

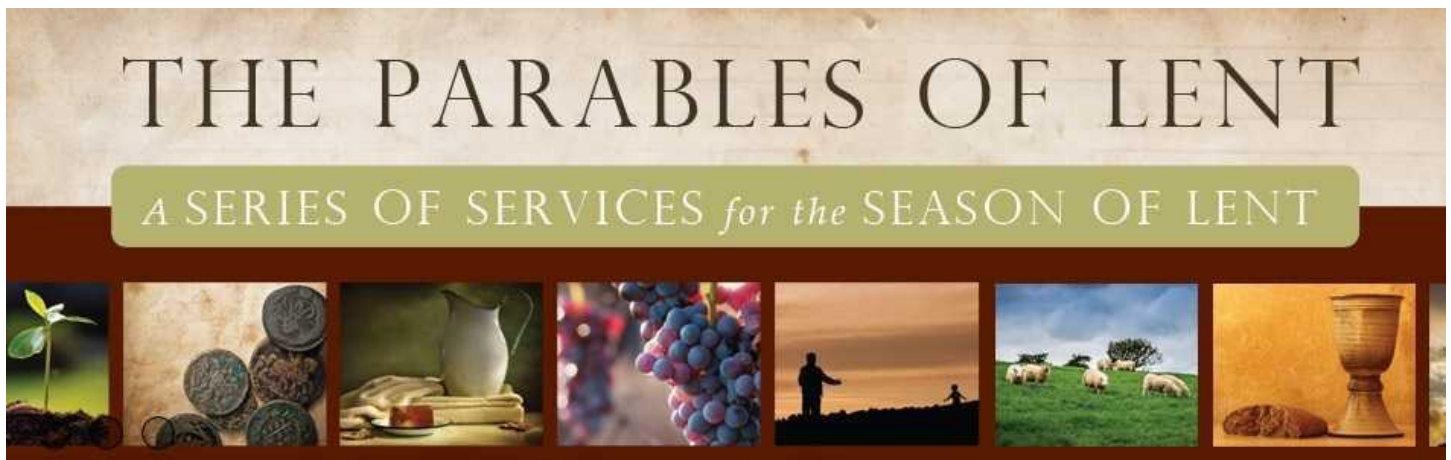


# Cross Beams

## February 2020

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

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



### 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.*



SHARE JESUS  
WITH A  
FRIEND

*"Look, here is the Lamb of God!" John 1:36*

Grace & peace siblings in Christ!

I recently gave a sermon centered on evangelism. Because this topic is so important, and in case you missed it, here's a Cliff Notes version!

I'd much rather be a faithful pastor and have 50 in worship, then to be a false prophet with 5000. But on the other hand, we as Christians are called to share the good news with others, and as a church, if we aren't growing, we are dying. So while numbers alone don't tell the whole story, we can't ignore them either. Especially in a time when almost all churches are declining. Perhaps one of the greatest threat to the future of not just ELC, but the whole Lutheran Church, is our fear of evangelism, that is, sharing our faith with others in hopes they might believe too.

Some of that fear's justified. We've all had someone try to make us doubt our eternal destiny with questions like, "Are you saved?" Or "Do you have a personal relationship w/ Jesus?" And because we don't want to be "one of them," we do the complete opposite, and instead "keep it private" and tell NO ONE about our faith. But does Jesus really want us to keep our faith private? Is the Gospel supposed to be a secret that only "special people" who happen to be born into Christian families get to hear? I don't think so. Thankfully, the 1st chapter of John gives us a model for sharing our faith.

The first step to sharing your faith is to **NOTICE** God working in your life, just like John the Baptist did. Each day, spend a couple of minutes noticing where you saw or felt the presence of God in your life. Or if that's too difficult, each day name the places in the world where you think God needs to be like in the tragedies you see on the news or with a family you know that's struggling in some way.

The second step is to **SHARE** your faith, like Andrew did with his brother Simon in John 1. Share with other people why you like coming to ELC, what the people here mean to you, and what your faith in Jesus means to you.

The third step is to **INVITE** people you know to come to church with you. Now, I know this can feel awkward if you've never done it before. But, most of us have invited friends or neighbors or co-workers to dinner, or a movie, a sporting event or a party because we like spending time with them and we want them to experience with us, something we value or enjoy. In fact, we're pretty good at inviting people to all of those things, so why not do the same with church and our faith?

To consider:

*Who do you know that might enjoy the same things about church and Jesus as you?*

*Who else in your life might need to know they are loved by our Creator?*

*Who else might need strength & comfort in the hard times of life?*

*Who do you know with a desire to serve others and be an agent for positive change in this world?*

Share with those people why going to church is so important and valuable to you, and then invite them to come with you to church.



**Invite a  
Neighbor**



This is SO important, because you all are better ambassadors of the faith than I am as a pastor.

Study after study shows that the reason most people join a new church is because *someone they know* invited them. I can go knock on 100 doors and maybe get 1 or 2 new families to join us. But if all 100-140 worshippers in ELC on any given Sunday invited just one friend, neighbor, classmate, coworker, or family member without a church to come to ELC, not only could we nearly double the size of our church, more importantly we'd be giving them the gift of belonging to this family and of knowing & experiencing God's grace, peace & forgiveness in Jesus.

Jesus today told John's disciples to "come & see" what he was doing and where he was going. Jesus also called all of us to "make disciples of all nations." Heed both of those calls & be God's messengers this month, as you **NOTICE** where God is acting, **SHARE** the good news with others and **INVITE** them to "come & see" that God is good, and desires to be part of their lives too.



God bless you all abundantly,

*Pastor Jeff*

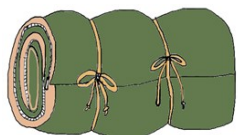
### Sharing & Caring Hands Monday, February 10

English Lutheran Church will serve lunch at *Sharing & Caring Hands* in Minneapolis on Monday, February 10. If you'd like to help, please email the office or sign-up at the back of the church.

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

#### DONATIONS:

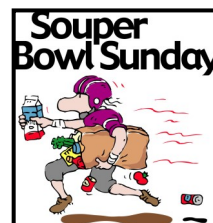
Please consider donating new or gently used bedding, towels, and sleeping bags to *Sharing & Caring Hands*. Items can be dropped off at church. Those serving will deliver the donations.



### Souper Bowl Sunday Sunday, February 2

On Super Bowl Sunday, you can help us support *Sharing & Caring Hands*. Please place your donations in the kettle of your choice: Chiefs or 49ers. Donations will help cover the cost of the meal we will be serving at *Sharing & Caring Hands* on Monday, February 10. We will announce the team with the most donations.

#### Super Bowl LIV



## 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

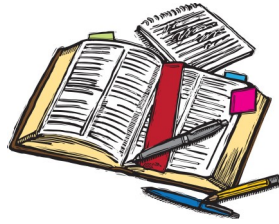
We will meet February 12 at 10 am in the Fireside Room.

Last month's study looked at old testament prophets. This month, we move into the new testament and reflect on how we are called by Jesus to serve.

Our *Gather* magazine contains several readers' stories sharing how they are called to serve. (pgs. 18 to 23 in the January/February issue)

Hostess will be Dorothea Olson.

All are welcome to join us!!



## Graduate Quilts



**Join us again in March!**

No meeting in February.

For additional information contact:  
Judy Erickson @ 715-603-5197 or  
Tammy Brenner @ 715-273-3591

## Weather Closings

In the event our 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



Email the church office if you have questions, as this email is checked frequently.  
office@englishlutheranchurch.org



## Thank You Notes

Women of ELC ~ Thank you so much for your kind gift to me this Christmas. I so enjoy our monthly time together in God's word and fellowship with one another. Thank you again!  
~ God's Peace  
Pastor Jeff

Thank you for all of your donations to the Christmas Tree of Spirit! We received the following donations:

- ~ \$122 to the ELCA Good Gifts campaign.
- ~ \$1,325 for school lunches.
- ~ 64 pounds of food for the Food Shelf.



Thank you to all of our outgoing council members! Dean Mewes, Joyce Karlstad, Kris Kinneman, Lynette Winger, and Gary Onan.

Dear English Lutheran Church Family,  
I want to thank everyone for all of the prayers, words of encouragement, and support during this difficult time. Words just don't seem to be enough but please know we are so Blessed by God for all of you!

~ The Family of Kevin Winger

## Offering Envelopes

Do you currently receive offering envelopes, but no longer wish to?

Do you wish to receive offering envelopes, however do not currently?

Please contact the church office to make these changes.



## Feed My Starving Children Trip



English Lutheran Church will be going to the Eagan Feed My Starving Children location Wednesday, February 19, 4:55 - 8:30 pm to pack meals. We have a bus reserved for this event, and anyone over the age of 5 is welcome to join us! Those ages 5-8 will need a parent or guardian. Please sign-up in the gathering area. Bus leaves at 4:55 pm sharp!

## 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 don't have to wait until August! The youth attending *Christikon Bible Camp* this summer in Montana will be hosting a Hot Beef Dinner open to the community to raise funds for their trip. Details are not final, but for now, **save the date of Sunday, March 29** right after our 10 am worship.

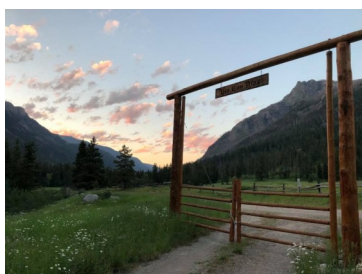
### BRAT SALE!

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 will once again be \$5 for a one pound package (four brats per package). We appreciate your support! Order forms will be available several Sundays in the bulletin over the next month. All orders due by March 1 for a mid-April delivery.



### STOCK SALE

We'll be bringing back the Stock Sale this winter as well. 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.







## 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.



## Confirmation Retreat Sign Up Today

Confirmation students - Turn in your confirmation retreat registration forms today. We will be going to *Luther Point Bible Camp* on Friday, February 28 to Sunday, March 1.

Join us for a fun weekend!

Games  
Prayers  
Bible Study  
Fellowship!



"Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you."  
—Anne Lamott

## January Council

- † Trina Groen discussed and explained an overview of the Treasurer's Report.
- † Event mileage will come from the funding of that event such as Continuing Education mileage will come from the Continuing Education fund. MSC.
- † Thank you to the Finance Committee for all the work done for the budget. MSC.
- † Approval of Housing Allowance of \$45,000 for 2020. MSC.
- † No Council Meeting on January 21.
- † Women's Group approved contributions for the two new furnaces and air conditioner.
- † Thank you to those on Council who are leaving: Joyce Karlstad, Gary Onan, Dean Mewes, Lynette Winger and Kris Kinneman.
- † Closed with a prayer for the Winger family and the Lord's Prayer.



## Annual Meeting

- † Council Members: President Warren Johnson, VP Dennis Boettcher, Treas. Gary Brown, Sec. Julie Davis, Jen Abbas, Peter Carr, Melba Smith, & Eric Van Nocker (need 1 more member)
- † Memorials & Gifts: Bobbie Sawyers, Dan Klaustermeier, Jeanette Wright, & Melanie Johnson (need 1 more member)
- † Mission Endowment Committee: Peter Carr, Jim Hines, Dixie Basch, Kip Gore, Mandy Fleming, Mary Sokolik, & Traci Maxwell
- † Synod Assembly: Jerry & Linda Christianson
- † Nominations: Sue Myers, Mary Sokolik, Nancy Johnson, & Lisa Boettcher. Dean Mewes volunteered after the meeting—council will need to approve at mtg.
- † 2020 Budget passed with a unanimous vote.
- † Approved ELCA proposed constitution changes.



## Worship Attendance

Week of:	8:30	10:00	Total
December 29	23	26	49
Totals:	23	26	49
2019 Sunday Avg.	42	71	113

Week of:	1:30	4:00	9:30	Total
December 24 Christmas Eve	80	163	60	303

Week of:	8:30	10:00	Total
January 5	48	51	99
January 12	31	71	102
January 19	39	63	102
January 26	48	60	108
Totals:	166	245	411
Average:	42	61	103
2020 Sunday Avg.	42	61	103

## 2019 General Fund

Month	Actual Monthly Income	Actual Monthly Expense	Actual YTD Income	Actual YTD Expenses
September	14,643.53	15,766.45	159,193.80	179,333.39
October	29,418.53	16,572.20	188,612.33	195,905.59
November	18,229.43	16,339.91	206,841.76	212,245.50
December	25,397.80	18,975.38	232,239.56	231,220.88

### Cash Balances at 2019 year end:

Total = \$164,856.72

General Fund = \$52,822.89

Dedicated Fund = \$112,033.83



# PRAYERS

## *Special Prayers:*

- ~ Prayers for the family Clint & Dorothea Olson who have lost 2 family members, Dorothea's sister and sister-in-law in the past month.
- ~ Prayers for the people and animals of Australia affected by the fires.
- ~ Prayers for the family of Faye Larson, mother of Ronna (Marc) Johnson, who died.
- ~ Prayers for Eldon Huber whose sister died.

## Healing:

Sherry York ~ Surgery

Debbie Kannel-Howard

Frank During ~ Shoulder Surgery

Terry Wegerer, Brother of Darla Moquin ~ Stage 4 Lung Cancer

## Long-term:

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

Esther Risberg, Julie

Davis' Mother

## 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

## Baptism

**Joesph Paul Solyntjes** became our brother in Christ through Holy Baptism on Sunday, December 22, 2019. Joseph's parents are Luke & Bailey Solyntjes and his sponsors are Kelly Trombley and Daniel Purgett.

We celebrate and welcome our newest member to the Body of Christ.

**Welcome, Joseph!**



## In Memory



**Til Peterson** died December 31, 2019. A funeral service was held January 11. Remember her family and friends in your prayers.

**Kevin Winger** died January 8, 2020. A funeral service was held January 13. Remember his family and friends in your prayers.

# MALAWI UPDATE

---

Dear friends of Malawi,

Grace and peace to you; I hope you are all well.

As we look with hope toward this new year, I would like to share a few updates about our partnership with Malawi.

## 20 for 20 Well Campaign

Last year, during a visit from the Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi, we revealed a plan to celebrate our 20 years in ministry together by launching a campaign with the goal of raising \$20,000 during 2019. If reached, there would be enough funds to build two deep-drilled bore wells in Malawi. With an overwhelming response, the synod surpassed this goal and raised **\$45,816.20**. Together, your generosity has provided enough funds to drill four wells, bringing access to clean, safe drinking water to four areas in need. **THANK YOU!**

## 2019 Visits

In March of 2019, Bishop Joseph Bvumbwe and his wife Maria visited our synod for two weeks, and became reacquainted with Wisconsin blizzards. During their time here, they participated in Walking Together, visited congregations, friends, and ministries throughout the synod, and participated in a South African Consultation Gathering at the ELCA churchwide office in Chicago.

During the summer months, two groups from Northwest Wisconsin visited Malawi - the first group from Immanuel Lutheran in Eau Claire visited their parish partners in Zomba, and the second group visited several ELCM feeding, education, and health ministries.

## Upcoming Visits

In April of this year, Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson, Rev. Randy Olson (Synod Minister), Savannah Small (Synod Youth Board President), and Deacon Laura Ramlow (Synod Minister), will be traveling to Malawi to teach at the Pastors' Academy, build relationships with our partners in the ELCM, experience the culture of the country, and travel to Johannesburg for an ELCA/Southern Africa Consultation. This gathering will be a time for ELCA synods and their southern African church partners to meet for dialogue about issues of gender, climate change, Lutheran identity, and youth and young adults. These important conversations are designed to enrich the ways we share the gospel together, and compel us to respond faithfully, as the church, to the injustices in our contexts.

## Social Concerns

Heavy on the hearts of our Malawian brothers and sisters right now are the many demonstrations (protests) happening throughout the country. As they wait for the court verdict from last May's controversial presidential election, let us pray for peace, something that The Warm Heart of Africa has long been known for.

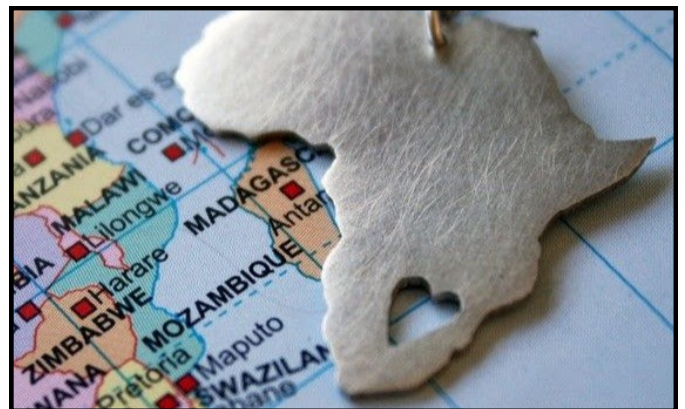
Please join me in praying for God's continued blessings on our partnership with the ELCM as we look forward to all the ways we will walk together in the light of Jesus Christ. **Zikomo Yesu!**

Together in Christ,

Deacon Laura Ramlow  
Synod Minister - Northwest Synod of Wisconsin  
Companion Coordinator - Malawi, Africa



Northwest Synod of Wisconsin  
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America  
God's Work. Our Hands.



## 5TH ANNUAL FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE

# "Lucky You"



## Saturday, March 14th 3-5 pm

### A special event for DADS and DAUGHTERS

This event includes a professional DJ,  
photography by Ellen DeVinny, snacks and crafts.

\$25 per couple (each additional girl is \$10)

Purchase tickets by March 11th online at <https://buytickets.at/firstchoiceclinic/338611>

Registration will open on February 1st. For additional information please call (651) 267-4357  
(Scholarships are available upon request)

#### Cornerstone Community Church

420 West 3rd Street - Red Wing, MN 55066 (Banquet Hall, 2nd Floor)



This event is hosted by First Choice Clinic with the goal of creating stronger families and a stronger community.



Journey House Campus Ministry  
River Falls

### Save the Date!

Friday, March 13 @ 6:00 at the  
United Methodist Church  
127 South Second Street in River Falls

Join us for an evening of food,  
friendship and fun!

This evening will be an opportunity for us to  
express our gratitude for your support of the  
community at Journey House and to raise  
funds to further the ministries.

Prepare to enjoy food, music, laughter and  
have an opportunity to bid on a collection of  
assorted auction items, and more!

See you on  
**Friday, March 13 at 6:00.**

## Practice Not Perfect



### Walking Together

February 22, 2020  
UWEC - Davies Center



Northwest Synod of Wisconsin  
Evangelical Lutheran Church of America  
God's Work. Our Hands.

## WALKING TOGETHER

Join us for a day of workshops,  
best practices in ministry, great  
conversation, and inspiring ideas!

ALL AGES are invited and  
encouraged to attend as we explore  
the theme "Practice Not Perfect"  
and how we practice our faith in  
everyday life. (\$25/person, lunch  
included - English Lutheran will pay  
your registration cost.)

Sign up at church now.  
Registration deadline is  
February 14!





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)



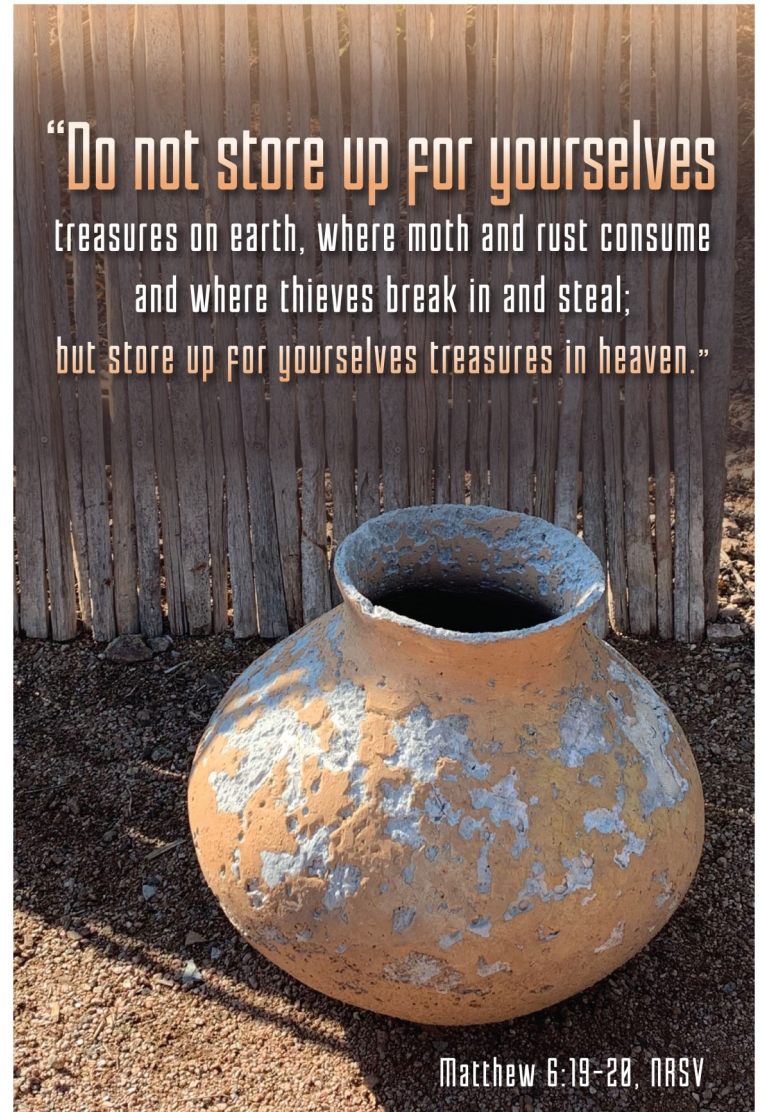
The church office is open:  
Monday, Wednesday, &  
Thursday  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Friday ~ 9:00 am-1:00 pm  
Closed on Tuesdays.

## 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



**“Do not store up for yourselves**  
treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume  
and where thieves break in and steal;  
**but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven.”**

Matthew 6:19-20, NRSV

## Our Mission:

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

## Cross Beams

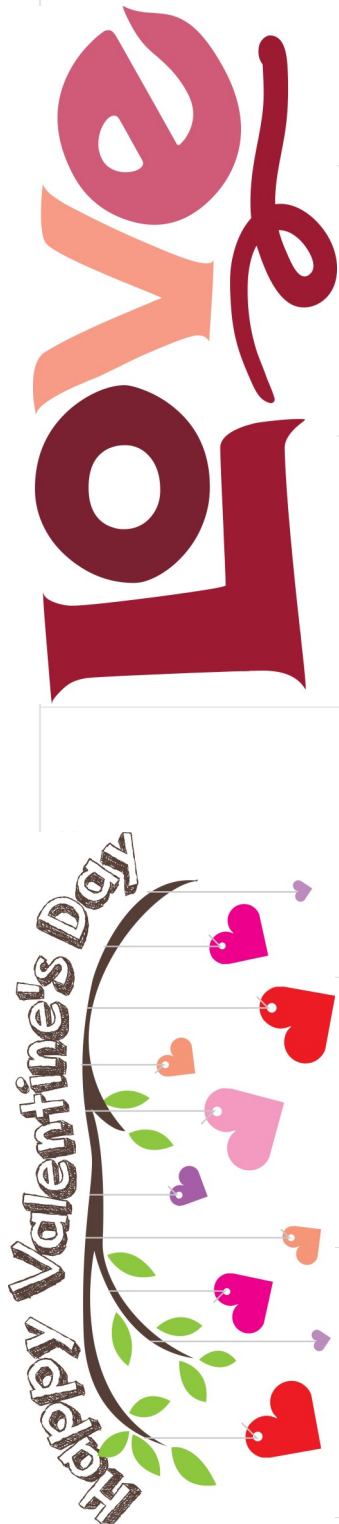
Published monthly by:  
English Lutheran Church  
Ellsworth, Wisconsin.

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



*Cross Beams*

# February 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



SAT Feb 1	
8	
15	Valentine's Day
22	Synod Event - Walking Together
29	Confirmation Retreat at Luther Point
7	
14	
21	
28	
6	Confirmation Small Group • 6:30pm Mission Endowment Meeting
13	No Confirmation Class • 10am Womens Bible Study
20	4:55pm Feed My Starving Children
27	5:45pm Soup Supper • 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service • 7:15pm Confirmation Family Ice Cream Social
5	
12	
19	
26	
4	11:30am Salem Group Meeting
11	Sharing & Caring Hands
18	Presidents Day (regional holiday) • 6:30pm Church Council Meeting
25	
3	
10	
17	
24	
2	SOUPER Bowl Sunday • 8:30am Traditional Worship • 10am Contemporary Worship • 10am Sunday School • 11am Choir Practice
9	• 8:30am Traditional Worship • 10am Contemporary Worship • 10am Sunday School • 11am Choir Practice
16	• 8:30am Traditional Worship • 10am Contemporary Worship • 10am Sunday School • 11am Choir Practice
23	• 8:30am Traditional Worship • 10am Contemporary Worship • 10am Sunday School