

March Cross Beams

English Lutheran Church
Our Vision: A Christ-centered, serving community.

Join Us for Lent!

Lenten Worship begins this year on **Wednesday, March 2nd**.
Worship services during the Lenten Season will take place at
7:00pm. Due to COVID, we will not be having the Lenten Soup
Suppers this year.

The theme of Lenten Worship is:
Seven Deadly Sins—One Gracious God.

The focus will be on two books:
† “Deadly Sins, Living Virtues”- R. Curtis Fussell
† “Sinning Like a Christian” - William Willimon

Schedule

3/2 — Ash Wednesday	Pride & Humility
3/9 — “Why Am I Not Content?”	Envy & Blessing
3/16 — “Don’t Blow Up, Ease Off”	Anger & Patience
3/23 — “How to Beat Boredom”	Sloth & Passion
3/30 — “How to Train Your Dragon”	Lust & Love
4/6 — “Don’t Sell Out For Money Alone”	Greed & Need
4/14 — Maundy Thursday	Gluttony & Fasting



What's Inside:

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- **Upcoming Events at ELC**
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It's About Sin!

Calvin Coolidge (known as Silent Cal) was the 30th president of the United States. He was known for the short responses he made to questions from other politicians and the press. About one hundred years ago he attended a worship service at a Congregational Church in Washington, DC. His wife Grace was unable to attend. Upon his return to the White House she asked him about the worship service and the sermon. What did the preacher speak about? Cal gave a one word answer "Sin." And what did the preacher say about Sin?, she asked. He responded: "He was against it."

Well, this Lenten Season we too will intensify our spiritual life by focusing on SIN. And guess what? We are against it! The title of our Lenten Series will be **Seven Deadly Sins- One Gracious God**. Please join us at 7 PM on Wednesdays for our Lenten Worship. We will use the Holden Evening Prayer led by our Choir members. There will not be Soup Suppers, but there will be Imposition of Ashes by Pastor Melba Smith and Communion on Ash Wednesday. There will also be communion on Maundy Thursday (April 14).

The Seven Deadly Sins are not described in any one place in the Bible. Dante described them in his chilling poem entitled "The Divine Comedy" around 1300 AD. They are personal characteristics which lead us away from the loving, merciful embrace of our Lord Jesus. They are Pride, Envy, Anger, Sloth, Lust, Greed, and Gluttony. We will talk about one of these each week.

Please join us!

Pastor Charlie Bunk
Interim Pastor

Hymn and Praise Song Brackets for Lent

This March, we will be doing a fun project called the Hymn and Praise Song Bracket. We hope to come up with 32 nominations for favorite hymns (traditional) and 32 favorite praise songs (contemporary). We will make a bracket similar to the NCAA March Madness tournament, pairing these songs against each other.

You can vote for your favorite among the pairings on March 6th, March 13th, and March 20th. After, we should be down to 4 of each. On March 27th and April 3rd we will narrow it down to the favorites. The winners will be posted in Cross Beams, and in worship on Palm Sunday. Music Director Missy, and I will use the winners in upcoming Sundays.

- Pastor Charlie Bunk

Thank You For Your Thoughts!

Our Transition Task Force are the ones who conducted a phone interview of almost every member on our roster this past month. They encouraged you to get online and fill out our questionnaire so that we could get your opinions on how we would describe ourselves as a congregation, and what we are looking for in a new pastor.

We thank you! So far, 84 of you have filled out responses. It would be great to report that over 100 of our Christians cared enough to complete a form!



The next step in our search is the formation of the call committee. The call committee is ideally 6 to 8 people representing the age groups who are active in our church. They will finalize the description of the Ministry Site Profile which the church council plans on signing on Tuesday, March 15. Then, the MSP goes to the Synod office in Chetek, Wisconsin, so they can begin to recommend potential candidates who might be available for call this Spring or Summer.

Do you know of a pastor who might be interested in moving to Ellsworth to become our next pastor? Please tell members of the call committee so that we can explore candidates. We will publicize the names of those on the call committee after the council meets on the 15th.


Events in the Community


COVID-19 Testing
No out-of-pocket costs

Self-collected, shallow nasal PCR test
Results within 1-2 days from receipt of the sample at the lab

Book now at cur.tv/ellsworth

Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services
W7725 US-10
Ellsworth, WI
Mon & Wed • 8 am - 3 pm





curative

Locate a testing site near you at curative.com

Relay For Life of River Falls-Pierce County has returned to an in-person event scheduled April 1, 2022 (no fooling)! This community event, open for all, will be held at River Falls High School (schedule below).

We encourage family, friends and co-workers to create or join a team to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. **Fighting cancer takes a team!** Funds help those battling cancer, help with life-saving research, service programs, free rides and/or lodging to treatment, education and advocacy. Team sign up, secure donations and additional information about the event is found at www.RelayForLife.org/RiverFallsWI. If you prefer to write a check, please make checks payable to: American Cancer Society.

SCHEDULE for Relay for Life (come for any or all of these activities):

5-8 PM Spaghetti Dinner by the Rotary Club (free will offering – survivors eat for free – all proceeds go to Relay)
6 PM Opening Ceremonies
6-11 PM Silent Auction (bid sheets on website above, scroll down to forms & documents section)
9:30 PM Luminaria Ceremony (luminary form on website above, scroll down to forms & documents section)
12:30 AM Closing Ceremony

This will be the 25th year of Relay For Life involvement in the Pierce County area. Come join us and help attack cancer in our community!

Graduate Quilting

Graduate Quilting will be meeting on Saturday, March 12 from 9 am to 12 pm. They will be meeting at the church, in the Fireside Room. No quilting skills necessary!

Women's Bible Study

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

Our bible study is on the eternal life in the gospel of John.

What would eternal life mean for each one of us? Many questions—and hopefully help with answers!

Our hostess is Elaine Hines. Please consider joining us!



ELC Co-Ed Softball Team

We are looking for interested softball players to form a co-ed softball team for ages 12 and up. All skill levels are welcome. The league is hosted by Our Savior's Lutheran Church. All games are scheduled on Sunday through Wednesday starting in early June. The games are scheduled weekly at 7:00 pm and are all double-headers.

Our Savior's hosts a refreshment stand during the game (including pies) to fundraise to improve their facilities. All congregation members, the softball players along with their families are encouraged to attend!

If you are interested in joining, coaching, cheering, or participating in any capacity, please contact Greta Larson at bartels372@gmail.com or 612-418-4469.

We need to commit to forming a team by March 14, so please share your interest at your earliest convenience.



Thank You Notes

Pastor Bunk-

Thank you Pastor for your donation and initiative to help with the Malawi Mission!

Sharing & Caring Hands-

Thank you to everyone who helped with Sharing & Caring Hands in any capacity— donations, baking cookies for dessert, or serving the meal.

Malawi Missions-

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Malawi Mission! Thanks to your generosity we were able to raise \$1,410.00! Also, thanks to Bobbie Sawyers for setting up the display in the back of the sanctuary.



Souper Bowl Sunday

Thank you to everyone who donated on Super Bowl Sunday!

The team with the highest donations was the Los Angeles Rams with \$102.00! The Cincinnati Bengals came in close second with \$92.00.



Contact Cards

In our efforts to stay COVID conscious, we are implementing a new close contact program. If you would like to be notified of a positive case in the congregation who was at church, please fill out the communion card with your name and phone number. Thank you!



February Council Meeting

- † Eric Van Nocker presented ideas brought forward by congregation members:
 - Community Gardens
 - Outdoor service area
 - National Night Out/Farmer's Market
- † Transition Team Update: surveys sent
- † Discussion on purchasing additional defibrillator
- † Next meeting: March 15th.



Financial Update

January 31, 2021 Cash Balances:

General Fund = \$75,800.96
Dedicated Fund = \$97,069.50
Total = \$172,870.46
Thrivent = \$104,443.14

January General Fund:

Income = \$11,819.42
Expenses = \$14,549.86



Sunday School Notes

Thank you to the Endowment Committee and those who have given to the Endowment Fund for helping to fund our Easter Basket project! We will give these baskets to those in our congregation who are at home and to those in our nursing home and assisted living facilities in town. We are excited about this project coming up!

Funds are available to our students who would like to attend summer camps. Please contact the church office if your student is interested in attending a summer camp. Check out Luther Point Bible Camp!

Vacation Bible School

We would love to have VBS at our church again this summer! We are in need of volunteers. Please contact a member of the Children, Youth, and Family Team or the church office if you are interested in volunteering.

Members on the CYF team include Kayla Zimmer, Denise Hager, Trina Groen, and Renee VanNocker!

Luther Point Bible Camp

Registration is open for Luther Point in Grantsburg, WI this summer! LPBC has camps for children in grade 1 through senior high.

There are many different specialized camps as well as traditional camp— horse camp, fishing camp, arts & music, grandparent & child, and family camps. There are also full week, half week, and day camp options.

For students in grades 9-12, you can apply for the Camp B.U.D.D.I.E.S program to attend camp for free and serve while you're there. Check out full opportunities on their website, lutherpoint.org.



Please note— we are a member congregation, so you will receive discounts and our church will help with your registration fees! Contact the office for details.

Summer Camp 2022

Registration is open!
Join us for a fun and Spirit-filled summer at Luther Point!

Confirmation Updates

Our confirmation group meets every other week on Wednesday evenings. The kids begin with fellowship time, and a meal prepared and served by ministry and parent volunteers. (If you or your ministry would like to prepare and serve a meal, please email Trina Groen at mark.trina@yahoo.com) Pastor Bunk then shares a lesson with the students. This year we are learning about the Apostle's Creed, and then game/activity time follows.

Some of our lessons and activities this winter include:

- † Finding the words to the Apostle's Creed hidden in the church and then putting them in the correct order to recite the Creed.
- † Drawing on and coloring a mural of God's creation— Lord, Create in Me... Part of our Apostle's Creed study of "Creator of Heaven and Earth."
- † Acting out parts of Jesus' life as noted in the Creed— this was a great example of how the kids can be very creative as they were given the event and had to work with their partner (s) to figure out how to silently act this out for their classmates in order to guess which event they were portraying.



As we begin to form our Call Committee to call a new pastor, we are looking for a youth to be a member of this group. Please contact Pastor Bunk if you are interested in serving this role.

During Lent we will continue to have our classes with the worship time counting as our lesson. Classes will continue to meet at 6:00 pm for a meal and game/activity with worship beginning at 7:00 pm. Families are welcome to join their students for worship time!

Confirmation Thank You Notes

Thank you to the Endowment Committee for serving a meal to our confirmation students in February!

Thank you to the Endowment Committee or those who have given to the Endowment Fund as the interest from these funds have helped pay for the meals for our confirmation nights! This is a wonderful fellowship opportunity for our ministry!

Thank you to our parent volunteers who serve meals on class nights!



Feed My Starving Children

Our confirmation group will head to Feed My Starving Children in Eagan to pack meals on Thursday, March 31 at 5:30 pm. There are limited spaces, if there is extra room after our students sign up, we will open this up to the congregation to join this trip. Details to follow in mid-March!



PRAYERS

Special Prayers:

Healing:

Rachel Proulx, niece of Julie Davis ~ Breast Cancer

Liz Krohn

Mikey Krohn

Maisley Maxwell, granddaughter of Rob & Wendy

~Maxwell, daughter of Tyler and Alexis Maxwell

Judi Nielsen

Vicki Nelson

Dennis Swanson

Dixie Basch

Long-term:

Lila Larson

Sherry York

Judy Morrow

Debbie Kannel-Howard

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



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 March ~ Jeanette Wright



English Lutheran Church
229 West Main Street
Ellsworth, Wisconsin
Phone: 715-273-4617
Church website:
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 Charlie Bunk– Interim Pastor
pastor@englishlutheranchurch.org
605-467-9973

Sydney Durfee- Communications Coordinator

office@englishlutheranchurch.org
Office: 715-273-4617

Julie Baggenstoss- Custodian

Tristan Bale- Finance Coordinator
finance@englishlutheranchurch.org
715-273-4187

Music Director: Missy Kowalchyk
music@englishlutheranchurch.org



Office Hours

Our office hours are:
Monday-Thursday
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Stop in, call, or email. Sydney will in the office Monday-Thursday, and Tristan on Tuesdays & Thursdays. Pastor Bunk will be in on Tuesdays & Wednesdays.



Worship Services

Online ~ Sundays on Facebook
Livestream at 8:30 & 10:00

In-Person ~ Sundays
Traditional - 8:30 am
Contemporary - 10:00 am



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



Cross Beams

March 2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUN 27	MON 28	TUE Mar 1	WED 2	THU 3	FRI 4	SAT 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am In-Person & Online Worship 10am Sunday School 10am In-Person & Online Worship 11am Choir Practice 		First Day of Women's History Month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Ash Wednesday Worship 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am In-Person & Online Worship 10am Sunday School 10am In-Person & Online Worship 11am Choir Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Finance Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Women's Bible Study 7pm Lent Worship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Graduate Quilting 			
Daylight Saving Time starts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am In-Person & Online Worship 10am Sunday School 2 more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Church Council Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Lent Worship 	St. Patrick's Day	Deadline for Newsletter Article		
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