



# Cross Beams

## December 2022

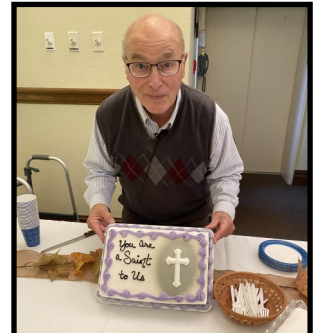


[www.englishlutheranchurch.org](http://www.englishlutheranchurch.org)

*Our Vision: A Christ-centered, serving community.*



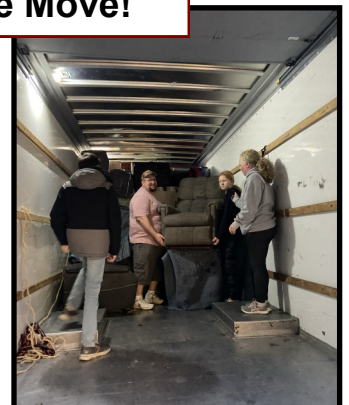
**Confirmation Students collecting supplies for the Thanksgiving Baskets!**



**Pastor Charlie's Farewell**



**Helping Pastor Pete Move!**



## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

*Saturday, December 24*

*2:00 pm & 4:00 pm*

*Sunday, December 25*

*9:00 am*

## What's Inside:

- † Upcoming Events at English Lutheran
- † Christmas Letter from Bishop Laurie Skow
- † Youth Updates
- † Finance updates & council meeting notes



english  
LUTHERAN CHURCH



### Wait For The Lord

As I look at the fresh snow falling outside of my window right now, it's hard to not hear Andy Williams singing *It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year* in my head. I get VERY excited for Christmas. The Christmas parades, the pageants, the cookies, the songs, the movies, and THE PRESENTS!!! As a kid, I couldn't wait to open presents. But when we spent Christmas Eve at Grandma and Grandpa's house, we got to open 1 present on Christmas Eve. We got to pick which package we wanted to open that night, so us kids would agonize over which package we were going to open. We wanted to make sure that it was a good one. We wanted it to be a good toy because heaven forbid you open that 1 package and it was something boring like a shirt, or even worse... socks!! If that happened, then Christmas Eve was ruined, and you had to wait until the morning to get to the good stuff.

We had to wait to get to the good stuff and that was the hard part. We wanted to skip right to the fun stuff, but we had to wait. We had to get some sleep, to prepare for the next day. And of course, we had to do the Christmas breakfast traditions that my family had before we could finally open presents. And we were methodical, we had to go in order and only person at a time could open a present and then you had to show everyone what you got and who it was from and then say thank you and then wait patiently until it was your time again.

In my family, Christmas was a time of waiting, waiting patiently for it to be your turn to open a present. Waiting is hard to do, especially as a child, but even as an adult, it is hard for us to wait, for us to be patient. In our world of instant gratification, instant knowledge, instant everything, waiting is an impossible task.

Perhaps we need the season of Advent more than ever. Advent is a time of preparation and a time of waiting. Waiting patiently for Jesus to come into this world and share his light with us. As the days get shorter and the nights get longer, it is okay for us to sit in darkness and wait. We will wait and know that the king of kings is on his way to us and soon enough it will be Christmas and we will sing Joy to the World. But for the time being, let us **Wait for the Lord, whose day is near; wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart.** (That is the song that we sing when we light the Advent Wreath.) Wait and may God's peace fill you with joy in the coming days.

Amen.  
Pastor Pete



“From Worry to Wonder”  
A Christmas Message  
from Bishop Laurie

On June 19, 2020 our granddaughter was born. She was born three months into the pandemic. Her parents were worried. Her grandparents were worried. It is challenging enough to be pregnant and give birth in the best of times but to give birth in the middle of a worldwide pandemic is an even greater worry. We worried about the unknown dangers this virus might present to the mother, the unborn baby, and the new born baby. Our worries kept us up at night. Our worries were relieved when she was finally born, perfect in every way. Our worry gave way to wonder-filled joy. Worry transformed to wonder as we looked back to see how God was holding and carrying them through the unavoidable worry. Our worry transformed to gratitude and wonder watching for what God would be up to next in her tiny life.

It's December 2022. We prepare to celebrate the birth our Lord Jesus. This Advent we come with our fears and worries too. We are living in the midst of challenging times in our country. The very foundation of our nation seems less stable. We each come with our own personal set of worries and fears about our families, health, finances, work, safety, the future...What is it that keeps you up at night? What are you worried about today?

Folks across our church are experiencing doubts and uneasiness about the future of their church. Does it keep you up at night? What are the threats to your church's future? How can the conversation move from fear and worry to wonder? As the miracle of Christ's birth is celebrated this season, we can move from worry to wonder. We wonder what God is up to now in this day and age. Together we wonder what God's will is for the future of our church. Together we wonder; how can we use the abundance and blessings, (what we do have and opportunities in front of us), to make a difference in Jesus' name.

*Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. Luke 2:8-10a*

Shepherds living in the fields watched over their sheep to keep them safe. There were dangers that kept the shepherds up at night and plenty of things for the shepherd's to worry about in the cold night like wild animals, predators, thieves, & bad weather. There was so much to worry about, but one night an angel of the Lord, all shiny and bright appeared and transformed their fears and worldly worry to divine wonder.

*To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" Luke 2:11-14*

Friends, you are precious, beloved, baptized children of God. We know that the antidote to worry is to trust in God.

During this Advent, Christmas and Epiphany season I pray that your worries will be transformed to wonder at what God **is** doing and promises **to** do in your lives and in our churches. May the miracle of Christ's birth transform your worries to wonder! I am grateful for your partnership in ministry.

Peace be with you,



## Thank You Notes

### Thanksgiving Baskets

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Thanksgiving project, whether you donated your time, money, or supplies, we greatly appreciate it! English Lutheran was able to provide over 30 meals for families within the community this year. It would not have been possible without your help!

### Pastor Pete Move

Thank you to all who helped Pastor Pete move his stuff into his house! It is greatly appreciated.



## Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, **December 14** at 9:30 am in the Fireside Room.

We will all bring a Christmas treat and will make gift boxes for our Shut-Ins and Care Center Friends.

Our bible study centers on going from wanting to waiting at Advent. Page 38 in our Gather magazine discusses this very thing.



Come join us, we welcome you!

## Piper's Bake Sale

Piper is planning her bake sale again! The bake sale will take place on Sunday, **December 4th**. She is requesting your help in one of three ways:

1. Donate Supplies! She is looking for brown sugar, eggs, butter, all kinds of chocolate chips (white chocolate, milk chocolate, semi sweet), and almond bark!
2. Volunteer your time and come bake with her on Saturday, December 3rd from 1:00pm to 6:00pm at the church.
3. Bake your own goodies and drop them off at the church on December 3rd!

All proceeds will be donated to the children's hospital!



## Sharing Shed

Please remember English Lutheran's Sharing Shed for your extra or no longer needed winter jackets and coats, warm hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, and boots.

Drop off directly into the Sharing Shed, just outside the south door of the church.

Thank you!



## Christmas Tree of Spirit

There are many within our community who are in need of help. Please consider joining our effort to share the spirit of generosity this Christmas season with many local families.

Throughout December, consider selecting a gift from the *Christmas Tree of Spirit*, and then, purchase the item or donate money to fulfill the request.



This year we will be supporting:

- † School Lunches
- † Pierce County Foster Care Program by collecting: diapers sizes 3-6, and pull-ups (any size).

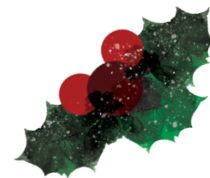
Thank you for sharing the Christmas message of generosity!

## Christmas Worship Services

English Lutheran will be having their Christmas worship services on Christmas Eve at **2:00 pm** and **4:00 pm**.

Christmas Day there will be one service at **9:00 am**.

We look forward to seeing everyone!



## November Council Meeting

- † Approval of Piper Van Nocker's Bake Sale
- † IT Update— The camera has been moved from the back pew to the old projector site.
- † Landscaping project— will wait until the end of the year after the budget is reviewed to see if special donations for this project will be needed.
- † The 2023 budget review will be included in the December 20th council meeting.
- † Youth House— Curt has contracted someone to remove the foundation & fill the hole.
- † *The next council meeting will be **December 20 at 6:30 pm.***

## Financial Update

### October 31, 2022 Cash Balances:

General Fund = \$93,175.67  
Dedicated Fund = \$120,206.77  
Total = \$213,382.44  
Thrivent = \$92,235.63

### October General Fund:

Income = \$12,084.68  
Expenses = \$10,912.32



## Youth News

### Confirmation—November

We were a busy bunch in the month of November! We spent 2 of our class periods doing one of our favorite activities of the year, we went out into the Ellsworth community and collected food to be used for our Thanksgiving basket project of giving out food to those in need in our community. The kids divided up into groups of 3 or 4 students and a leader and headed out to different neighborhoods, they had a great time doing this and really enjoyed interacting with those they met. We love to hear the stories when they return! Thank you to our community for supporting the kids and this mission! We helped prepare for the bake sale to benefit the children's hospital when we gathered at the end of November, by baking some sweet treats, and putting together some holiday gift packages for the sharing shed. We all enjoyed getting to know Pastor Pete and sharing a little about ourselves as he gets to know us as well.

### Holly Jolly Holiday Event

English Lutheran will lead the live nativity as a part of the Ellsworth Holly Jolly Holiday community event on Sunday, **December 4, 4:30 pm-6:00 pm** at East End Park. We'll join other local churches and organizations for this event. We welcome anyone who is willing to bring their animals in for this. Please contact Trina Groen or the church office if you would like to participate in this event—[mark.trina@yahoo.com](mailto:mark.trina@yahoo.com). Thank you to our youth who are the characters in the live nativity scene!

### Confirmation Christmas Party

Confirmation students will have a Christmas party on Wednesday, **December 14 at 6:00 pm**. We'll have supper, games, and gifts!

### Luther Point Bible Camp

We'll have a group heading to Luther Point Bible Camp in Grantsburg, WI for a winter camp February 17-19. It begins at 6:00 pm Friday evening and goes through Sunday at 11:30 am. This is open to 6th-12 graders. We'll drive and have at least 1 chaperone. The cost is \$25 per student. The camp is held in their retreat center, which is a beautiful facility! The camp will be led by Luther Point Bible Camp counselors and there will be other kids/churches there as well. There will be indoor and outdoor activities.



# PRAYERS

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## *Special Prayers:*

### Healing:

Rachel Proulx, niece of Julie Davis ~ Breast Cancer

Liz Krohn

Mikey Krohn

Judi Nielsen

Kim

Adelaide Meyer

Nathan Baar

Tucker Thoen

Heather

Morgan

Kinzleigh

Jerry Baggenstoss

Donald Beebe

### Long-term:

Lila Larson

Sherry York

Judy Morrow

Karen McAdams, Linda & Gary Onan's Daughter

~ Multiple System Atrophy

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

Mackenzie Marks, Connie Gossett's Granddaughter

Tomi Erlandson ~ Seizures & Health

Dale Melstrom

Marianne Melstrom

Mary Dee Prokop, Mother of Eileen Mewes

Wendy Wegerer

### Military service:

Johnathan Bergman

Josh Bechel



## **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 December~ Vicki Nelson



English Lutheran Church  
229 West Main Street  
Ellsworth, Wisconsin  
Phone: 715-273-4617  
Church website:  
[www.englishlutheranchurch.org](http://www.englishlutheranchurch.org)

Find us on Facebook!  
EnglishLutheranEllsworth

## Congregation Council

President: Peter Carr  
Vice President: Eric VanNocker  
Treasurer: Gary Brown  
Secretary: Julie Davis  
CYF: Denise Hager  
100th Anniv: Greta Larson  
Worship & Music: Melba Smith  
Property: Paul Tonsager  
Jill Hague ~ undecided ministry

## Staff

### Pastor Pete Warren

[pastorpete@englishlutheranchurch.org](mailto:pastorpete@englishlutheranchurch.org)  
218-760-6974

### Sydney Durfee- Communications Coordinator & Finance Administrator

[office@englishlutheranchurch.org](mailto:office@englishlutheranchurch.org)  
[finance@englishlutheranchurch.org](mailto:finance@englishlutheranchurch.org)  
Office: 715-273-4617

### Julie Baggenstoss- Custodian

Music Director: Missy Kowalchyk  
[music@englishlutheranchurch.org](mailto:music@englishlutheranchurch.org)



## Office Hours

Our office hours are:

**Tuesday-Friday**  
**9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

Stop in, call, or email. Sydney will be working from home Monday's and in the office Tuesday-Thursday, and Pastor Pete will be working Tuesday-Friday.



## Our Mission:

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

## Worship Services

Online ~ Sundays on Facebook  
Livestream at 9:00 am

In-Person ~ Sundays 9:00 am

WORSHIP  
*with us*

## Cross Beams

Published monthly by:  
English Lutheran Church  
Ellsworth, Wisconsin.

Email:  
[office@englishlutheranchurch.org](mailto:office@englishlutheranchurch.org)



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# December 2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUN 27	MON 28	TUE 29	WED 30	THU Dec 1	FRI 2	SAT 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am In-Person &amp; Online Worship</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6pm Confirmation</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1pm Bake with Piper!</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30am Piper's Bake Sale!</li> <li>9am In-Person &amp; Online Worship</li> <li>9:45am Sunday School</li> <li>4:30pm Holly Jolly Holiday Event @ E</li> </ul>	5	6	7	8	9	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am In-Person &amp; Online Worship</li> <li>9:45am Sunday School</li> <li>9:45am Sunday School Christmas Pa</li> </ul>	12	13	14	15	16	17
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Finance Meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6pm Confirmation</li> </ul>		Deadline for Newsletter Articles	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am In-Person &amp; Online Worship</li> <li>9am No Rehearsal Christmas Program</li> </ul>	19	20	21	22	23	24
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Church Council Meeting</li> </ul>				Christmas Eve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2pm Christmas Eve Worship</li> <li>4pm Christmas Eve Worship</li> </ul>
Christmas Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am In-Person &amp; Online Worship</li> </ul>	26	27	28	29	30	31
	Christmas Day (substitute)					New Year's Eve

