

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

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

The logo for English Lutheran Church features the word "english" in a purple, lowercase, serif font. Above the letter "i" is a stylized green cross with a horizontal bar. Below "english" are the words "LUTHERAN CHURCH" in a green, uppercase, sans-serif font.





*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42*

Grace & peace dear siblings in Christ!

After a little over four years as your pastor, I've been reflecting on what areas of our ministry together need the most attention at this time. For me, those areas are: evangelism, scripture study, volunteerism, youth ministry, and fellowship. Plans are in the works to hire a youth leader as soon as possible and the Stewardship Committee will also be taking another look at volunteerism this spring. So for Lent, I decided to work on the scripture study via a look at the parables and fellowship through games and folk dancing.

As our world has grown ever more fast-paced and technology-focused, I believe it's ever more important for us to connect as a church in what some might consider "old-fashioned" fun. So I'm asking everyone to strongly consider staying after Wednesday night worship during Lent (except Ash Wednesday) to play some card or board games with your fellow church-goers in an effort to get to know new faces and get better acquainted with familiar faces. Playing games is a great way to break the ice and initiate conversations. All ages are encouraged to join us for these games- children, youth, and adults! Bring your own games or use one of the many we will have here for you to try (i.e. Uno, Euchre, Hand and Foot, Golf, Apples to Apples, Spoons, etc.)

Then, after the games, I invite you to join me for one of my favorite summer camp traditions- folk dancing! Each week, I'll teach one new folk dance that anyone over the age of 5 or 6 should be able to pick up quickly. See the enclosed schedule for more details about which dance will happen each week. Even those who have never danced before or those who dreaded school dances, typically enjoy folk dancing- so give it a try!

It is my hope and prayer, that following a hardy meal of soup and a meaningful worship service, many of you will join us for games and dancing so that we might grow in our friendship with one another which can only bless and nurture our shared ministry together.

God bless you all abundantly,

*Pastor Jeff*



# THE PARABLES OF LENT

A SERIES OF SERVICES *for the* SEASON OF LENT



## 2020 LENTEN SERIES: THE PARABLES OF LENT

Join us this Lent for worship on Sundays and Wednesdays! On Ash Wednesday and the following five Sundays, we'll look at six parables which connect to Lenten themes. Come and receive the gifts they offer us!

### ASH WEDNESDAY & SUNDAYS FOR "THE PARABLES OF LENT"

Ash Wed., Feb. 26	Receive Justification: <i>The Parable of the Pharisee &amp; the Tax Collector</i>
Sunday, March 1	Receive the Word: <i>The Parable of the Sower &amp; the Seed</i>
Sunday, March 8	Receive the Treasure: <i>The Parable of the Hidden Treasure &amp; the Priceless Pearl</i>
Sunday, March 15	Receive Mercy: <i>The Parable of the Good Samaritan</i>
Sunday, March 22	Receive Grace: <i>The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard</i>
Sunday, March 29	Receive Forgiveness: <i>The Parable of the Prodigal Son</i>

**\*\*See page 4 of this newsletter for more scheduling information about our Wednesday nights in Lent.**

## Soup Suppers

February 26 is *Ash Wednesday*, the beginning of Lent. Every week through Lent, Feb. 26 to April 1, we will have soup supper at 5:45 pm. All are welcome to come.

We are in need of volunteers to sign up to make a soup or bars for one of our soup suppers on Wednesday nights. Make it a team event with your family or friends or ministry group!



## WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT

On Feb. 26, we'll have a soup supper followed by a traditional *Ash Wednesday* Service with the Imposition of Ashes. During the other Wednesdays of Lent, after a soup supper, we'll gather for worship using *Holden Evening Prayer*. All are encouraged to stay after *Holden Evening Prayer* for a time of fellowship and relationship-building for all ages as we play card and board games. Several card and board games will be available (such as *Hand and Foot*, *Golf*, *Uno*, *Spoons*, *Euchre*, *Sorry*, *Apples to Apples*, etc.) or you can bring your own and invite others to try yours. Games will be followed by folk dancing for the curious or adventurous! Folk dancing is a ton of fun and anyone over about 5 years old can easily learn how!

### **Ash Wednesday (February 26)**

5:45-6:30 p.m. Soup Supper

6:30-7:15 p.m. **Worship with Imposition of Ashes**

### **Remaining Wednesdays (March 4- April 1)**

5:45-6:30 p.m. Soup Supper

6:30-7:00 p.m. **Holden Evening Prayer Worship**

7:00-7:45 p.m. ***All Ages Card & Board Game Fellowship***

7:45-8:00 p.m. ***Ages 5 and Up Folk Dancing:***

March 4- Russian Folk Dance "Yay Mon"

March 11- Jewish Folk Dance "Hineh Ma Tov"

March 18- Jewish Folk Dance "Hava Nagila"

March 25- American Folk Dance "Yes Sir, That's My Baby"

April 1- American Square Dance "Virginia Reel"



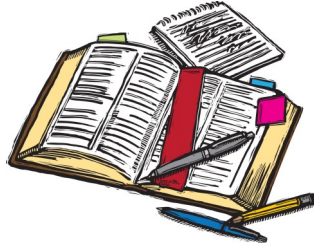
## Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will meet Wednesday, March 11, at 10:00 am in the Fireside Room.

We began this Bible study by studying the call stories of Old Testament prophets. Now our study is on what we individually are called to do. The questions are how are we called to serve others, and how the call to love and serve God is linked to the call to love our neighbors.

Come, join us!

Hostess is Elaine Hines.



## Graduate Quilts

**Saturday, March 14**  
**9:00 am - noon**

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

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



## Holy Communion Class

**March 29 11:15 am - 2:00 pm**

Communion classes will be offered again this Lent to all students who have not taken First Communion. Traditionally, at English, this class has been for 5th grade students, primarily. However, older students who have not yet taken their First Communion, and younger children are also welcome. *(Children younger than 5th grade are always welcome to take First Communion and may either attend this scheduled class or arrange to meet with Pastor Jeff at another time instead.)*

The hands-on class will be held on **March 29, 11:15 am - 2:00 pm**. If you are unable to attend, contact Pastor Jeff to arrange a private class.

Letters will go out to all 5th graders and older students who we know have not taken First Communion. If you are not in 5th grade, or if you don't receive a letter and would like to attend, please contact the office to be added to the class and to receive more details.



## Music Corner

Dear brothers and sisters,

As we prepare for the Lenten season, it is my goal to re-introduce more music into both the traditional and contemporary services. Throughout the month of March, you should start seeing newer music more often, and fewer instances of more familiar songs in weekly succession. Please continue to sing, rejoice, or speak as you are comfortable. We will begin Wednesday evening services in Lent with Marty Haugen's "Holden Evening Prayer" setting. I am looking for volunteers to help me lead services, either by playing an instrument or singing the "leader" part on Wednesday evenings during the month of March. Please see me after worship if you would be interested in taking part of another format of worship.

Music and worship during Holy Week and Easter will take place during the first two weeks of April, complete with a brass ensemble to be announced in March. If you would like to participate in either a church or community choir or special group during Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, or Easter Sunday services, please contact me either by email at [misic@englishlutheranchurch.org](mailto:misic@englishlutheranchurch.org) or in person after choir rehearsals from 11:00-11:30 each week. Thank you!



Yours in peace,

Evan Mitchell



## YOUTH HOSTING THREE FUNDRAISERS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR CHRISTIKON BIBLE CAMP

We currently have 10 youth and one adult planning to attend *Christikon Bible Camp* in Montana this summer. Our goal is to do a few big impact fundraisers to help fund this trip and make it affordable to all. In addition to the annual Palm Sunday Brunch, we are planning three primary fundraisers:



### FAIR STAND HOT BEEF DINNER FUNDRAISER!

Love our English Lutheran Hot Beef Dinners and Beef on a Bun at the *Pierce County Fair*? Well, you may not have to wait until August! The youth attending *Christikon Bible Camp* this summer in Montana are considering hosting a Hot Beef Dinner at the church or the *Nilssen's Coke Stand* that will be open to the community to raise funds for their trip. Details are not yet final, but stay tuned!

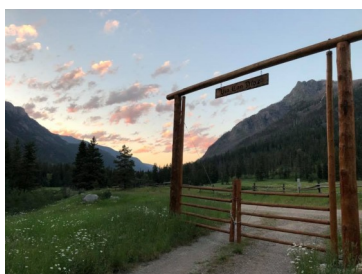
### BRAT SALE!

The youth of *English Lutheran Church* are selling delicious, gluten free brats (pork) made at the *University of Wisconsin-River Falls* to help send them to *Camp Christikon* in Montana. They are, once again, \$5 for a one pound package (four brats per package). We appreciate your support! All orders due by March 1 for a mid-April delivery.



### STOCK SALE

We'll be bringing back the Stock Sale in April. Stay tuned for this opportunity to support our youth in a way that also gives you the ability to make a 100% tax deductible gift with every dollar given going directly towards reducing the cost of the trip.







The graphic features a large wooden cross on a hill with a rising sun and trees. Below this, the text "Luther Point BIBLE CAMP" is written in orange and green. A cursive script says "Let's Go To Camp" over a photo of a group of children and adults in front of a building. A large orange box in the center says "Summer Camp 2020". To the left, it says "Registration open now Early Bird discount until May 1". To the right, it says "www.lutherpoint.org".

## Luther Point Bible Camp

The Schedule for Summer 2020 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 the website and get familiar with the schedule and the family and youth camps being offered this summer!

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

Note that children in grades 6 and under can receive \$100 towards their camp fees from our Children's Endowment Fund. Contact the church office by April 15.



## Sunday School

The Sunday school kids will be volunteering in worship on Sunday, March 1. Thank you to all of the children for your time!



~ VBS ~

## Save the Dates!

Vacation Bible School is not far away! We have scheduled our VBS for **June 15-18, Monday-Thursday**, in the afternoon, following summer school at *Ellsworth School District*.

*Luther Point Bible Camp* counselors will lead us again this year. We will focus on the story of Moses with a theme of *Broken & Blessed*.

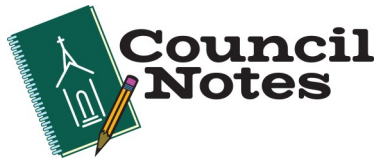
If you'd like to volunteer, please contact the church office.



# CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES & FINANCIAL UPDATE

## February Council

- † Curt Dumermuth presented investment information. Council voted to invest funds from Sunday School and Women's funds plus funds from the general fund as recommended by the finance committee.
- † Proceeds from the Lent suppers will go to the school lunch program and the 100th anniversary celebration.
- † \$150 will go to the *Local Kids Smart Choices for Life* programs through the *Ellsworth Ambulance Service*.



## Thank You Notes

### Sharing & Caring Hands

Thank you to those who served lunch at *Sharing and Caring Hands*, those who baked cakes, those who donated funds to help pay for the meal and to all who donated linens to *Sharing & Caring Hands*.

Thank you to the *Ellsworth Creamery* for donating 30 pounds of cheese curds to the meal!

Thank you to *Thrivent* as we were able to use a *Thrivent Action Team* to help fund the meal!

Our 10 volunteers served over 100 people!

### Feed My Starving Children

Thank you to all of our volunteers who helped pack meals destined for Uganda. We packed 23,544 meals which will feed 65 kids for a year! We had 38 volunteers packing meals.

Thank you to bus driver, Darren Place, for volunteering his time to drive the bus! Also, to Mike at the bus garage for help arranging for transportation!

Thank you to *Subway Restaurant* in Ellsworth for making lots of subs for our volunteers!

Thank you to *Thrivent* who helped fund our transportation and supper through a *Thrivent Action Team* and for the great shirts!



## Worship Attendance

Week of:	8:30	10:00	Total
February 2	33	74	107
February 9	32	45	77
February 16	32	57	89
Totals:	97	176	273
Average:	32	59	91
2020 Sunday Avg.	38	60	98

## 2020 General Fund

Month	Actual Monthly Income	Actual Monthly Expense	Actual YTD Income	Actual YTD Expenses
January	15,199.64	18,437.01	15,199.64	18,437.01

### Cash Balances as of January 2020 month end:

Total = \$155,195.30

General Fund = \$49,565.62

Dedicated Fund = \$105,629.68

## “Souper” Bowl Sunday

Thank you for your donations! The team with the most donations was the... Chiefs \$152.42. Donations for the 49er's totaled \$32.00

These funds were used to help purchase the meal we served at *Sharing and Caring Hands*.



## Mission Endowment Fund

Our Mission Endowment Fund Committee met this past quarter and approved the following requests:

~ \$100 to support the ELCA program, *Young Adults in Global Mission*. A YAGM volunteer, Calla, spoke to our church last fall about this program.

~ \$300 to help fund the *Christikon Bible Camp* trip this coming summer.



# PRAYERS

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## *Special Prayers:*

Prayers for those suffering with the Coronavirus and those who are treating them.

Prayers for the family of Julie & Kevin Davis, as Julie's mother, Esther Risberg died.

### **Healing:**

Steve Staker, Judy Dumermuth's Brother-in-Law ~ Cancer

James Nagel, Kate Smith's nephew ~ Epilepsy

Sherry York ~ Surgery

Debbie Kannel-Howard

### **Long-term:**

Terry Wegerer, Brother of Darla Moquin

~ Stage 4 Lung Cancer

Jerry Place, Deanna Redding & Darren Place's Dad

~ Dementia

Gary Karlstad, son of Joyce Karlstad

~ Stage 4 Lung Cancer

Clint Olson

Karen McAdams, Linda & Gary Onan's Daughter

~ Multiple System Atrophy

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 Gossett's Granddaughter

Tomi Erlandson ~ Seizures & Health

Dale & Marianne Melstrom

Mary Dee Prokop, Mother of Eileen Mewes

Muriel Jeffrey, Nancy Ellefson's Sister

Wendy Wegerer ~ Health Issues

### **Military service:**

Cody Tschida

Johnathan Bergman



## **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

**Annual  
Scout Troop 138 Breakfast  
Sunday, March 1**



**Ellsworth Fire Hall  
427 Spruce Street**

**7:00 a.m. to Noon**

**French toast, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage**

**Adults \$5, Kids 5-12 \$3, 5 and under Free**

Funds raised go toward equipment for our growing troop  
and to send kids to camp!



**SCOUTS | BSA**

**Join in  
Fun and Fellowship  
at the  
Journey House Campus  
Ministry  
Annual Fundraiser!**

- **Chili Feed**
- **Music by The Hunyuks and Friends**
- **Silent and Live Auctions**
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fund-a-Need**

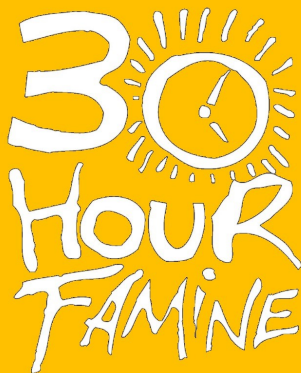
**6:00 p.m. Friday March 13<sup>th</sup>**  
United Methodist Church  
127 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, River Falls,  
Wisconsin

Tickets at the door  
Adults \$10, Youth (6-13) \$7  
Children free

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



Journey House Campus Ministry  
River Falls



**April 24-25, 2020,**

**7:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

**(Fasting starts at 1:00 p.m. Friday before arriving)**

**Grades 7-12 at**

**Luther Point Bible Camp**

**What is the 30 Hour Famine?**

*Students around the world loving God and fighting hunger.*

Your students will grow closer to Christ and each other as they fast together for 30 hours and raise funds to fight hunger. What's more, when you do the Famine you're challenging your students to be part of something bigger than themselves. To take action for God's kingdom. To help save the lives of hungry kids.

To permanently change the way your students see the world.

Contact Luther Point  
Bible Camp for  
details.





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](mailto:pastor@englishlutheranchurch.org)  
Office: 715-273-4617  
Call or email to schedule a meeting as office hours vary.  
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](mailto:office@englishlutheranchurch.org)

**Custodian, Julie Baggenstoss**

**Music Director, Evan Mitchell**  
[music@englishlutheranchurch.org](mailto:music@englishlutheranchurch.org)



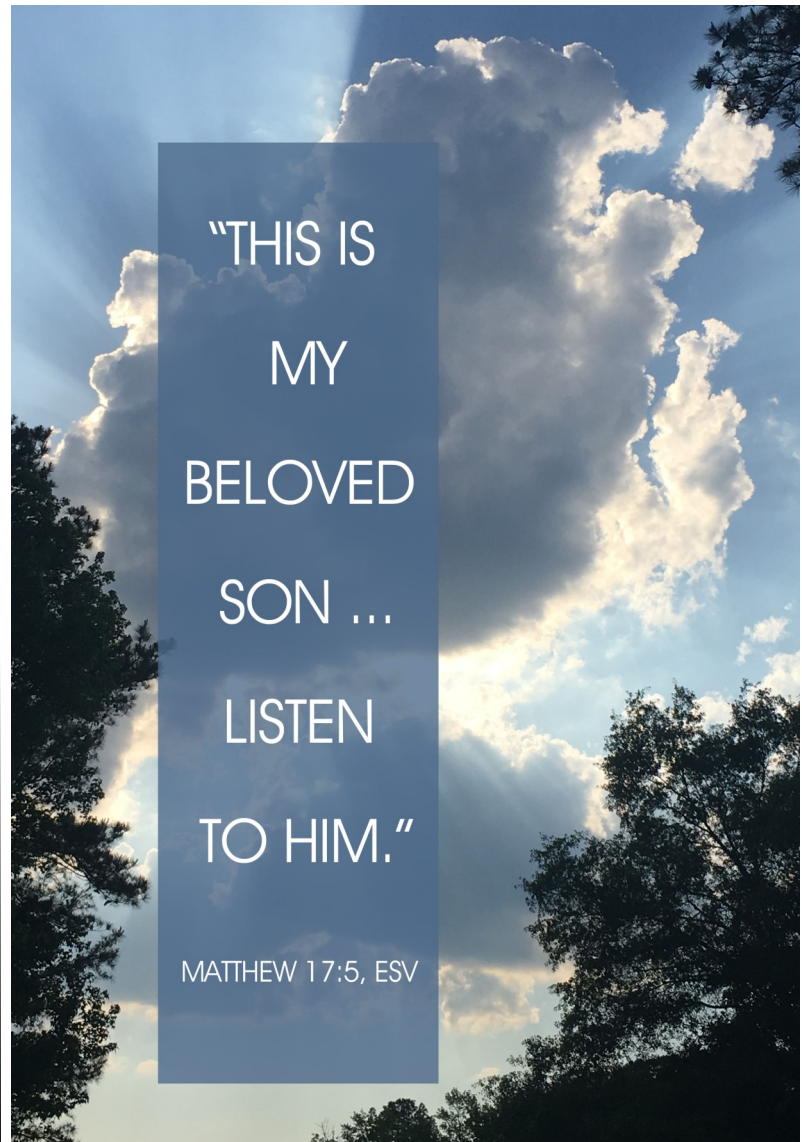
The church office is open:  
Monday, Wednesday, &  
Thursday  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Friday ~ 9:00 am-1:00 pm  
Closed on Tuesdays.

## Congregational Council

**President: Warren Johnson**  
**Vice President: Dennis Boettcher**  
**Treasurer: Gary Brown**  
**Secretary: Julie Davis**  
**Jen Abbas**  
**Peter Carr**  
**Melba Smith**  
**Eric Van Nocker**

## 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

Published monthly by:  
English Lutheran Church  
Ellsworth, Wisconsin.

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



*Cross Beams*

# March 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUN Mar 1	MON 2	TUE 3	WED 4	THU 5	FRI 6	SAT 7
 <b>Confirmation Retreat at Luther Point</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30am Traditional Worship</li> <li>10am Contemporary Worship</li> <li>10am Sunday School ~ Kids in Worship</li> <li>11am Choir Practice</li> </ul>		<b>Super Tuesday (regional holiday)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:45pm Soup Supper</li> <li>6:30pm Lenten Worship Service</li> <li>7pm All Ages Games &amp; Fellowship</li> <li>7:45pm Folk Dancing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Finance Meeting</li> </ul>		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<b>Daylight Saving Time starts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30am Traditional Worship</li> <li>10am Contemporary Worship</li> <li>10am Sunday School</li> <li>11am Choir Practice</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11:30am Salem Group Meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am Women's Bible Study</li> <li>5:45pm Soup Supper</li> <li>6:30pm Lenten Worship Service</li> <li>7pm All Ages Games &amp; Fellowship</li> <li>7:45pm Folk Dancing</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Graduate Quilting</li> </ul>
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30am Traditional Worship</li> <li>10am Contemporary Worship</li> <li>10am Sunday School</li> <li>11am Choir Practice</li> </ul>		<b>St. Patrick's Day</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Church Council Meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:45pm Soup Supper</li> <li>6:30pm Lenten Worship Service</li> <li>7pm All Ages Games &amp; Fellowship</li> <li>7:45pm Folk Dancing</li> </ul>			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30am Traditional Worship</li> <li>10am Contemporary Worship</li> <li>10am Sunday School</li> <li>11am Choir Practice</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:45pm Soup Supper</li> <li>6:30pm Lenten Worship Service</li> <li>7pm All Ages Games &amp; Fellowship</li> <li>7:45pm Folk Dancing</li> </ul>			
29	30	31	Apr 1	2	3	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30am Traditional Worship</li> <li>10am Contemporary Worship</li> <li>10am Sunday School</li> <li>11am Choir Practice</li> <li>11:15am First Communion Class</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:45pm Soup Supper</li> <li>6:30pm Lenten Worship Service</li> <li>7pm All Ages Games &amp; Fellowship</li> <li>7:45pm Folk Dancing</li> </ul>			

