



Cross Beams

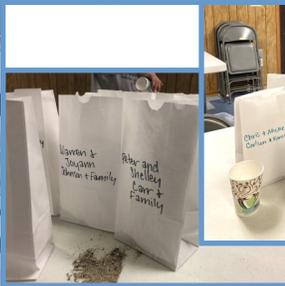
January 2021

www.englishlutheranchurch.org

Our Vision: A Christ-centered, serving community.



Luminaria



Christmas Eve Worship & Volunteers



ELC Family's Nativities





For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. ~Jeremiah 29:11

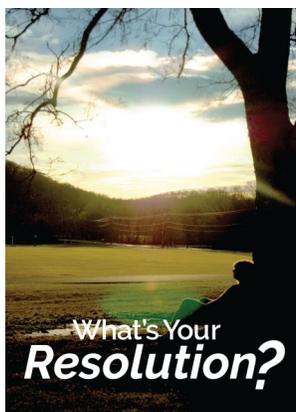
Christmas Greetings!

As we finally enter 2021 and put 2020 in the rearview mirror, many of us might be re-evaluating parts of our lives. January has traditionally been a time of resolutions and too often, forgotten resolutions. I haven't really set resolutions in recent years, but I may do so this year. One thing I've realized during this pandemic is that some of the routines I'd found myself in before the pandemic, aren't really necessary or life-giving anymore. And while I've managed to get some better routines going during the pandemic, (like taking more time for personal fitness and getting my sermons done earlier in the week) I'm realizing I'd like to shift/change other routines for the long-term as well.

For example, I'm planning to take a few days at Luther Point Bible Camp early this month to do some long-range planning for ministry and to spend some quality time with God seeking our Lord's preferred future for our congregation and also for me personally. Further, I'm also hoping to schedule time for regular fitness, family time, prayer, scripture study, and guitar practice into my weekly routine. Of course, I'll make the amount of time for each attainable so this doesn't just become another failed resolution. And, since I'm sharing this all publicly in this newsletter, I'll ask you all to hold me accountable! Please ask me in February...and August and anytime in between or after if I'm still doing these things. Seriously!

How about you? Is God using the disruptions to your normal routines to call you to a different way of living? Are there things you've put off for years that you feel would truly be a blessing in your life or a blessing to others? Is now the time to make those things a priority in your life, rather than something that will only happen if you ever get around to them?

May our Lord give you the wisdom to know what things in your life need adjustment and the courage to follow through and make those changes in 2021! Together, we can do great things for God, our community, and ourselves in the year ahead.



God bless you all!

Pastor Jeff

In-Person Worship!

We are excited to announce that we plan to return to in-person worship services on **Sunday, January 17!** We will have worship Sunday mornings:

8:30 am ~ Traditional Worship
10:00 am ~ Contemporary Worship

Worship in-person is contingent on our current Covid case trend. If there is a spike, we will reevaluate. We're excited to see everyone again!

We will be following best practices for keeping folks safe including configuring the sanctuary to ensure social distancing and asking everyone to wear masks. Please watch for more details regarding our in-person worship.

We are currently holding online worship services on our Facebook page, Sunday mornings at 9:15. A link to those services can also be found on our website following the services.

Join us!!



Thank You Notes

Thank you to all who helped with our Advent and Christmas Eve worship services! We had many volunteers do readings and light candles and record worship.

Thank you to those families who provided videos and pictures for our December "Let's Connect" video and photo online events! We really enjoyed seeing Christmas in your home and learning about your traditions and favorite music and nativity stories.

Thank you to all who gave to our combined Stewardship drive "TOGETHER" and our Christmas Tree of Spirit as we raised funds for 3 community organizations: Ellsworth School Lunches, ARC, and the Ellsworth Food Shelf. We raised \$3,500!!

Thank you to the adults and youth who prepared and displayed the Luminaries in December!

Members of English Lutheran Church, During this season of giving thanks, we want your congregation to know how important you are to our mission. We, along with the many households you have assisted are extremely grateful for your faithful support.

Thank you,
Judy Perkins, on behalf of the ARC Board



New Music Director!

Steve Lienen is our new music director. Steve is an experienced pianist, organist, vocalist, and conductor with a passion for bringing diverse musical styles into worship. By day, Steve works for the Wisconsin State Public Defender as a trial attorney. In his free time, Steve enjoys running, genealogy, and spending time with his family. Welcome Steve!



Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Date - TBD

We are still working out the details for our annual meeting this year. Please stay tuned for more information.

At our annual meeting we will vote on new members of council and our committees along with the 2021 budget.



Graduate Quilts



Graduate quilters received a donation and will purchase needed supplies. We will not meet in January and will decide month by month when we can finally meet again. We have approximately half the number of quilts needed for the 2021 graduates.

Thank you,
Judy Erickson and Tammy Brunner

Weather Closings

Once we return to in-person worship, in the event our in-person worship services are cancelled due to inclement weather, you can find cancellations announced in the following locations:

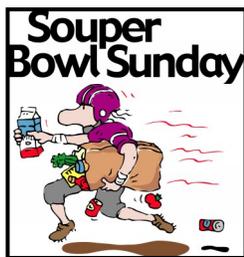
- ~ Church Website:
englishlutheranchurch.org
- ~ Church Facebook page
- ~ Your email, if you're signed up to receive our weekly email notifications.
- ~ KARE 11 TV
- ~ WCCO TV Channel 4



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: AFC or 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 8. We will announce the team with the most donations.



Sharing & Caring Hands

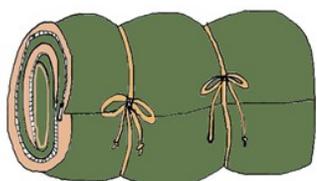
February 8

English Lutheran Church will provide a lunch for *Sharing & Caring Hands* in Minneapolis on February 8. 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.



Summer 2021 Youth Trip Update

The Children, Youth & Family Team, after conducting a survey of our youth, are looking at doing either a combined week of backpacking and whitewater kayaking/canoeing OR a weekend backpack and a weekend whitewater trip next summer. This trip will be planned and led by English Lutheran staff and volunteers. Dates, costs, and details are still being decided. If you are interested in learning more, please attend a Zoom Meeting on January 13 at 6:30 pm.

Jeff Smith is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Summer 2021 ELC Youth Trip

Time: January 13, 6:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79410221144?pwd=L2l0bEZiV1NRQkZEWmZTT2paTmdGUT09>

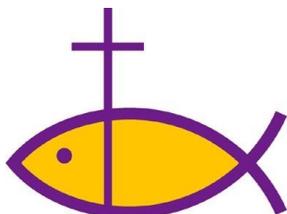
Meeting ID: 794 1022 1144

Passcode: 3N81N5



Confirmation Update

We began the year not really knowing when or how we might be able to gather for class. As it turns out, we've been online so far. Pastor Jeff will be discussing our options for the rest of the year with our Guides and the CoVID Task Force and then release a calendar for the rest of the school year. Confirmation families watch your email for updates, including when classes will resume in January and whether they will initially be on Zoom or in-person.



Sunday School

We continue to meet monthly to send out Sunday school packages to our 30 Sunday school children. In January we will focus on the Miracles of Jesus. Our theme for 2020-21 is Jesus and Friends. Thank you to our Sunday school volunteers!

Children's
Ministry
News

December Council

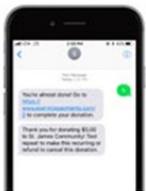
No Zoom or in person meeting for December. The council agenda was sent and reviewed via e-mail by Pastor Jeff Smith. The renovation proposals were also sent via e-mail for review.

- † Motions made by e-mail to approve the November council minutes, the Treasurer's financial report and to approve the special meeting to be held on January 12, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. for the 2021 Mission Spending Plan.
- † Motion to approve Pastor Jeff Smith's housing allowance for 2021 to be \$45,000 with the balance of approved compensation to be considered "salary" as interpreted by the Federal Income Tax Law.
- † Motion to approve renovation proposals for a storage closet for kitchen supplies.

Online vote on all three motions was made on December 17, 2020. No discussions or comments made. All three motions were carried by the council.



Electronic Ways to give to English Lutheran Church



GivePlus Text:

Text: **844-912-2195** with the amount you want to donate, to make one-time or recurring contributions.

Mobile App Giving:

Search your app store for "GivePlus Church" and download the GivePlus app to make one-time or recurring contributions.



2020 General Fund

| Month | Actual Monthly Income | Actual Monthly Expense | Actual YTD Income | Actual YTD Expenses |
|-------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Aug | 14,211.33 | 14,737.40 | 128,415.27 | 161,381.13 |
| Sept | 12,881.72 | 16,095.96 | 141,296.99 | 177,477.09 |
| Oct. | 14,864.81 | 16,070.31 | 156,161.80 | 193,547.40 |
| Nov. | 19,626.87 | 15,778.57 | 175,788.67 | 209,325.97 |

Cash Balances at November 2020 month end:

Total = \$197,205.27
 General Fund = \$47,280.05
 Dedicated Fund = \$78,152.54
 Thrivent = \$71,772.68

Notes:

~ The large difference in year to date expenses and income is due, in large part, to moving \$28,000 from our General checking account to a Thrivent investment account. With that transfer of money excluded from expenses, we've actually spent \$5,537.30 more than income year to date.

~ English Lutheran Church received a potentially forgivable loan through the Paycheck Protection Plan through the Small Business Administration. We have used \$28,200 for our payroll and utility expenses in 2020.



Online Giving:

Visit englishlutheranchurch.org to set up and manage your one-time and recurring gifts.

Why eGiving? eGiving is an easy and secure way to make contributions. You can set recurring donations, whether or not your attend church in-person, you can still make a gift, which provides the church financial stability.

For more information, contact the office **715-273-4617**.

PRAYERS

Special Prayers:

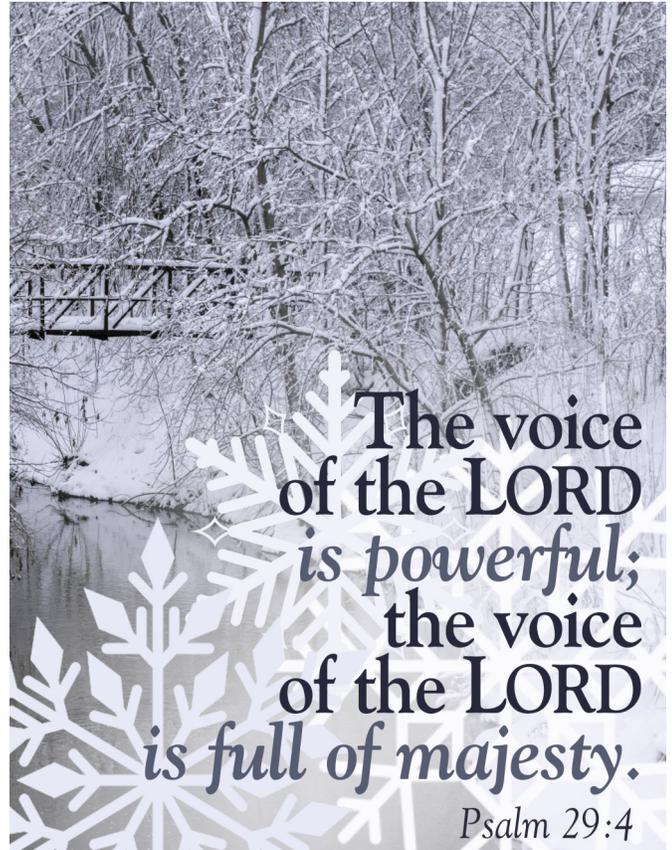
- ~ Prayers for the family of Burton Larson, he died in December.
- ~ Prayer for the family of Lisa & Dennis Boettcher, Lisa's brother-in-law, Lorin Bloomstrand, died.
- ~ Prayers for the family of Darla & Bill Moquin as Darla's brother, Ron Wegerer, died.
- ~ Prayers for Dorothea Olson and family as Dorothea's brother-in-law, Glen Dankers, died.

Healing:

- John Basch & Wife, Kenny Basch's brother,
 - ~ Pneumonia & Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Nicholas, & Vanessa Tierney, grandbabies of
 - Paul & Ginny Tonsager ~ Babies are preemies.
- Roger Nelson ~ Covid and Pneumonia
- Rose Theis, mother of Peggy Nelson ~ Fell
- Greg Place ~ Heart Issues
- Julie Fern, Sister-in-law of Melanie Johnson
 - ~ Medical Issues
- Nancy Hove ~ Brain Cancer
- Mike Hince, Cousin of Darla Moquin
 - ~ cancer on his palate

Long-term:

- 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 & 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 January ~ Elaine Hines

In Memory

Hazel Wegerer died November 9, 2020. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Remember her family and friends in your prayers.



Burton Larson died December 13, 2020. A graveside service was held on Dec. 19 at Maiden Rock Cemetery. Please hold his family in your prayers.



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

Wednesdays Noon to 8 pm
 Pastor Jeff

Thursdays 9 am to 3 pm
 Trina



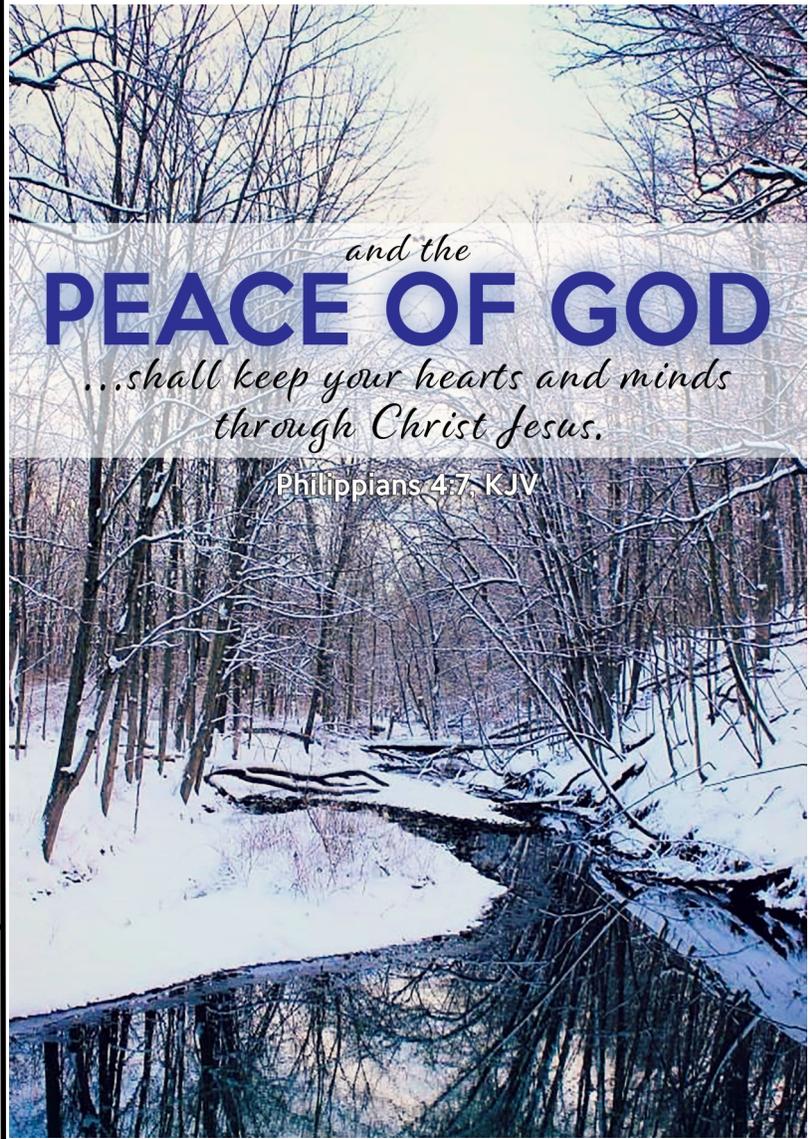
Worship Services

Online ~ Sundays on Facebook at 9:15 am
In-Person ~ Sundays ~ beginning Jan. 17.
 Traditional - 8:30 am
 Contemporary - 10:00 am

Congregational Council

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

Denise Hager
Paul Tonsager



and the PEACE OF GOD

*...shall keep your hearts and minds
 through Christ Jesus.*

Philippians 4:7-KJV

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



Cross Beams

January 2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



| | TUE 29 | WED 30 | THU 31 | FRI 1 | SAT 2 |
|----|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------|
| 3 | 9:15am Online Worship | | New Year's Eve | New Year's Day | |
| 4 | | | | | |
| 5 | 6:30pm Church Council Meeting - I 6:30pm Finance Meeting | 6:30pm Summer Youth Trip Zoom | 12pm Faith Leaders COVID Call wit | | |
| 6 | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | |
| 10 | 9:15am Online Worship | | | | |
| 11 | | | | | |
| 12 | | | | | |
| 13 | | | | | |
| 14 | | | | | |
| 15 | | | | | |
| 16 | | | | | |
| 17 | 8:30am In-Person Worship 9:15am Online Worship 10am In-Person Worship | | | | |
| 18 | | | | | |
| 19 | | | | | |
| 20 | | | | | |
| 21 | | | | | |
| 22 | | | | | |
| 23 | | | | | |
| 24 | 8:30am In-Person Worship 9:15am Online Worship 10am In-Person Worship | | | | |
| 25 | | | | | |
| 26 | | | | | |
| 27 | | | | | |
| 28 | | | | | |
| 29 | | | | | |
| 30 | | | | | |
| 31 | 8:30am In-Person Worship 10am In-Person Worship | | | | |

