

Cross Beams

April 2021

www.englishlutheranchurch.org

Our Vision: A Christ-centered, serving community.



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Thurs. Apr. 1, 6:30 pm

Fri. Apr. 2, 6:30 pm

Sun. Apr. 4, 8:30 & 10 am

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Summer Bible Camp

1st Communion

Prayers

Bishop's Easter Message

Risen!

EASTER SUNDAY



Lenten Prayer Stations

Molly Abbas
First Communion

“From Death to Life”

Greetings church family!

By the time you read this newsletter, we will probably be smack in the middle of Holy Week. A year ago, we moved all worship online with hopes of “celebrating Easter together in-person” a few weeks afterward. A year ago! Well, that never happened as the pandemic proved more long-lived than we originally anticipated. We still won't quite be fully able to celebrate Easter “normally” this year. But we WILL be able to gather in-person, in addition to online, and there's a definite light at the end of the tunnel as more and more of us get vaccinated and as case numbers continue to decrease overall. By the way, if you haven't gotten your vaccine, I HIGHLY encourage you to do so when it's your turn. Having served in the military for nearly three decades now, my shot record is literally several pages long, so I had zero fear getting this vaccination. God has blessed us with many amazing scientific discoveries and vaccinations are certainly among them. The sooner most of us are immunized, the sooner we can get past social distancing and masking, which is what we all are so looking forward to doing. Our seniors have set a good example with over 70% already vaccinated!

This past year has been one filled with far too much death. It grieves me to no end that so many of them could have been prevented by simply loving our neighbor as much as ourselves. It also grieves me that Jesus was hung on a cross to die. Perhaps his untimely death could have been prevented too, if people would have truly listened, understood, and accepted his message of bold love for others. But we also know that Jesus willingly went to the cross to demonstrate that there are NO limits to his love for us and that death has no power over him and therefore no power over us. On Easter, Jesus overcame death and the grave and showed us the way to everlasting life with our Lord and our Creator. So, if there is any silver-lining in the tragic number of deaths in our world this past year, it's that we trust because of Christ Jesus, death is not the end. As we proclaim in our funeral services, the words of the apostle Paul say, *“For if we are united in Jesus in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with Christ in a resurrection like his.”*

I hope you all have a blessed Easter and take extra comfort this year in the promise of eternal life, both now and forever. God bless you abundantly with love!

In Christ's Name,

Pastor Jeff



Maundy Thursday Worship

Thursday, April 1, 6:30 p.m.

Online & In-Person



This special service includes holy communion and the traditional stripping of the altar, symbolic of the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples and the stripping of Jesus by the soldiers before his crucifixion. It also represents the humiliation of Jesus and the consequences of sin as a preparation for the celebration of new life. Please join us for this special service!

Good Friday Service

Friday, April 2, 6:30 p.m.

Online & In-Person



Our Good Friday service is a special service that walks through all the details of the final hours of Jesus' life through reading of scripture, candles, and special music. We will also use many visuals that will call our attention to the significance of what Jesus did for us on the cross. This service can be a very meaningful experience for those present and so we hope you will join us!

Easter Services

Sunday, April 4,

8:30 & 10 a.m.

Online & In-Person



Join us as we celebrate our Lord's resurrection! These are traditionally our largest services of the year. In order to maintain social distancing, our sanctuary seating is limited to about 70 people per service, so we are working on setting up the technology to have overflow seating in the dining hall downstairs with a video feed playing on two TVs as well. You can also join us on Facebook Live or watch a recording of the service after the initial broadcast. We hope you will join us!



*Thank you to the following for the beautiful
Easter lilies in the sanctuary and
donations to ELCA World Hunger:*

Ken & Dixie Basch

In memory of John Basch

Kevin & Connie Burgess

In honor of our Family

Vern & Nancy Ellefson

In memory of Muriel Jeffrey

Vern & Nancy Ellefson

In memory of Randy Ellefson

Doug & Judy Fahrendorff

In memory of Josh Winger

Dave & Bev Greeley

In honor of our children and grandchildren

Dave & Bev Greeley

In memory of our parents and brother

Jim & Elaine Hines

In memory of our parents

Augie & Deb Hohl

In memory of Ruth Krogull

Eldon & Maxine Huber

In memory of Jim Huber, Don Monett, & Kris Manson

Nancy Johnson

In honor of Erin, Matt, David, Anna, Andrew, & Julia

Nancy Johnson

In memory of David R. Johnson

Lila F. Larson

In memory of Burton A. Larson

Greta Larson & Sydney,

Reese, & Doug Bartels

In memory of Sallee Larson

Dale & Vicki Nelson

In honor of great grandson Hendrix Leo Matteson

Dorothea Olson

In memory of Clint Olson, Til & Marlin Peterson

Bryan, Cindy, Zach, & Aly Reuvers

In honor of our parents and family

Bryan, Cindy, Zach, & Aly Reuvers

In memory of Jim & Sue Reuvers

Bobbie Sawyers

In honor of baby Sunny Marie and all my grandchildren

Joel & Sharon Schulze

In memory of Sharon's sister, Dianne

Mark & Mary Sokolik

In honor of our family

Mark & Mary Sokolik

In memory of family and friends gone before us

Diane Wiskerchen

In honor of my children and my mother

Diane Wiskerchen

In memory of Larry Wiskerchen (husband)

Diane Wiskerchen

In memory of Edward Sanders (father)

Diane Wiskerchen

In memory of Duane Urch (uncle)

Lee & Jeanette Wright

In honor of our family

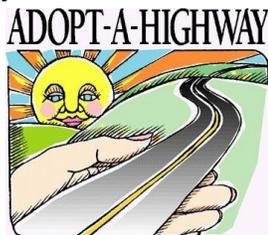
*Thanks to your generosity we are sending \$215 to the
ELCA World Hunger program.*



Adopt-A-Highway

Saturday, April 17
9:00 to 11:00 am

Join us for *Adopt-A-Highway* on Saturday, April 17, beginning at 9:00 am. We will clean our section of County Road C. Meet at church at 9:00. Students, this is a great service activity for your school service hours! For more information, please call Chris Karlstad at 273-3846.



Rain Date - Saturday, April 24.

Worship Volunteers

We are in need of volunteers for our worship services. Please consider volunteering your time during worship as an usher, reader, or to run the worship slides.

Contact Trina in the office by phone or email or sign up at the back of the church. Thank you for your time!!



Graduate Quilting

Our quilting group will meet on a Saturday in April, date TBD. We will remain small in number and will follow safety guidelines.



Thank You Notes

Thank you Pastor Jeff and church congregation for all your prayers and cards as I battled the virus, and as I continue to recover at home. God certainly was watching over me and answering prayers. Fifty days in the hospital was a long time, including 2.5 weeks of rehab. Prayers continue!

Thank you,
Roger Nelson

Thank you for all of the prayers from our prayer team on email and throughout the church. Your prayers are heard and appreciated!

Thank you to our musicians for leading us through the Holden Evening Prayer services throughout Lent during our Wednesday evening worship services!



March Council

- † Mission Statement read aloud by all.
- † Dwelling in the Word and Prayer by Peter Carr. Psalm 51:1-2.
- † April Dwelling in the Word and Prayer by Melba Smith.
- † Easter Worship Plans will continue as previously planned.
- † English Lutheran Church will donate \$225 from the *Thrivent Choice Dollars* fund towards the EMS books for Ellsworth Schools.
- † Finance/Treasurer's Report approved.
- † Pastor's Report accepted.
- † Next Council meeting April 20 at 6:30 p.m.
- † Mini fellowship/retreat lead by Pastor Jeff followed tonight's meeting.



February 28, 2021 Cash Balances:

General Fund = \$41,007.82
Dedicated Fund = \$80,120.19
Thrivent = \$75,190.07
Total: \$196,318.08

February General Fund:

Income: \$15,215.13
Expenses: \$17,031.86



LUTHER POINT BIBLE CAMP!

A couple children from English Lutheran and Pastor Jeff are heading to Luther Point in June and we'd love to have others join us! Luther Point is a wonderful camp located near Grantsburg, WI. Activities include swimming, Gaga Ball, field games, Bible studies, unique worship services, crafts, archery, gardening, and more! See the brochure on the bulletin board at church or head to their website, www.lutherpoint.org to learn more about all the programs they offer for children, youth, families, and grandparents/grandchildren. You are free to go any week that works for you, but our current contingent is heading there June 13-18 if you'd like to join others from English Lutheran. If you register by May 1, for a full week of camp, you can deduct a \$15 Early Bird Discount in addition to a \$55 Member Church discount. Bring a friend or a sibling and deduct an additional \$20 for both of you!

If you are in Grades 1-6, you can also apply for a campership from our church Endowment and all ages can apply for a campership directly from Luther Point as well. So, please don't let cost be a factor keeping you from a great camp experience!



First Communion

Congratulations to these students who have/will receive their First Communion this Spring:

Molly Abbas

Tyler Bechel

Abby Hinrichs

Ethan Ladwig

Evan Ladwig

Alivia Maher

Ava Whipple

Grace Whipple



Special Prayers:

- ~ Prayers for the family of David Truax, who died.
- ~ Blessings to those youth in our congregation receiving their First Communion this Spring.

Healing:

- Bill Moquin ~ Pneumonia
- Annie L., friend of Linda During ~ Breast Cancer
- Kathy, niece of Judy Erickson ~ Stage 4 Cancer
- LuAnn, friend of Melanie Johnson ~ Cancer
- Ruth, friend of Melanie Johnson ~ Cancer
- Roger Nelson ~ Health 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 Melstrom
- 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 April ~ Jeanette Wright

In Memory

David Truax died March 20, 2021. A memorial service was held at ELC on March 27, 2021. Remember Dave's family and friends in your prayers.

EASTER MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

Crosses We Don't Choose¹

Then Jesus told them, "... take up their cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24b

Dear Members and Friends of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

My friend Julie's mom had dementia. Julie picked up that cross and carried it as her beloved mother faded away. Paul was in second grade when he was diagnosed with diabetes. It was a cross he would carry for the rest of his life. Erica's drug addiction was a cross she and her family carried for years until she found sobriety. They were all crosses they didn't choose.

Jesus carried his cross on the road to his crucifixion. Along the way he falls, and a man named Simon of Cyrene² is forced to pick up Jesus' cross and carry it the rest of the way to Calvary. Simon was most likely a reluctant cross bearer. Most of us are reluctant cross bearers. We don't choose the pain or suffering we've been dealt, and yet we carry the load. We don't choose to carry another person's cross when they are too weak to carry it themselves, but we are at times compelled by love to do so.

This month marks the one year anniversary of the pandemic. It is a cross that we've all carried to one degree or another. For some it has been an inconvenience and for others a heavy burden of suffering and profound grief. Theologically there is no way to put a positive spin on the coronavirus or 2020. It has been a cross we didn't choose. The strain of carrying this cross is evident in our country and congregations. We are all weary of it.

On Palm/Passion Sunday and Good Friday we are drawn into the story of Jesus' arrest, trial, and death. We walk alongside him in the crowd as he carries his cross, our cross, compelled by love. We walk with a suffering Jesus straining under the weight of this cross, stumbling, falling, getting back up and finally letting go, letting another carry it. Jesus knew pain in his human body, and so Jesus knows our every weakness. Jesus himself was beaten, knew suffering and was unable to carry the weight of this cross. He falls to the ground under the weight of his love for us.

As a church we invite others to walk in the way of Jesus knowing that they are carrying crosses they didn't choose for themselves. We invite others to walk in the way of Jesus because as a community of faith we shoulder the burden and carry it all together. We help another carry their cross out of love. We are Simon of Cyrene.

Maybe that is what this past year has taught us; that we need each other; we aren't alone. We've been isolated, quarantined, but not alone. We can't take our congregations for granted. We need our faith communities and the relationships with other believers because we can't carry our own crosses. We follow the way of Jesus together bearing our neighbor's crosses out of love.

It is in the cross that Jesus carried and on which he was crucified that we can know the love of God and salvation. This is Luther's Theology of the Cross. It is in the crosses that we as a community of faith carry together as we follow in the way of Jesus that we too see and know the love God.

Dear friends of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, I am grateful for you, that during the pandemic, we were able to walk in the way of Jesus together. May you each know the joy of Easter! Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed.

Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

¹ Inspired by an article titled Crosses we don't choose in March 10, 2021 Christian Century by Debie Thomas

² Simon of Cyrene Matthew 27:32



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 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
 Office: 715-273-4617

Custodian, Julie Baggenstoss

Music Director, Steve Liening

music@englishlutheranchurch.org

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
 9 am to 3 pm



Worship Services

Online ~ Sundays on Facebook

Livestream at 8:30

In-Person ~ Sundays

Traditional - 8:30 am

Contemporary - 10:00 am



Congregation Council

President: Peter Carr

Vice President: Eric VanNocker

Treasurer: Gary Brown

Secretary: Julie Davis

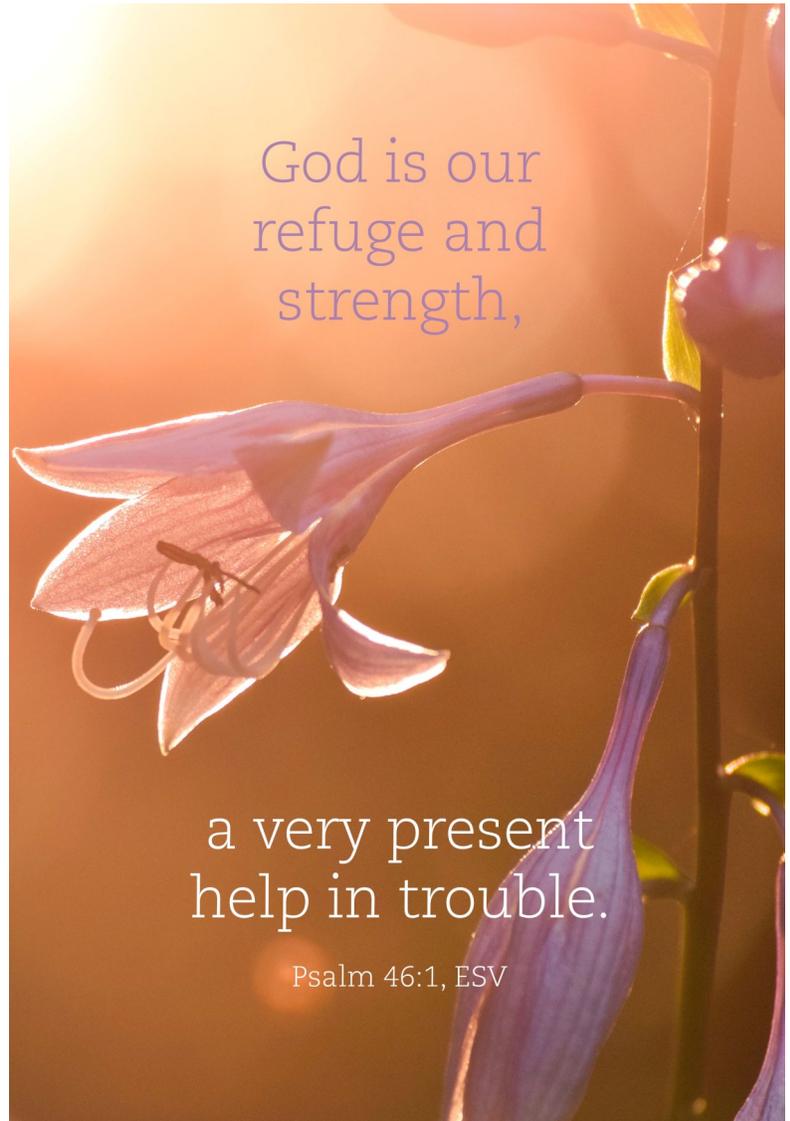
Jen Abbas

Greta Larson

Paul Tonsager

Denise Hager

Melba Smith



God is our
 refuge and
 strength,

a very present
 help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1, ESV

Our Mission:

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

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office@englishlutheranchurch.org



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April 2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 SUN 3	MON 29	TUE 30	WED 31	THU Apr 1	FRI 2	SAT 3
4 Easter Sunday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am In-Person Worship 8:30am Online Worship 10am In-Person Worship 	5 Church Office Closed Easter Monday	6 No Confirmation Class	7 No Confirmation Class	8 Maundy Thursday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Online Worship 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service 	9 Good Friday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Good Friday Online Worship 6:30pm Good Friday Worship Service 	10
11 Easter Sunday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am In-Person Worship 8:30am Online Worship 10am In-Person Worship 	12 Easter Sunday	13 6:30pm Finance Meeting	14 6:30pm Confirmation Class	15	16 Deadline for Newsletter Articles	17 9am Ditch Clean Up
18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am In-Person Worship 8:30am Online Worship 10am In-Person Worship 	19	20 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Confirmation Class 6:30pm Mission Endowment Meeting 	22	23	24 9am Ditch Clean Up - Rain Dt.
25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30am In-Person Worship 8:30am Online Worship 10am In-Person Worship 	26	27	28 6:30pm Confirmation Class	29	30	May 1 