



Cross Beams

March 2023



www.englishlutheranchurch.org

Our Vision: A Christ-centered, serving community.



ELC had a large group pack meals for Feed My Starving Children!



A few of ELC youth went to Luther Point for a Winter Bible Camp!

Lots of laughs and fun was had!!





The summer after fourth grade, my family went to Luther Point Bible Camp for the weeklong family camp and we had a blast! It was fun and I loved every moment, even though I was so badly sun burnt that laughing hurt my face so bad that I cried. My souvenir from the canteen was a sweat-shirt that said Luther Point Bible Camp. I can remember wearing it proudly to school one day and I was teased for wearing a shirt that said bible on it. One kid said, "Oh yeah, well I went to the devil's camp this summer." And from that day on, I made sure to never wear anything religious to school again. I kept going to bible camp, I was active at church, but I thought that school and church were two separate things and if I didn't want to get picked on, I left my church stuff out of school.

Another summer I purchased a cross made from square nails with a leather strap for a necklace. It was one of my treasured items from camp. It reminded me of the good times of bible camp when times were rough, and times are often rough when you are a teenager, especially in middle school. I would sometimes wear it, but I always made sure to keep it under my shirt and I never wore it on gym days because we had to change into gym clothes and I didn't want anyone to see that I was wearing a cross.

During my senior year, on a Sunday morning we were talking about Lent and giving stuff up as a spiritual practice. By depriving ourselves of something, it might help us to keep our focus on God. By suffering, we are being faithful, miserable but faithful. Our teacher then mentioned that it doesn't always have to be about giving something up. As a spiritual practice for Lent, we could add something that will help us keep our focus on God. Adding a spiritual exercise is a way to help us to be faithful to God. For me, I had been scared for the last 7 years to proclaim that I am a Christian in public. I had been scarred by that encounter in the fifth grade. So I decided that I would wear one of my horseshoe nail cross necklaces to school every day during Lent, **ON THE OUTSIDE OF MY SHIRT!!!** I was sweaty and nervous as I walked into school on that Ash Wednesday in 1996 because I had on my cross. What would people think? How many kids were going to make fun of me? I was shaking as I took off my jacket and put it in my locker. I kept my head down as I made my way to homeroom, not wanting to look anyone in the eye for fear of being made fun of. I took my seat and glanced around nervously... and nobody noticed my necklace. All day, I kept bracing myself, waiting for someone to make fun of me and at the end of the day, as I rode the bus home, I breathed a sigh of relief. But the next day, it started all over again, but each day got better and better. By the time Easter rolled around, not one person had made fun of me for wearing a cross to school. In fact, no one even mentioned it.

What I had made as a big deal in my head, turned out to be a little thing. Most of my friends knew that I was active at church, so they did not bat an eye when they saw the cross necklace. But it was an important step forward for me, live my life as a Christian and to be unashamed for Christ. That simple action of putting on a cross necklace every day for 6 weeks helped me to grow in my faith. And it was simple. Lent does not have to be full of misery and deprivation. In fact, this can be a life-giving time. We have more opportunities to live into our faith in Jesus Christ. We gather as a community every Wednesday night for supper and then worship. We can add a spiritual exercise like reading the bible, or praying at the break of day or at the end before we crawl into bed. While suffering is a natural part of life, faith is the gift that gives us hope that we will make it through our troubles. Faith does not require us to make big, grand gestures. Sometimes, it's a simple action that can help us grow in our faith and our strengthen our relationship with Jesus Christ. So this Lent, I encourage you to keep it simple.

- Pastor Pete

Lenten Worship

Lenten Worship will take place every Wednesday in March. (1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th)

Worship will start at 7:00 pm, following the Soup Supper.

LENTEN
Schedule

Lenten Soup Suppers

We will be serving soup suppers during Lent, and need volunteers to bring soup and dessert! There will need to be enough soup to fill up a roaster.

There will be a sign up sheet located in the back of the sanctuary. Please make a note of which kind of soup you will be bringing.



Luther Point Bible Camp

From July 16-21, there are a wide range of opportunities for kids of all ages at camp. The grades listed are the grades that your child will be going into

- † 4th - 6th Grade Camp
- † Jr. High Camp (7th - 9th grade)
- † 3rd & 4th Grade Camp (half week)
- † Grandparent/Grandchild Camp (half week)
- † Intermediate Horse Camp (some horse experience and entering at least 5th grade, there is also a beginner horse camp on June 25-30)

Here is a link to Luther Point's summer camp brochure: <http://lutherpoint.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/2023-Summer-Brochure-PDF.pdf>

Don't let the price spook you, there is a tiered pricing system and you can apply for camperships (kind of like a scholarship, but for campers) Check out the brochure for more information. The church will also help pay for your child to go to camp.

Pastor Pete will also be at camp that week, talk to him if you have any questions.



Thank You Notes

Thank you for making my birthday so special, the song was great! Also for the visitors, pretty flowers, candle, goodies, and telephone calls, you folks are the greatest!

Thank you,

Dorothea Olson.



Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will be meeting on Wednesday, March 8th at 9:30 am.

They will be meeting in the Fireside Room.



Graduate Quilting

Graduate Quilting will be meeting on Saturday, March 11th at 9:00 am in the Fireside Room at the church.

No quilting experience necessary, anyone welcome!



Baptism

Brooklyn Irene Boettcher become our sister in Christ through Holy Baptism on Sunday, February 19th at 9:00 am.

Brooklyn's parents are Taylor and Andrea Boettcher. Her Sponsors are Tommy & Naddy Glasbrenner and James & Josie Erlandson.

We celebrate and welcome our newest member to the Body of Christ. **Welcome, Brooklyn!**



In Memory

ELC celebrated the life of Milt Helmer on Sunday, February 26th.

Please keep his family and friends in your prayers.



A Time Of Renewal

At English Lutheran, we are in time of renewal and rediscovery of who we are as a church. In the last year, we have welcomed a new music team, a new pastor and Sydney added the role of finances to her duties. So, we have renewed our staff.

Our worships, fellowship, Sunday School, Confirmation, Youth Group and others are also in a time of renewal as we come together to be the body of Christ.

And our home, the church building, is also in a process of renewal. The property committee has been busy working with our contractor to renovate the end of our Sunday School wing, remodeling the bathroom upstairs and the old bathroom downstairs into a storage room. Once that is completed, we will take stock of what we have and find the best ways to organize and utilize the resources that we have in our building.

The next project will be the landscape of our home. It has gotten shaggy over the years and needs to be cleaned up. Reuvers Nursery will bring in the equipment, manpower and materials to get the job done. We need your help to pay for it. Our goal is to not have to raid our piggy bank to pay for this project. Our goal is \$15,000 and yes, that is a lot of money, but WE CAN DO IT!!!

Please prayerfully consider what you can give to this project. You can give a one time donation or spread it out over 3 months. Simply write "Property fund – Landscape project" on your check or give electronically and specify your gift for the Property Maintenance Fund.

Thank you for your support to help beautify our church for us and our community!!

God Bless!

February Council Meeting

- † Welcomed new members Lynette Winger and Dennis Swanson. Provided orientation and committee updates.
- † Credit cards updated for Pastor Pete and Sydney.
- † Discussion on funding for the landscaping project.,
- † CPR/AED classes will be provided for anyone that wants to be updated on the procedures. Charge will be \$25 per person to attend the class.

- † *The next council meeting will be **March 21st at 6:30 pm.***

Financial Update

January 31, 2023 Cash Balances:

General Fund = \$115,886.52
Dedicated Fund = \$81,080.14
Total = \$196,966.66
Thrivent = \$92,534.84

January General Fund:

Income = \$13,781.31
Expenses = \$20,362.76



PRAYERS

Special Prayers:

Prayers to the family of Milt Helmer, who passed away on February 18.

Healing:

Rachel Proulx, niece of Julie Davis ~ Breast Cancer

Liz Krohn

Mikey Krohn

Judi Nielsen

Kim

Nathan Baar

Tucker Thoen

Heather

Morgan

Jerry Baggenstoss

Chris Luchsinger

Brian Duppong

Long-term:

Lila Larson

Sherry York

Judy Morrow

Karen McAdams, Linda & Gary Onan's Daughter

~ Multiple System Atrophy

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

Mackenzie Marks, Connie Gossett's Granddaughter

Tomi Erlandson ~ Seizures & Health

Dale Melstrom

Marianne Melstrom

Mary Dee Prokop, Mother of Eileen Mewes

Wendy Wegerer

Military service:

Johnathan Bergman Josh Bechel



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 ~ Jeannette Wright



English Lutheran Church
229 West Main Street
Ellsworth, Wisconsin
Phone: 715-273-4617
Church website:
www.englishlutheranchurch.org

Find us on Facebook!
EnglishLutheranEllsworth

Congregation Council

President: Eric Van Nocker
Vice President: Melba Smith
Treasurer: Gary Brown
Secretary: Greta Larson
Denise Hager
Jill Hague
Lynette Winger
Dennis Swanson

Staff

Pastor Pete Warren
pastorpete@englishlutheranchurch.org
218-760-6974

**Sydney Durfee- Communications
Coordinator & Finance Administrator**
office@englishlutheranchurch.org
finance@englishlutheranchurch.org
Office: 715-273-4617

Julie Baggenstoss- Custodian

Music Director: Missy Kowalchuk
music@englishlutheranchurch.org

Accompanist: Ava Maxwell



Office Hours

Our office hours are:
Tuesday-Friday
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Stop in, call, or email. Sydney will be working from home Monday's and in the office Tuesday-Thursday, and Pastor Pete will be working Tuesday-Friday.



Our Mission:

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

Worship Services

Online ~ Sundays on Facebook
Livestream at **9:00 am**

In-Person ~ Sundays 9:00 am

WORSHIP
with us

Cross Beams

Published monthly by:
English Lutheran Church
Ellsworth, Wisconsin.

Email:
office@englishlutheranchurch.org



Cross Beams

March 2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUN 26	MON 27	TUE 28	WED Mar 1	THU 2	FRI 3	SAT 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 10am Fellowship Hour 10:15am Choir Practice 			First Day of Women's History Month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Wednesday Lent Supper 7pm Wednesday Evening Lenten Wor 			
5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 10am Fellowship Hour 10:15am Choir Practice 	6	7	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Women's Bible Study 6pm Wednesday Lent Supper 7pm Wednesday Evening Lenten Wor 	9	10	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Graduate Quilting
12 Daylight Saving Time starts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 10am Fellowship Hour 10:15am Choir Practice 	13	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Finance Meeting 	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Wednesday Lent Supper 7pm Wednesday Evening Lenten Wor 	16	17 Deadline for Newsletter Articles St. Patrick's Day	18
19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 10am Fellowship Hour 10:15am Choir Practice 	20	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Church Council Meeting 	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Wednesday Lent Supper 7pm Wednesday Evening Lenten Wor 	23	24	25
26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 10am Fellowship Hour 10:15am Choir Practice 	27	28	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Wednesday Lent Supper 7pm Wednesday Evening Lenten Wor 	30	31	Apr 1

