



April 2024 Cross Beams

www.englishlutheranchurch.org

Our Vision: A Christ-centered, serving community.

Holy Week Schedule

Good Friday, March 29

7:00 PM Community Service at Our Savior's Lutheran Church,
Beldenville

Easter Sunday, March 31

8:30 AM Worship
9:30 AM Fellowship
10:00 AM Worship

Cinnamon Rolls and Coffee & OJ after each service



What's Inside:

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Pastor Pete will be on vacation April 1-8



Greetings,

Twenty years ago, *The Passion of the Christ* was released in movie theaters. It depicts the last twelve hours of Jesus' life. Mel Gibson was involved, and the entire movie was in Aramaic, the common language of the Jewish people back then, which meant that there were subtitles. This means that in addition to watching a movie, we were also reading a book.

What many people found shocking about the movie was how realistic it was. The movie went into great detail, about those last twelve hours. After Jesus was arrested by chief priests, he was questioned by them, he was brought before Pilate, who thought that flogging (whipping) Jesus would be a sufficient punishment. But we know that Jesus ended up on the cross. When we read the Passion story on Palm Sunday and Good Friday, we hear all of these details. We hear about the whipping and the crown of thorns being placed on his head and the nails piercing his hands and feet. We hear about it every single year during Holy Week, but in *The Passion of the Christ*, they go into great detail. They show the whip with the pieces of metal on the ends of the cords and how they tear across Jesus' flesh. They show the beatings in gory detail. They show the crown of thorns being smashed onto his head and his hands as the nails are driven into the flesh. It is gory, graphic and quite disturbing.

And yet, through all of this, when Jesus is up there, struggling to breath, he calls out to God, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they are doing." Even after all that Jesus has suffered at our hands, he still asks God to forgive us for our sins. That is the ultimate show of God's love for us, that while we were killing him, he still forgave us. Because, even though we were not there to physically pound the nails into the cross, every time we sin, we crucify Jesus.

But the story doesn't end there, does it? It keeps going because Jesus didn't stay dead. On the third day, he rose again. God raised Jesus to a new life. And like Paul says, if we are to suffer death like Christ, surely, we are to receive a resurrection like Christ! This means that we too, receive a new life. And it is not just in the hereafter, but right now! We are free to live new lives in this world! We don't have to let the weight of our past sins drag us down into the abyss. We are set free from our past and free to live lives of joy, peace and love.

"Father, forgive them for they know not what they are doing." God forgives us of our sins and that means that we can forgive ourselves. A little while back, I mentioned in a sermon that holding onto the sins of others is like us drinking poison and expecting them to die. It doesn't work that way, when we forgive them of their sins, we are set free. Now here is the harder part, forgiving yourself of the sins that you have committed. Make amends to those whom you have harmed. It'll help you feel better and will help you to move on from your past. And know that you are already forgiven. Jesus' crucifixion has taken away your sins and his resurrection gives you a new life. You are free to live a new life their Christ's death and resurrection. You are free. And so, scream it with me, "ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!"
"CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!!!!!!!"

Thank you to the following people for
sponsoring our beautiful
Easter Garden!!!



Ava Maxwell

Jerry and Julie Baggenstoss

Jerry and Julie Baggenstoss

Tammy Brenner

Tammy Brenner

Donna Danielson

Dave and Bev Greely

Melanie Johnson

Melanie Johnson

Vicki Langer and Jeremy

Ann Larson-Graham

Kriste Lewis and Gary Brown

Darren and Traci Maxwell

Vicki Nelson

Melissa Ryden, Brooklyn, Carter

Olson/Schumaker Families

Doug, Greta, Reese and Sidney

Bryan and Cindy Reuvers

Joel and Sharon Schulze

Melba Smith

Marcus Warren

Vern and Nancy Ellefson

In honor of our Children and Grandchildren

In memory of our Parents, John Geister,
and Nick Rhiel

In memory of Mom

In honor of Dad, Brothers and Sister

In memory of Bev and Jim Danielson and Jerry Starkey

In memory of our Parents and Brother

In honor of Children and Grandchildren

In honor of our Military Service

In memory of Jim Langer, Daughter Suzi & Langer and
Glaser Parents

In memory of Bernard Larson

In memory of Thomas Lewis, Randy Hartley, Scott
Hartley, Glen & Lorraine Brown

In honor of our Grandsons, Luke and Jack

In honor of our Great Grand Boys

In memory of Judi Nielsen, Jackie Ryden &
Jim and Rhonda Humber

In memory of Clinton and Dorothea Olson

In memory of Sallee Larson

In memory of James and Suzanne Reuvers

In memory of our Family Members

In memory of Heather Hantsbarger,
and All Loved Ones

In honor of his Grandparents

In memory of Harvey & Lois Hanson ,
Harlow and Lorraine Ellefson

English Lutheran Church Council Minutes

February 20, 2024

Present: Pastor Pete, Lynette Winger, Denise Hager, Mark Groen, Dennis Swanson, Paul Tonsager, and Greta Larson. Special guest, Gary Brown.

I. Opening

- a. The Meeting was called to order by Pastor Pete Warren
- b. Our Mission Statement was read aloud by all.
- c. Pastor began the meeting by having all share what makes ELC special. (It was the congregation by a landslide).
- d. A motion was made to approve the February agenda. – MSC
- e. Approval of the January minutes. – MSC

II. New Business

- a. Election of Church Officers, President, Greta Larson, Vice President, Mark Groen, Treasurer, Paul Tonsager and Secretary Jill Hague
- b. We discussed adding security cameras for safety purposes to the front and back doors of the church. A motion was made to have Pastor research and order Cameras and memory cards. He has the authorization to spend up to \$250- MSC
- c. An inquiry came to ELC about using our building to host a local AA meeting. We discussed and agreed we should approve the request. Pastor and Council Agreed to support the group to share our space and be available to open and lock ELC before and after meetings.
- d. Sam's Club Membership for ELC was discussed. We are going to investigate Membership ad guidelines around access to the membership.
- e. ELC still has an open seat on Council. The Council and ELC will continue to note the vacancy. We strongly encourage any interested congregation member to reach out if they are interested.

III. Old Business

- a. Property Use Team "PUT." We are creating a working group and considering a Catching name to discuss the best use of the property adjacent to our parking lot. The Council is currently committed to this ongoing discussion and are looking for A volunteer from Children, Youth and Family to join the group, along with any other interested congregation members. Please let us know if you want to be Involved. We are planning the next Grubby Sunday for April 14 or 21. We will Focus on general sprucing up and cleaning the adjacent property.
- b. Table Purchase. Pastor Pete ordered the four, eight foot tables we have been discussing and they arrived last week.
- c. We will continue to consider updating the kitchen, installing the handicapped accessible hardware to the front door, and plan to have the organ removed from the sanctuary this spring.

(Continued on the next page)

(Council Minutes Cont.)

IV. Reports

- a. **Treasurer's/Finance** report was shared by former Treasurer, Gary Brown. A few changes in the report were highlighted and discussed, some updates need to be reviewed, and the Council will address and finalize the discussion at our March Council meeting.
- b. **Pastor Pete** submitted a written report. Pastor shared the highlights. The Report is attached.
- c. **Property.** Mark Groen reported that we have a few lights that need to be replaced, new bulbs in some, and install the automatic door openers.
- d. **Children, Youth & Family.** The Committee met. Kids Kingdom is going well. Vacation Bible School is planned again for this summer June 10-13. We are considering adding preschool attendees. We will again partner with area churches.
- e. **Stewardship.** No report.
- f. **Endowment Committee.** Met and made funds available per requests.
- g. **Worship and Music.** The Lenten season is planned.
- h. **Memorial & Gifts.** No reports.
- i. **Nominating Committee.** Continues to seek nominations for 2024-25 Council

Members.

Church Council will meet next on March 19, 2024.

Council closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, April 10th
9:30 A.M.

ELC's Fireside Room

We continue to do study regarding scripture and nature. This month we will include food and food inequality.

Our hostess is Melba Smith.

Consider joining us,
Nancy Ellefson

Sharing Shed

Please remember English Lutheran's Sharing Shed for your extra or no longer needed items.

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

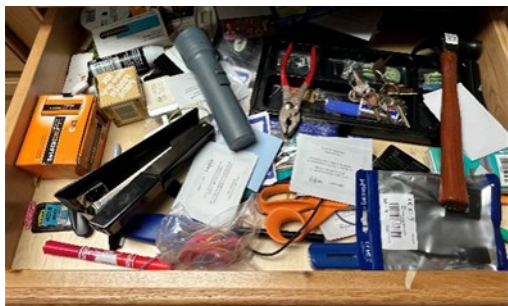
Thank you!

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. The Deaconess for April is Melba Smith

Easter 2024 A Message from Bishop Laurie Rummaging for God

Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed. Alleluia!



Does your house have a junk drawer? Do you ever find yourself going through this drawer full of stuff; feeling around looking for something that you are sure must be in there somewhere? Twist ties from bread wrappers, pens, batteries, rubber bands, nail clippers, scissors, matches, superglue, glass cleaner, coins, tiny screwdriver, ChapStick, charger cables, sticky notes... Rummaging around in your junk drawer might seem like a strange illustration for an Easter message, but I invite you to consider your memory of past life events as your junk drawer.

Think back on last year's Easter celebration. What do you remember? Rummage around in those memories to see if you can find God. You are pretty sure God is there somewhere but where? Where did you experience God last Easter? Was it in church, at the sunrise service, a sermon, a Bible reading, a hymn, an Easter egg hunt in the park, a gathering with family or friends, or a walk in the woods later that day? How did you experience God and the miracle of Christ's resurrection last Easter?

Now, think back over your lifetime, a lifetime of Easter celebrations, for me that 66 Easters. Where did you see or experience God and the power of the resurrection, God's transforming love that defeated death and gives new life?

Looking back over a day, a year, a lifetime is a spiritual practice called the Examen. Essentially it is rummaging through our memories, looking for when and how God was present. The Examen is a form of daily prayer that invites us to examine our day to find God. Finding God in all things and at all times gives us the strength for that next most faithful step.

I wondered what must have been going through Mary Magdalene's mind as she walked to the tomb that first Easter morning. Was she rummaging through all the memories of her time walking with Jesus? Was she trying to remember every word Jesus said? Was she looking for a clue, some way to make sense of what happened on Friday? Where was God in all of this? How could this possibly bring in God's kingdom? She must have missed something. She saw him die. How could Jesus' death be part of God's plan?

Mary arrived at the tomb and found the stone rolled away. She didn't find what she was looking for. The body wasn't there. It still made no sense. Did someone steal his body? She knows that God is in all of this, but where? She continues to search with Peter and John and finally after they leave she enters the tomb and through her tears sees the angels and then a gardener, but not a gardener but the teacher, the risen Savior; and finally through her tears she sees God. (John 20)

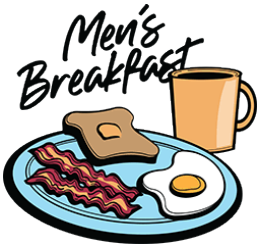
Look back over a day, a year, a lifetime of trips you've made to some tomb. Was it the place that held the body of loved one, a dream that had died, a relationship that ended, or a hope that had been crushed? Rummage around in those memories to find what you know is there somewhere, God. Through the tears see the angels, the messengers; the ordinary people, those who helped you and see God!

Dear Friends, I invite you to rummage through all the memories in the junk drawer of life and find God. Think back over a lifetime, a lifetime of trips to the tomb and Easter celebrations. See God and the power of the resurrection. See God's transforming love that defeated death and gives new life. May seeing God in all of life give you the courage and strength to take your next most faithful step.

Rev. Laurie Sh. Adams

April 2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|--|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 3:30 Kingdom Kids 6 pm Confirmation | 4 NO BREAKFAST 6pm Relapse Prevention Group | 5 | 6 |
| 7 9:00 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship | 8 | 9 6:30pm Finance Meeting | 10 9:30am Women's Bi- ble Study | 11 8am Men's Breakfast 6pm Relapse Prevention Group 6:30 pm CYF Mtg. | 12 | 13 Private Party in the Fellowship Hall |
| 14 9:00 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship | 15 Tax Day 6:00 PM VBS Planning Mtg | 16 6:00 Church Council Meeting | 17 6:00 pm Confirmation | 18 8am Men's Breakfast 6pm Relapse Prevention Group | 19 Deadline for Newsletter Articles | 20 |
| 21 9:00 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:15 AM Grubby Sun- day & Tailgate Lunch | 22 | 23 10:15 am Sharing & Caring Hands | 24 | 25 8am Men's Break- fast 6pm Relapse Prevention Group | 26 | 27 |
| 28 9am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship | 29 | 30 | | | | |



Men's Breakfast

Pastor Pete is cooking breakfast on Thursday mornings for the guys. They will gather in the church kitchen at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast with

a rotating menu, including fruit, coffee and orange juice.

The suggested donation is \$5.00 to help cover

Kingdom Kids

On the first Wednesday of the month, the elementary age students gather at church after school for a time of faith, fun, food, and fellowship. The bus will bring the kids from EES and we are done around 5:00 PM. The kids also sing that next Sunday in church!

Important dates: April 3 & May 1

Sunday School

Children ages 3 through 6th grade can join us on Sunday mornings following communion during the worship service for about 30 minutes. Times will be 9:45 to 10:15 a.m. Children will worship with their families and then when they go up for communion or a blessing with their families they will be dismissed with their teachers to classrooms. Class times will include some large group lesson time, large group activity, and music.

Important Dates:

Sunday School: April 7, 14, 21, 28

Financial Update

February 29, 2024 Cash Balances

General Fund = \$104,971.17

Dedicated Fund = \$80,321.79

Total = \$185,292.96

Thrivent = \$101,849.34

February General Fund Balance

Income = \$12,082.39

Expenses = \$21,322.61

The next finance meeting is April 9th at 6:30 p.m.

Relapse Prevention Group

A New Recovery Meeting in the Ellsworth Area at English Lutheran Church on Thursday nights at 6:00 PM!!

Read and Discuss "Staying Sober"

Grubby Sunday

On Sunday, April 21st wear your grubby clothes to church because after worship, we will roll up our sleeves and work on some projects around the church. There will be cleaning and organizing projects inside the church.

We will also do projects outside the church that may involve chainsaws and brush cutting.

After we are done, Pastor Pete will provide lunch for all of the hungry volunteers.

English Lutheran Church

229 West Main Street

Ellsworth, Wisconsin

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Church website:

www.englishlutheranchurch.org

Find us on Facebook!

EnglishLutheranEllsworth

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