Treasurer: Gary Onan

Secretary: Julie Davis

Peter Carr

Joyce Karlstad

Dean Mewes

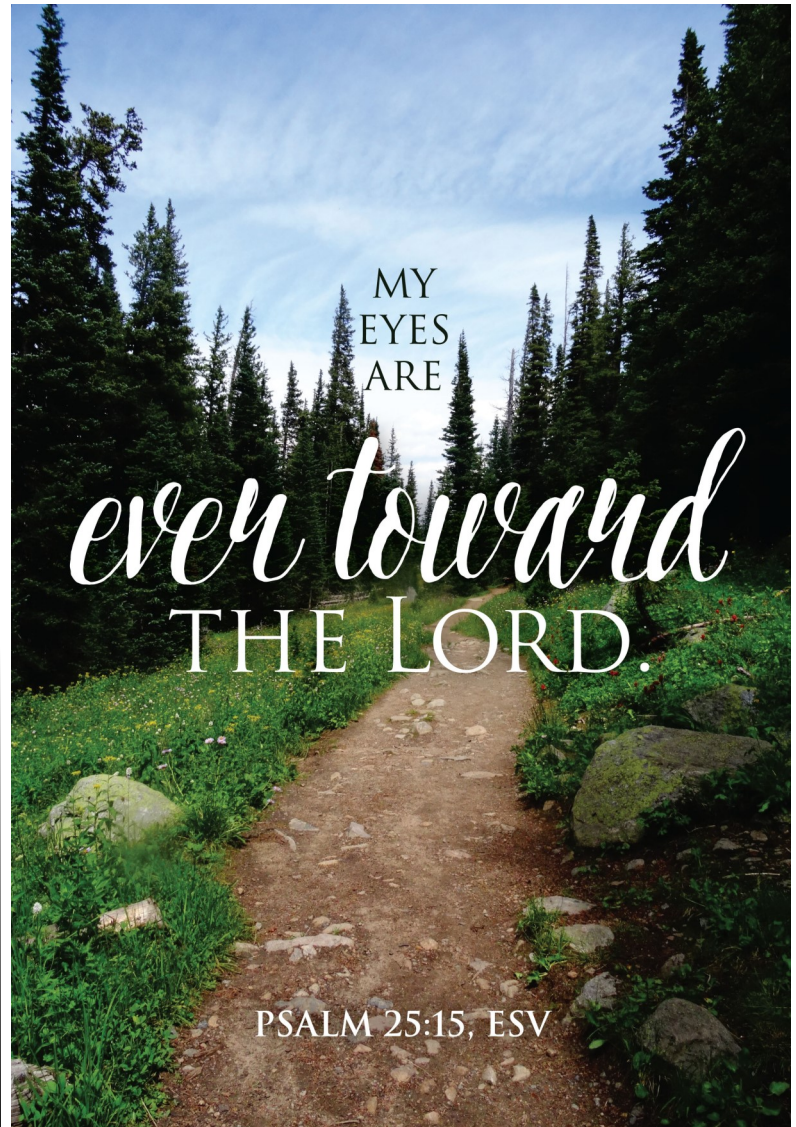
Kristen Kinneman

Lynette Winger

Sunday Worship Times

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship

10:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship



Our Mission:

To share Christ's unconditional love,
inspiring us all for service to others.

Cross Beams

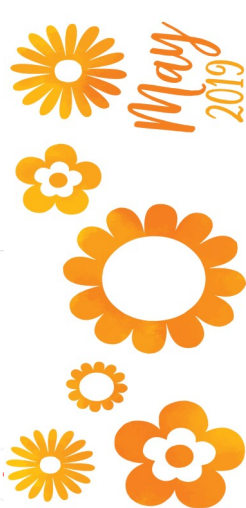
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Email:
office@englishlutheranchurch.org



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May 2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 6:45pm Confirmation Class			9am Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up 10am Choir Practice 10:30am Kids Choir Practice
5 Cinco de Mayo 8:30am Traditional Worship 10am Contemporary Worship 10am Sunday School	6 6:15pm Graduate Quilting	7 6:30pm CVF Meeting	8 10am Women's Bible Study 6:45pm Confirmation Class			
12 Pastor Erin Nelson Preaching Mother's Day 8:30am Traditional Worship 10am Contemporary Worship & Choir & Kids 10:00 ~ Sunday School Kids in Worship 11:10 ~ Mission Trip Meeting			15 6pm Confirmation End of Year Party			
19 Quilts for Graduates 8:30am Traditional Worship 10am Contemporary Worship 10am Sunday School - Last Day		21 6:30pm Church Council Meeting				
26 8:30am Traditional Worship 10am Contemporary Worship	27 Memorial Day					