



Cross Beams

February 2021

www.englishlutheranchurch.org

Our Vision: A Christ-centered, serving community.

english
LUTHERAN CHURCH



PRAY WITHOUT CEASING!

2021 Wednesday Night Lenten Series
6:30 pm Worship & Prayer

2/17 Ash Wednesday
"Intro to Prayer Practices"

2/24 "Lectio Divina"

Try out this tool for looking at the Bible with new eyes-letting scripture work on us, rather than us on it.

3/3 "Walk with Jesus, Prayer"

Join us and be led by Pastor Jeff on a spiritual walk with Jesus.

3/10 "The Jesus Prayer"

Come learn this simple, one sentence prayer as an introduction to contemplative-style prayer.

3/17 "Prayer Stations"

Experience at least a dozen prayer stations with creative ways to pray. You won't want to miss this one!

3/24 "Centering Prayer"

Quiet your mind as you use this prayer that seeks to help us live God's call to, "Be still & know that I am God."



Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.

Psalms 141:2

Dear Partners in Ministry,

I'm guessing many of you can relate to having a prayer life that has been more active during certain periods of your life than in others. As a teenager, I had a very good habit of praying right before bed, often for an extended period of time as I prayed for all the important people in my life and the needs of the poor. I'm not sure when it happened, but at some point, that habit eroded. Then when I was in seminary, I was introduced to spiritual guidance, and once again was invigorated in my prayer life...at least for a while. During my first call, I read some books and attended a retreat on contemplative prayer, and once again I found incredible peace and joy from regular times of prayer. But then came a series of life changes, including wartime deployments and the birth of our 4 kids, and my prayer life got put on the back-burner again. And as with most people, my prayer life has intensified around times of personal tragedy or when a loved one has been ill or died. The point is, it's completely normal to have times when prayer is part of a passionate routine and times when it is harder to do. And yet, as 1 Thessalonians says, we are encouraged to "pray without ceasing."

So, this Lent, in a year when the Lord knows we could all use some prayer, we're going to spend the Wednesdays of Lent learning some 'prayer practices.' I believe a prayer practice is just a tool to help us regularly talk to our Lord and Creator in ways that open our hearts and souls to what God has to say to us. It's not about our saying the right thing, but about being open to being in God's presence and to building our relationship with God. I hope you will join us, whether in-person or online as we learn together about several kinds of prayer practices. In the meantime, know that I am praying for all of you and I pray that you may know more fully the love our Lord Jesus Christ has for you!

In Christ's Name,

Pastor Jeff

In-Person Worship!

We are excited that we have returned to in-person worship services! Sunday mornings:
8:30 am ~ Traditional Worship
10:00 am ~ Contemporary Worship

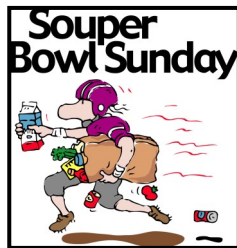
We are following best practices for keeping folks safe including configuring the sanctuary to ensure social distancing and asking everyone to wear masks.

You can still catch us online on our Facebook page as our 8:30 worship service is livestreamed. A link to those services can also be found on our website following the services.

Souper Bowl Sunday

Sunday, February 7

On Super Bowl Sunday, you can help us support *Sharing & Caring Hands*. Please place your donations in the kettle of your choice: Kansas City Chiefs-AFC or Tampa Bay Bucs-NFC. Donations will also be accepted online. These donations will help cover the cost of the meal we will be bringing to *Sharing & Caring Hands* on February 9. We will announce the team with the most donations.



Thank You Notes

Thank you for your recent gift of \$1,217.28 to ARC. So many local households will benefit from these dollars. 98 cents of every dollar received goes right back into the community, supporting a family's need for rent assistance, help with a utility payment, or a gas card. Assistance & Resource Center, Inc. is very grateful to receive this special 100th Anniversary gift as well as the faithful ongoing monthly support for our mission.

Thank you!

The ARC Board of Directors



We would like to thank you for the gift of \$1,342.28 in the year 2020 to our organization. Our organization is dedicated to reducing hunger and providing access to healthy food across Pierce County. Your generous gift has helped us purchase much needed nutritional items as well as equipment to protect the safety of our volunteers and clients. Throughout 2020, our network of food pantries helped place approximately 530,246 meals on the tables of 7,575 families, consisting of 17,730 people in need in our county. Every dollar donated to a local pantry can buy 4-7 dollars worth of food.

Sincerely,

Heidi Albarado,
Pierce Co. Food Pantry Coord.

Sharing & Caring Hands

February 9

English Lutheran Church will provide a lunch for *Sharing & Caring Hands* in Minneapolis on February 9. This year we will be bringing the lunch and dropping it off, volunteers at *Sharing & Caring Hands* will be serving the lunch.

The meal will be purchased using the funds from Souper Bowl Sunday and a *Thrivent* Action Team.

DONATIONS:

Please consider donating new or gently used bedding, towels, and sleeping bags to *Sharing & Caring Hands*. We will also collect NEW socks. Items can be dropped off at church. We will deliver the donations when we deliver the meal.



COOKIES:

This year we are asking for donations of cookies rather than cake to serve with our *Sharing & Caring Hands* meal. If you wish to donate cookies, please place them in a Ziploc bag and leave them at the church on Sunday morning Feb. 7 or Monday, Feb. 8 during office hours of 9-3.



PRAYERS

Special Prayers:

~ Prayers for the family of Phyllis Fuller, a former member of ELC, who died.

Healing:

Jerry Baggenstoss (Baggs), Diabetic Issues

Samantha Lee, Medical Issues

Judy Klos, Fell

John Basch & Wife, Kenny Basch's brother,

~ Pneumonia & Rheumatoid Arthritis

Nicholas, & Vanessa Tierney, grandbabies of

Paul & Ginny Tonsager ~ Babies are preemies.

Roger Nelson ~ Health Issues

Greg Place ~ Heart Issues

Nancy Hove ~ Brain Cancer

Mike Hince, Cousin of Darla Moquin

~ cancer on his palate

Long-term:

Marlin Peterson, Cancer

Lila Larson

Sherry York

Debbie Kannel-Howard

Terry Wegerer, Brother of Darla Moquin

~ Stage 4 Lung Cancer

Karen McAdams, Linda & Gary Onan's Daughter

~ Multiple System Atrophy

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

Joyce Geister, Julie Baggenstoss & Carol Melstrom's Mother

Mackenzie Marks, Connie Gossett's Granddaughter

Tomi Erlandson ~ Seizures & Health

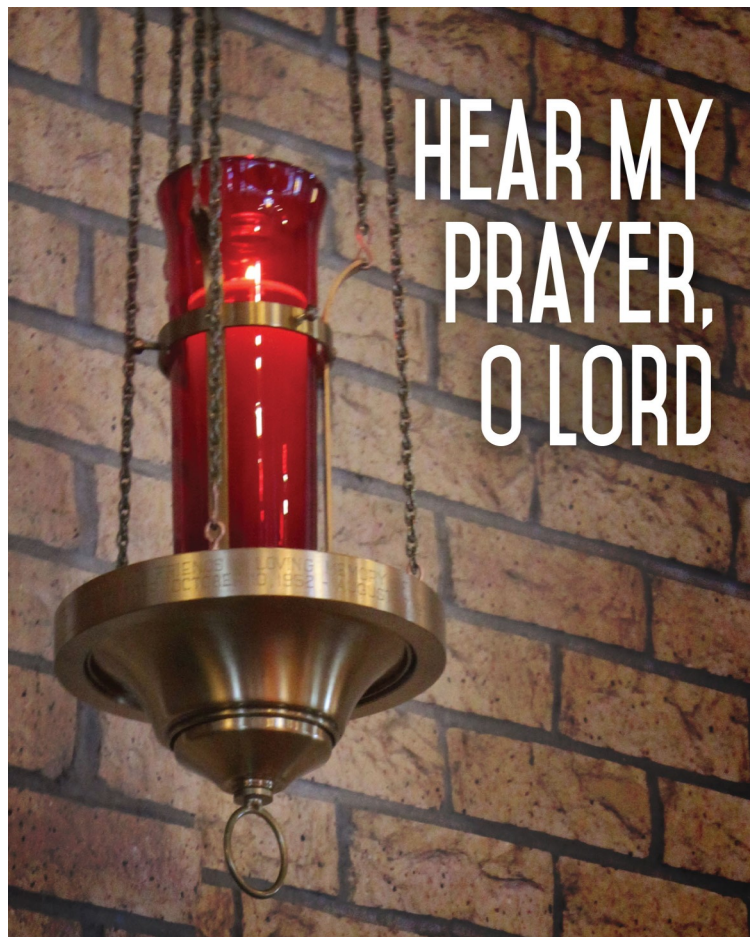
Dale Melstrom

Marianne Melstrom

Mary Dee Prokop, Mother of Eileen Mewes

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 February ~ Elaine Hines

January Council

- † Trina Groen reviewed Treasurer's Summary.
- † Approved 2021 Mission Spending Plan to present at the Annual Meeting.
- † Annual Meeting (January 31, 2021 at 9:15 a.m.) agenda and format. Approved.
- † Purchase of Advanced Zoom program for the Annual Meeting.
- † Formation of Technology Task Force.
- † The Giving Statements that are sent in the mail will include voting information for the Annual Meeting.
- † Covid Task Force Update presented by Peter Carr.
- † Finance/Treasurer's Report approved.
- † Pastor's Report accepted.
- † Next council meeting will be held on February 7, 2021 at 9:15 a.m.
- † Lord's Prayer said by all.



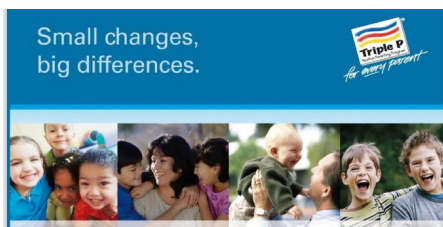
Positive Parenting Virtual Seminars

~ The Power of Positive Parenting
Tuesday, February 9, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

~ Raising Confident, Competent Children
Tuesday, February 16, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

~ Raising Resilient Children
Tuesday, February 23, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

These seminars are free! Register at:
<https://forms.gle/BbCdFcBuuTncd8h9A>



2020 Year End Cash Balances:

General Fund = \$47,774.25
Dedicated Fund = \$75,201.05
Thrivent = \$75,190.07
Total: \$198,165.37



Dear Churches,

For many of us, putting the events of 2020 in our rear-view mirror was a welcome way to greet the new year. However, for too many households in our local communities, the financial trials of this "pandemic season" will continue for many months to come.

Assistance & Resource Center (ARC) suggests a plan for those of us in the first category to provide hope and help to those in the second category.

Have you or do you anticipate receiving a \$600 stimulus check soon that is above and beyond what your household needs to keep you comfortable this winter?

Making a gift of all or part of your \$600 to ARC could be just what you need to jumpstart your 2021. Your decision to pay it forward could help folks avoid eviction from their home, keep their electricity and heat on, or put gas in their car for their work commute.

ARC operates as an entirely volunteer organization- none of your gift will go toward salaries or maintaining an office. 98 cents of every dollar received goes directly toward supporting local individuals and families experiencing short term financial need in meeting basic expenses.

Donations/gifts can be sent as a check to Assistance & Resource Center, Inc., PO Box 223, River Falls, WI, 54022 or you can use the PayPal button on our website www.arcriverfalls.org.

Thank you for considering a gift to ARC.
You can make a positive difference in your own neighborhood!



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!
EnglishLutheranEllsworth

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, Steve Liening
music@englishlutheranchurch.org

Church Office Hours

Tuesdays & Wednesdays
Times vary.

Mondays & Thursdays
9 am to 3 pm



Worship Services

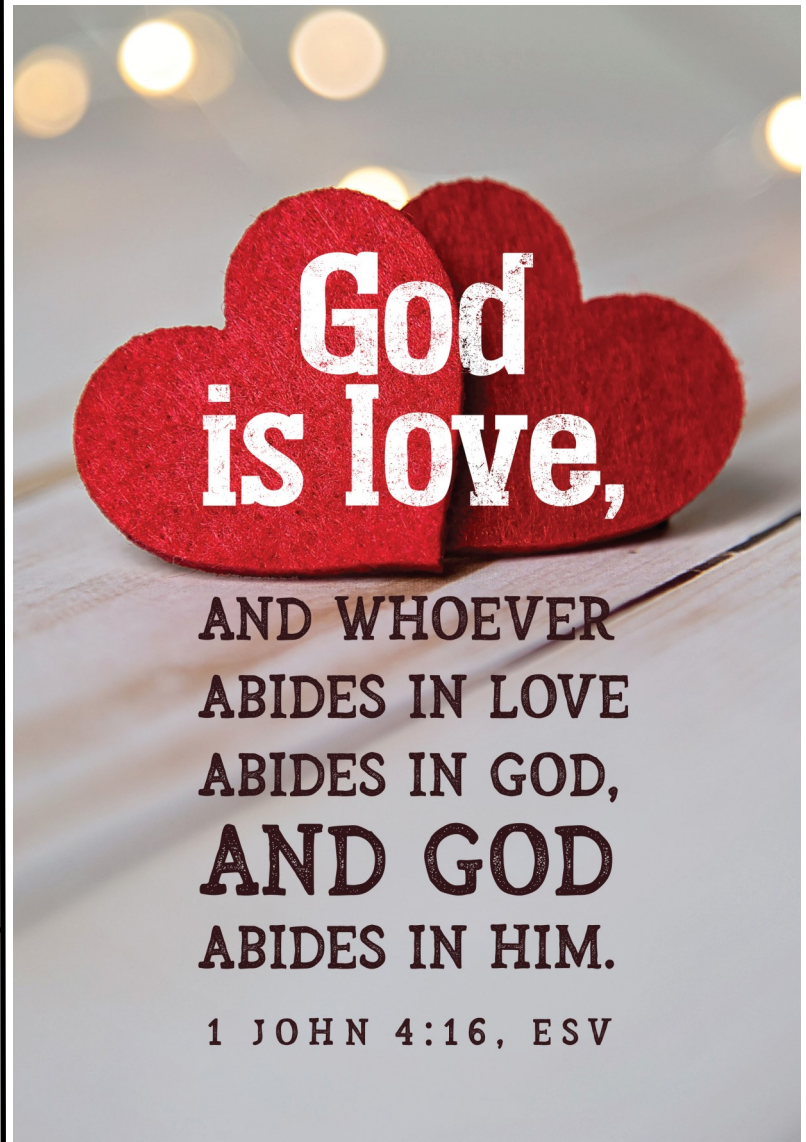
Online ~ Sundays on Facebook
Livestream at 8:30

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

Congregational Council

President: Peter Carr
Vice President:
Treasurer: Gary Brown
Secretary: Julie Davis
Jen Abbas
Melba Smith
Eric Van Nocker

Denise Hager
Paul Tonsager



Our Mission:

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

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February 2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUN	MON Feb 1	TUE 2	WED 3	THU 4	FRI 5	SAT 6
	First Day of Black History Month		6:30pm Confirmation Small Group Fellowship 12pm Faith Leaders COVID Call with Public H			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Council Meeting - Officer Elections Super Bowl Sunday 8:30am In-Person & Online Worship 10am In-Person Worship		Sharing and Caring Hands Delivery 6:30pm Finance Meeting 6:30pm Endowment Meeting	No Confirmation Class			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Valentine's Day 8:30am In-Person & Online Worship 10am In-Person Worship	Presidents' Day (regional holiday)	6:30pm Church Council Meeting	Ash Wednesday 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship & Prayer Service 	12pm Faith Leaders COVID Call with Public H		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:30am In-Person Worship 8:30am Online Worship 10am In-Person Worship			6:30pm Lenten Worship & Prayer Service 7pm Confirmation Small Group			
28	Mar 1	2				
8:30am In-Person Worship 8:30am Online Worship 10am In-Person Worship	First Day of Women's History Month					