



Cross Beams

January 2020

www.englishlutheranchurch.org

Our Vision: A Christ-centered, serving community.

english
LUTHERAN CHURCH



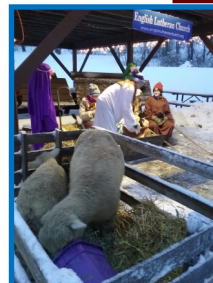
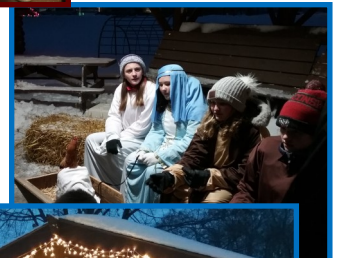
Choir



Children's
Christmas
Program



Thanksgiving Baskets



Live Nativity



Confirmation Christmas Party



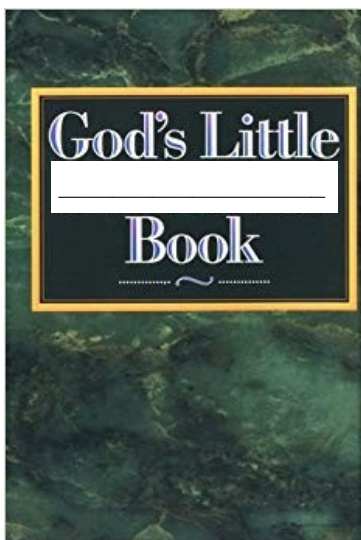


Grace and peace to you all!

I write this as Christmas is still 16 days away, but most of you will read it after a new year has begun. Frank Honeycutt wrote a while back in Living Lutheran about how if you walk down the religious book section, you'll see lots of titles that have the word "little" in them. God's Little Book for _____ (fill in the blank). In a world where some of us are running around like crazy from one thing to the next, a quick "little" faith shortcut might be attractive— even to me as a pastor at times. But there's nothing little about our God. We have a BIG God. And our faith life takes more than a couple of minutes here and there. Living out our faith involves centering all of our life on our Lord- our work, our play, our families- all of it. Just like any relationship we value, our relationship with Jesus takes time and reflection to avoid falling into a superficial faith no deeper than a thin-crust pizza.

For me, I realize the "bigness" of our faith and our God, whenever I take the time to sit back in a lawn chair while camping or to lay out on a massive boulder while backpacking in the mountains, and take in all of the stars on a moonless night. It literally boggles my mind how every one of those millions of stars visible to our naked eye is part of its own solar system and that there are billions or trillions more of them that we can't even see! There was a Ziggy comic strip years ago where Ziggy looks up to the stars and says something like, "When I look up at all those stars, and think about the vastness of the universe, I realize just how big I am!"

Now the joke is that Ziggy is just a speck of dust compared to the vastness of the universe God created. And yet, that same God DOES value us, to the point of knowing how many hairs we have on our head... which isn't all that impressive in my case! But seriously, despite how big all of creation is, God knows us each by name and loves us deeply. Deeply enough to send his Son to walk this earth with us and die to show us how deep that love runs. Psalm 8 says, "When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, what are humans that you are mindful of them?" How awesome indeed that the Creator of all that ever was, is, or will be, cares about little ol' us!



In Christ,

Pastor Jeff

pastor@englishlutheranchurch.org
715-273-4617

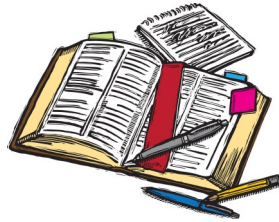
Women's Bible Study

Welcome the New Year and join our women's Bible study group. We meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am. Our study lasts approximately 1 hour.

In January, we will meet on the 8th. Session one is listening and hearing God's voice in our lives. We will reflect on our individual lives and how we are called.

Our hostess is Bev Greeley.

P.S. January and February are included together in the *Gather Magazine*.



Graduate Quilts



Join us again in March!

No meeting in January or 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

Thank you to Maxine & Eldon Huber for the gift of the Nativity set.

Thank you to all who sent us Anniversary Cards.
~ Dick & Vi Wilhelm

Thank you for all your thoughts and prayers.
~ Gwen & Darrell Swanson & Families

Gratefulness and Giving are so rare these days. My Thanksgiving Basket has provided for both of us. Thank you for your thoughts & prayers.

~ Sincerely, J.F.

Sharing & Caring Hands

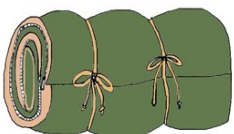
Monday, February 10

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.

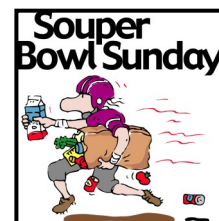


Souper Bowl Sunday

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: AFC or NFC. 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 54



Christikon Registration & Fundraising News

We have one or two spots left for our Christikon trip! (If any others wish to go when those spots are gone, they will go on a waiting list while we determine if we can staff a second van and if the camp itself has room for more campers.) So, sign up now!

Our group met recently and decided on some initial fundraisers, including **Stock Sales/Sponsorships, Brat Sale, and a Community Beef Dinner Event!** We hope you will support our youth by helping them in raising funds to pay for this awesome faith-building opportunity! Keep an eye open for more details in the bulletin, on our website and Facebook in the coming weeks!



Sunday School News

As we reflect on the past year, I want to thank everyone who helped make our Children's Christmas Program a success! The children did a great job presenting *Arise and Shine*, along with singing and praising the newborn King. I am so proud of them. Thank you to the Sunday School staff for all their help with making time in their schedules to help the children practice their singing. Thank you to the parents for bringing your children and waiting around for extra practices. Also thank you to my co-coordinator, Sammie, for helping out in my absence and Evan for providing the music direction. And of course a big thank you to the children for sharing your talents.

Going into the new year, we will be setting up some special mission Sunday projects as well as helping out in church service. Those dates are undetermined at this time, so please watch for letters coming home or emails. As always, if you have any ideas or would like to help, please contact us.

Sunday School Directors,
~ Renee Van Nocker or Samantha Lee, at childrensministry@englishlutheranchurch.org.

December Council

- † The council recommends the formation of a committee to advertise in February 2020 to find a youth leader.
- † The Annual Meeting to be held between services on Sunday January 26, 2020.
- † Approved funds to join Faithful Innovations Network.
- † The next council meeting (budget meeting) will be held on January 9th at 6 p.m.



Worship Attendance

Week of:	8:30	10:00	Total
November 24	33	64	97
December 1	38	67	105
December 8	44	84	128
December 15	45	112	157
December 22	43	82	125
Totals:	203	409	612
Average:	41	82	123
2019 Sunday Avg.	43	72	115

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, January 26 at 9:20 am

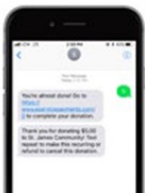
Join us for the annual meeting in January. We will vote on new members of council and our committees along with the 2020 budget and amendments to our Constitution as suggested by the ELCA and approved by our council. More information available on our website. or at: <https://www.elca.org/Constitution>



2019 General Fund

Month	Actual Monthly Income	Actual Monthly Expense	Actual YTD Income	Actual YTD Expenses
July	13,530.84	20,252.00	130,619.34	149,475.37
August	13,930.93	14,091.57	144,550.27	163,566.94
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

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.



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

Mobile App Giving:

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



Why eGiving? eGiving is an easy and secure way to make contributions. You can set recurring donations, so even if you can't attend, 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 Sue Reuvers who died. Sue is Bryan (Cindy) Reuvers' mother.

Prayers for the family of Michael DuBois who died.

Prayers for the family of Darrell & Gwen Swanson, Darrell's father, Arlyn (Bud) Swanson, died last week.

Healing:

Jerry Place, Deanna Redding & Darren Place's Dad ~ Dementia

Steve Pieczykolan, Linda During's Brother-in-law ~ Surgery Complications

Long-term:

Gary Karlstad, son of Joyce Karlstad ~ Stage 4 Lung Cancer

Terry Wegerer, Brother of Darla Moquin ~ 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

Sherry York

Wendy Wegerer ~ Health Issues

Esther Risberg, Julie Davis' Mother

Military service:

Zack Daleiden

Cody Tschida

Johnathan Bergman

"THE LORD WILL FIGHT
FOR YOU;
YOU NEED ONLY TO
BE STILL."

EXODUS 14:14, NIV

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

Lois Albarado died December 6, 2019. A funeral service was held December 10, at *English Lutheran Church*. Remember her family and friends in your prayers. Note: Lois is a member of SVEA church.





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
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

Custodian, Julie Baggenstoss

Music Director, Evan Mitchell
music@englishlutheranchurch.org



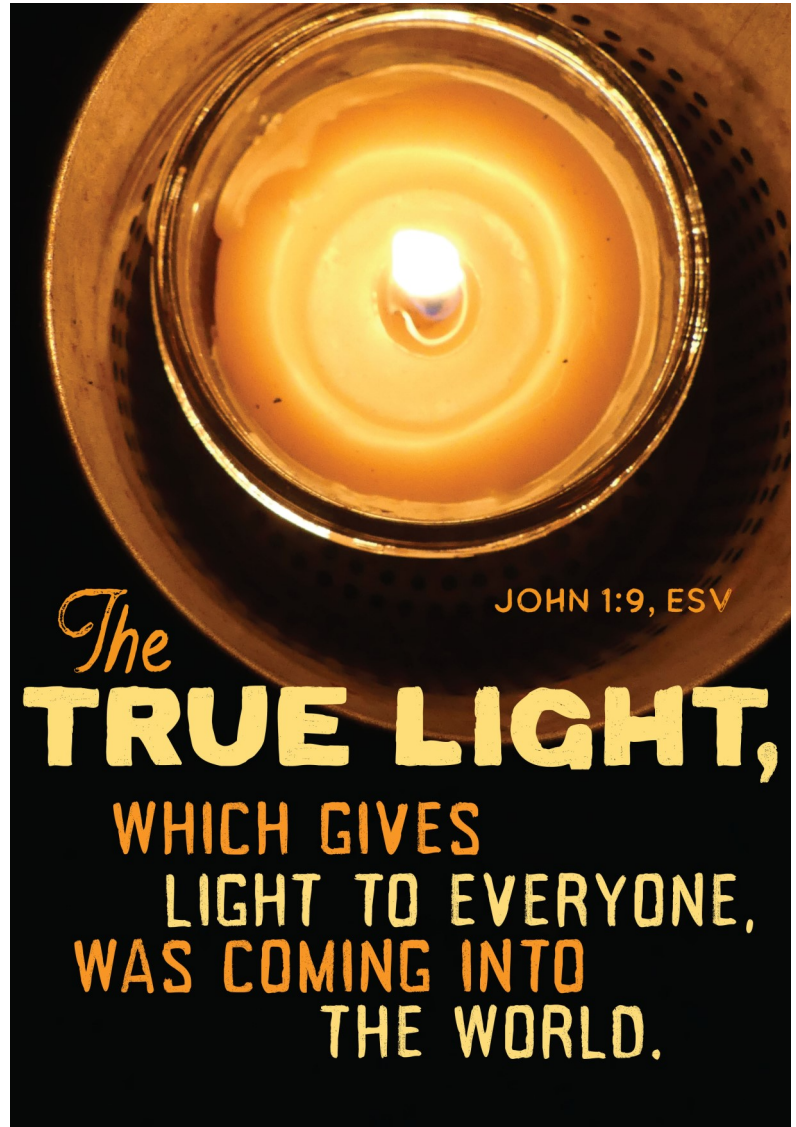
The church office is open:
Monday, Wednesday, &
Thursday
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Friday ~ 9:00 am-1:00 pm
Closed on Tuesdays.

Congregational Council

President: Warren Johnson
Vice President: Dennis Boettcher
Treasurer: Gary Onan
Secretary: Julie Davis
Peter Carr
Joyce Karlstad
Dean Mewes
Kristen Kinneman
Lynette Winger

Sunday Worship Times

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
10:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship



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 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



TUE 31	WED Jan 1	THU 2	FRI 3	SAT 4
New Year's Eve	New Year's Day			
5	6	7	8	11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Traditional Worship 10am Contemporary Worship 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Women's Bible Study 7pm Confirmation Class 8:10pm 9th Grade Confirmation Faith Statement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Church Council Budget Meeting
12	13	14	15	18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Traditional Worship 10am Contemporary Worship 10am Sunday School 11am Choir Practice 11am Christion Meeting 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Confirmation Class 8:10pm 9th Grade Confirmation Faith Statement 	
19	20	21	22	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Traditional Worship 10am Contemporary Worship 10am Sunday School 11am Choir Practice 	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Church Council Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Mission Endowment Meeting 7pm Confirmation Class 8:10pm Confirmation Guide Huddle 	
26	27	28	29	Feb 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am Traditional Worship 9:20am Annual Meeting 10am Contemporary Worship 10am Sunday School 11am Choir Practice 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm Confirmation Class 	