



Cross Beams

January 2022

Our Vision: A Christ-centered, serving community.

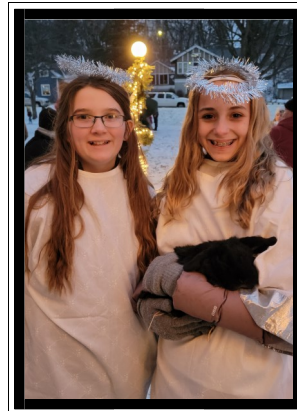
www.englishlutheranchurch.org



**Sunday School
Christmas Party**



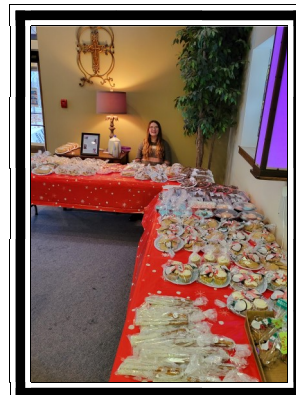
Live Nativity



**No-Rehearsal
Pageant**



Piper's Bake Sale





God Jul! This Swedish greeting is more than “Merry Christmas.” It is a wish for well-being, peace, and contentment for the entire Christmas season. I will make it my New Year’s and Christmas wish to you at English Lutheran. The first part of well-being is a contentment in our relationship with God and our Savior Jesus. This is why we retell the Christmas story and sing carols of praise each Christmas. We need to remind ourselves of the blessings of faith by remembering that Jesus means Savior and Immanuel (God with Us). I particularly enjoyed the spirit with which we sang “Go Tell It On the Mountain” last Sunday at our pageant. Let us carry this spirit throughout the season.

The second part of well-being is healthy living. That is especially important this year as another COVID-19 variant called omicron and a nasty flu threaten to give us disease. We need to remind ourselves once again of the importance of vaccines, boosters, masks, and tests so that we can take steps toward healing. We do this for ourselves and our loved ones, but also for the well-being of our entire faith community.

We thank the COVID task force recommendations which have guided English Lutheran to safe worship gatherings during 2020 and 2021. But we are now turning toward the reality that we must thrive as a faith community which lives out a vibrant church life within the threat of disease and pestilence. We will be recruiting ushers, inviting neighbors and friends, passing the offering plates and passing the peace among those who feel comfortable. We are still encouraging the use of masks. Beginning in the New Year we are offering Communion Cards with a place for you to write your email if you wish to be contacted should a worshiper inform us that they have been infected after they were in worship.

We feel that is important to revive many aspects of our congregational life to bring back the vitality to our worship. Thank you for your consideration.

Once again, I will greet you with the Swedish Blessing: God Jul!

Pastor Charlie Bunk
Interim Pastor

Pastor Search Update

The next step in the process of calling a new pastor will be to convene a Transition Task Force. The Task Force will begin meeting in January to develop a document called the Ministry Site Profile. This is a description of our community, our congregation and what we are looking for in a new pastor. Our synod will use the Ministry Site Profile to communicate with pastors who are interested in finding a new church. Pastor Charlie Bunk will be assisting the Transition Task Force in the process. A Call Committee will start working once the Ministry Site Profile has been completed.



A Call For Visitors

Let me propose a new initiative for English Lutheran in 2022. I will entitle this project the "Parish Visitor" program. We have had much more extensive programs and training in the past. I have seen the manuals for the Befriender program and the Home Communion program from 2012. A few of you are still visiting members who were assigned to you in 2012. Can you imagine the rich friendship you have developed in the past 10 years? Thank you, and may your tribe increase!

I have met with Melba Smith, Dortehea Olson, and Melanie Johnson to bring new energy to the parish visitor program. We propose an expanded list of volunteers visitors and 'visitiees'. For those willing to visit one or two members in their homes we would expect one time a month for shut-ins and every second month for those who have been following worship at home. We invite you to come to our initial meeting on Tuesday, January 18 at 1:30pm in the Fireside room. We will finalize our list of both who would appreciate visitors to their homes and those who are willing to visit with them on behalf of our congregation.

- Rev. Charlie Bunk

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Join us for the annual meeting of the congregation, which will be held on **January 30th at 9:15 am**, between the services.

We will vote on new members for council and our church committees, along with the 2022 budget and changes to our constitution.



Malawi Mission Festival

We have invited Deacon Laura Ramlow of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin to speak to us at a Mission Festival on Sunday, January 23rd at both services.

She will tell us about Malawi, the Warm Heart of Africa. She will bring a few books and news of the Mission which we support. We will take a special offering towards the health care in Malawi.

Bobbie Sawyers will be planning for some African food to be offered between services. She also will report on her email communication from her friends in the church in Malawi.

We look forward to hearing what Deacon Laura Ramlow has to say!



Thank You Notes

Christmas Worship Volunteers-

Thank you to all who helped with our worship services as greeters, ushers, communion assistants, readers, and slide operators!

Altar Guild-

Thank you to the altar guild for their hard work and beautiful decorations in the sanctuary throughout the Advent & Christmas season.

Community Missions & Christmas Tree of Spirit-

Thank you to everyone who made any donations for the Christmas Tree of Spirit, where proceeds went to Afghan refugees at Fort McCoy. Thank you to anyone who donated socks for the Pierce County Food Shelf. Your generosity does not go unnoticed!

Bake Sale ~ Piper Van Nocker-

Thank you to Piper for organizing a bake sale to fund Gillette Children's Hospital, and to anyone who donated bake goods, or purchased any. Piper was able to raise \$865!!!

Nancy, Bobbie, Chris ~ Community Missions-

Thank you so very much for the meal you provided and served to our confirmation students! The kids really enjoyed that fellowship time together and of course the food as many of them come directly from sports practice after school. Thank you again!

- Blessings,
CYF Team.



New Members

On December 26th, English Lutheran Church welcomed two new members to our congregation, **Michael and Elizabeth Krohn**. Please join us in welcoming them!

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, January 12th at 9:30 am in the Fireside Room.

Vicki Nelson will be the hostess this month.

All are welcome.

- Nancy Ellefson



Hiring: Music Director!

Have a love for music? We are seeking a talented musician to lead our worship service music on Sunday mornings! The music director is responsible for selecting music in coordination with the pastor, organizing aspects of our music ministry, including communication, recruitment, scheduling of musicians, copyright reporting, etc. The ability to play the piano is required, and other instruments are a plus!

Salary and hours will vary depending on experience. We are open to having a few people fulfill this role and have a rotating schedule of musicians as well, if needed.

Please contact the church office at office@enlishglutheranchurch.org or (715) 273-4617 to apply or if you have any questions!



Baptism

Layne Raymond DuFour became our brother in Christ through Holy Baptism on Sunday, December 26th. Layne's parents are Jon and Holly DuFour and his sponsors are Sara Swanson and Samantha Solberg.

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



December Council Meeting

- † Decision to cancel our text giving account because of lack of use.
- † Updating COVID Response & changes around church regarding COVID (offering plates being passed around again).
- † Work on convening nominating committee.
- † Discussion of parish nurse
- † Introducing parish visitor program.
- † Decision on new member gifts—gift cards
- † Next meeting: January 18th.



Financial Update

November 30, 2021 Cash Balances:

General Fund = \$74,839.78
Dedicated Fund = \$95,809.32
Total = \$166,010.49
Thrivent = \$170,648.81

November General Fund:

Income = \$11,615.63
Expenses = \$12,049.54



Confirmation Update

Confirmation at English Lutheran will start back up for the New Year on Wednesday, January 5th at 6pm the church.

The next meeting following the 5th, will be January 19th at 6pm as well.

Confirmation students will enjoy a dinner at the beginning of class.



Sunday School Update

There will be no Sunday School on January 2nd. Sunday School will resume for the New Year on Sunday, January 9th.

We look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year!



Text Giving Changes

English Lutheran will be canceling their text giving account for offerings. If you want to make an offering, you can do it online on our website, or place it in the offering plate.



PRAYERS

Special Prayers:

Healing:

Paul Huber

Rachel Proulx, niece of Julie Davis ~ Breast Cancer

Deb Hohl ~ Pain

Liz Krohn

Mikey Krohn

Maisley Maxwell, granddaughter of Rob & Wendy
~Maxwell, daughter of Tyler and Alexis Maxwell
~in hospital PICU

Dan Hager

Judi Nielsen

Long-term:

Lila Larson

Sherry York

Judy Morrow

Debbie Kannel-Howard

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



*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*

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 January ~ Vicki Nelson



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: Peter Carr
Vice President: Eric VanNocker
Treasurer: Gary Brown
Secretary: Julie Davis
CYF: Jen Abbas
CYF: Denise Hager
100th Anniv: Greta Larson
Worship & Music: Melba Smith
Property: Paul Tonsager

Staff

Pastor Charlie Bunk– Interim Pastor
pastor@englishlutheranchurch.org
605-467-9973

Sydney Durfee- Communications Coordinator

office@englishlutheranchurch.org
Office: 715-273-4617

Julie Baggenstoss- Custodian

Tristan Bale- Finance Coordinator
finance@englishlutheranchurch.org
715-273-4187

Music Director: Hiring!



Office Hours

Our office hours are:
Monday-Thursday
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Stop in, call, or email. Sydney will in the office Monday-Thursday, and Tristan on Tuesdays & Thursdays. Pastor Bunk will be in on Tuesdays & Wednesdays.



Worship Services

Online ~ Sundays on Facebook
Livestream at 8:30 & 10:00

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



Our Mission:

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

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Published monthly by:
English Lutheran Church
Ellsworth, Wisconsin.

Email:
office@englishlutheranchurch.org



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January 2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUN 26	MON 27	TUE 28	WED 29	THU 30	FRI 31	SAT Jan 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am DuFour Baptism 8:30am In-Person & Online Worship 10am In-Person & Online Worship 					Day off for New Year's Day New Year's Eve New Year's Day	
2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am In-Person & Online Worship 10am In-Person & Online Worship 	3	4	5 6pm Confirmation	6	7	8
9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am In-Person & Online Worship 10am Sunday School 10am In-Person & Online Worship 	10	11 6:30pm Finance Meeting	12 9:30am Women's Bible Study	13	14	15
16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am In-Person & Online Worship 10am Sunday School 10am In-Person & Online Worship 	17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	18 1:30pm English Visitors 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	19 6pm Confirmation	20	21 Deadline for Newsletter Articles	22
23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Malawi Missions ~ Missions F 8:30am In-Person & Online Worship 10am Sunday School 10am In-Person & Online Worship 	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am In-Person & Online Worship 9:15am Annual Meeting 10am Sunday School 10am In-Person & Online Worship 	31	Feb 1 First Day of Black History Month	2 6pm Confirmation	3	4	5

