



# Cross Beams

## December 2019

www.englishlutheranchurch.org

Our Vision: A Christ-centered, serving community.



ARISE AND SHINE

*A Series of Special Services for Advent*

|   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |
| WEEK 1:<br>RISING LIGHT   | WEEK 2:<br>REFLECTED LIGHT   | WEEK 3:<br>HEALING LIGHT   | WEEK 4:<br>ETERNAL LIGHT   |

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

## ~ Arise and Shine ~

In this Advent series for worship, we welcome the Christ Child, who is the light of the world, arising in our lives this season. In celebration, we, in turn, shine with the light of Christ in various ways for all the world to see the brightness of his love. Each week will focus on a different aspect of the light of Christ and how we are enlightened by him throughout our lives.

The theme verse for the entire series is:

***“Arise, shine, for your light has come”***  
*(Isaiah 60:1)*

**Week 1: Rising Light** (Isaiah 60:1): Living in the light of Jesus, we prepare to celebrate his birth. Repenting of our sins, we put away the works of darkness and dress in the armor of light.

**Week 2: Reflected Light** (Zechariah 9:16): During Advent, we remember the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World. We reflect his light in our daily lives.

**Week 3: Healing Light** (Malachi 4:2): With repentant joy, we anticipate the birth of our Savior. We listen to his Word and live according to it until he comes again.

**Week 4: Eternal Light** (Daniel 12:3): We look forward to Jesus’ Second Advent, when we will be raised in glory to live in his presence and shine like stars forever. Come, Lord Jesus!



**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
*Tuesday, December 24*  
*1:30, 4:00, & 9:30 pm*  
*Candlelight Christmas for Ellsworth*

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
*No worship services.*

# PICTURES



Affirmation of Baptism Service

Feed My Starving Children



Boxes Packed: 110  
Meals: 23,760  
Kids Fed For A Year: 65



Confirmation Thanksgiving Basket Food Collection



Confirmation Brunch



Choir



Sunday School Mission Project ~ Prayer Shawls



Moonlight Madness





**Isaiah 60:1**

*Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.*

Dear Friends in Christ,

This Advent, we're using a series called "Arise and Shine" for our worship.

Each week we will focus on a different aspect of the light of Christ and how we are enlightened by him throughout our lives.

This theme reminds me of my youth. Whenever my church youth group went on a retreat, or to Christikon, or on a Habitat for Humanity Trip, Pastor Norm would wake us in the morning with a song. Most often that song was "Rise and Shine."

Rise and shine and give God the glory, glory  
Rise and shine and give God the glory, glory  
Rise and shine and give God the glory, glory  
children of the Lord.

As typical teenagers, most of us grumbled and tried in vain to go back to sleep. We weren't quite ready for a new day. We were content to stay in the dark a little longer.

The days before Christmas are the shortest and darkest of the year. For those who are mourning the loss of a loved one or some other darkness in their life, it may be very difficult to "rise and shine and give God the glory."

And yet, part of the magic of Christmas, isn't the gifts, or the treats, or the decorations or even the parties and family gatherings. Rather, a big part of the magic of Christmas is that in the midst of our darkness, the Light of the World, the newborn Jesus comes to us once again bearing God's most precious gifts of peace, joy, hope, forgiveness, love, grace, justice and more!

May that good news help us all to rise and shine and give God the glory this Advent and Christmas! While we're at it, let's also share that good news with those we meet who could use the light of Christ in the midst of their darkness too.

Advent blessings to you all,



*Pastor Jeff*

[pastor@englishlutheranchurch.org](mailto:pastor@englishlutheranchurch.org)  
715-273-4617

## Christmas Tree of Spirit

There are many within our community who are in need of help. Please consider joining our effort to share the spirit of generosity this Christmas season with many local families.

Throughout December, consider selecting a gift from the *Christmas Tree of Spirit*, and then, purchase the item or donate money to fulfill the request.

Thank you for sharing the Christmas message of generosity!

This year we will be supporting:

- 1) School lunches
- 2) ELCA Good Gifts
- 3) Food Shelf - salt and/or pepper
- 4) Food Shelf - any salad dressings



## Season of Generosity

As you contemplate donations this holiday season, please keep *English Lutheran* in mind. Your contributions are needed for everything from special programs to basic operating expenses. For the convenience of church members, we offer electronic giving. Contact the church office or go to our website for more information.



## Thank You Notes

~ Thank you to all who helped with the Thanksgiving Baskets through your time collecting food, packing boxes, and distributing boxes and your donations of food and funds. We were able to provide meals for 50 families in our community!

~ Thank you our 9th grade confirmation students and parents for their donation of food for the Confirmation Banquet and for preparing and serving the food!

~ Thank you to our Stewardship committee for their time and efforts for our Stewardship drive. We've enjoyed watching the church on the wall grow!

~ Thank you to our Children, Family, and Youth team for their time and energy in developing a plan for our youth ministry moving forward.

~ Thank you to our Music and Worship Team and Altar Guild Team for decorating our church and sanctuary for the holidays!

~ Thank you to the group of folks who came with us to *Feed My Starving Children* in Eagan to pack food for Haiti. We packed 23,760 meals to feed 65 kids for a year!

~ Thank you to Julie Baggenstoss for volunteering her time to drive the bus to *Feed My Starving Children*!



## Christmas in the Park

### Holly Jolly Holiday

**Sunday, December 1, 4:30-6:30 pm  
East End Park**

Join us for a live nativity, caroling, Santa, lighting the Christmas Tree, and treats. This is a free event. All are invited!

We are joining with the Chamber, FFA, Zion Church, St. Francis, the Lion's Club and other community organizations for this community event.

*English Lutheran Church* will be doing the Living Nativity. Our youth and children will be the "actors" in our Live Nativity. Come support our youth and see the animals as well.

We'd love to see you in the park!



## Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will meet Wednesday, December 11, at 10:00 am in the Fireside Room.



Our Bible study focuses on Watch, Wait, Create. Immanuel means "God with us." How do we experience God's presence each day in our lives?

Our group continues to support *Freedom for Girls*. This gives Kenyan girls educational support for one year. \$6 for a year helps with providing these girls with the basics in order to attend school (sanitary pads, underwear, and educational supplies). If you are interested, send a tax deductible donation to:

Walworth Fontana Rotary Foundation  
62110 Badger Ridge Road  
Ferryville, WI 54628  
c/oPat Warner

We ask each of you to bring a Christmas treat. We will provide treats for those who are homebound or in a care facility.



## Graduate Quilts



Join us again in February!

QUILTING GROUP

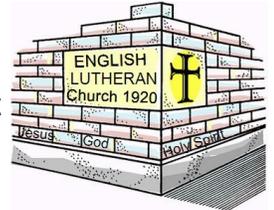
No meeting in December or January.

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

## Stewardship Update

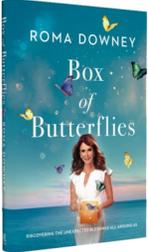
Thank you for your participation in our Stewardship Campaign for 2020 giving. Your gifts are a recognition of the blessings we have received from God, our father, who has been generous in many ways to us. Thanks for turning in your Stewardship Commitment card.

~ Kipling (Kip) J. Gore



## Box of Butterflies

Read it today!

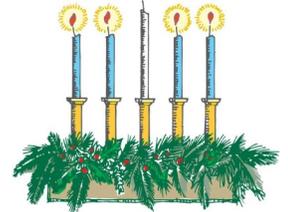


We have received a generous donation of 6 more copies of *Box of Butterflies*. Please take one to read and then bring it back when you're done, so we can pass it along to the next person.

Roma Downey—best known as the beloved angel on the TV show *Touched by an Angel*—has created a beautiful book filled with encouragement and hope, assuring us of God's comforting presence in our lives.

## We Need You!!

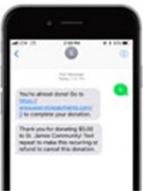
We are in need of folks to help with Advent & Christmas Worship! We need YOU!! Please check the sign up sheet at the back of the gathering area to sign up for worship roles for our Christmas Eve services. We are also in need of families to sign up to light the Advent Candles and read a prayer.



## Electronic Ways to give to English Lutheran Church

**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, please visit or call the church office **715-273-4617**.



### GivePlus Text:

Text: **844-912-2195** with the amount you want to donate, to make one-time or recurring contributions.

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



**Online Giving:** Visit [englishlutheranchurch.org](http://englishlutheranchurch.org) to set up and manage your one-time and recurring gifts.



## Christikon

The Super Early Bird Registration deadline is past, but it's not too late to sign up for Christikon! You can still get the regular Early Bird Registration of \$100 if you sign up by January 12 and turn in your registration, covenant and copy of insurance.

If you're in grades 6-12 and want to make new friends, grow stronger in your faith, view beautiful mountains, rivers, and waterfalls, and have a ton of fun, then you and your friends in the community should join us on our trip to Christikon in Montana this summer!

Christikon is an amazing Lutheran camp located in the beautiful *Absaroka-Beartooth Mountains*, just north of *Yellowstone National Park*. It is a place of intentional Christian community where lifelong friendships are often made and faith frequently grows stronger as we explore the adventure of life together!

We are planning to go July 10-18 or 19, 2020.

If you'd like to know more about this trip or if you want to sign up, please contact Pastor Jeff!

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## Sunday School News

Our Mission Sunday for November took place on November 17. The Sunday school children were able to complete 17 blankets to add to our prayer shawls. They had a great time working together for a wonderful cause.

Sunday school has started preparations for our annual Christmas Program. We will present a program filled with music and worship all about our Savior's birth on Sunday, December 15, at the 10:00 am service. The Sunday school children will need to learn a few songs to go along with the program. We will be sending home the words for the songs and their parts. Please help your child practice at home. More information regarding after Sunday School practices and special practices will be coming via notes and email.

There will be no Sunday school on December 29 or January 5.

If you are interested in helping, please contact the Sunday school directors, Renee Van Nocker or Samantha Lee, at [childrensministry@englishlutheranchurch.org](mailto:childrensministry@englishlutheranchurch.org).

## November Council

- † Kayla Zimmer updated the council on the Youth Leader job description as created by CYFM committee.
- † Due to the late notice of the due date of 12/1/19 for the male nomination to the Synod Council, we declined making any nominations from English Lutheran Church.
- † The council voted to approve the wording changes of the constitution of the ELCA.



## 2019 Annual Report

All committee chairpersons and ministry team leaders are encouraged to begin thinking about their Annual Reports. This is your chance to acquaint *English Lutheran Church* members and friends with the work of your group.

In efforts to standardize the report, we are asking you to provide the following details.

- † Team member roster
- † Name of member submitting the report
- † Ministry purpose or mission statement
- † Highlights and accomplishments from 2019
- † Goals for 2020
- † Concerns you'd like to communicate to the congregation regarding your ministry team
- † Acknowledgments

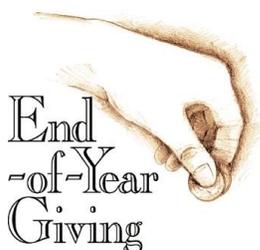


Please submit your written report to the church office no later than Friday, January 3. **Thank you for honoring this deadline!**

## End of Year Deadline on Contributions!

Donors must mail (and postmark) checks on or by December 31, 2019, or leave in the offering plate by December 29, 2019, in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2019.

Checks placed in the church offering on the first Sunday in 2020 will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2019, even if the check is pre-dated to or actually written in 2019.



## Worship Attendance

| Week of:                | 8:30 | 10:00 | 11:30 Confirm. Svc. | Total |
|-------------------------|------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| October 27              | 35   | 65    | 187                 | 287   |
| November 3              | 55   | 61    | -                   | 116   |
| November 10             | 37   | 74    | -                   | 111   |
| November 17             | 52   | 92    | -                   | 144   |
| <b>Totals:</b>          | 179  | 292   | 187                 | 658   |
| <b>Average:</b>         | 45   | 73    |                     | 165   |
| <b>2019 Sunday Avg.</b> | 43   | 71    |                     | 114   |

## 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          |

Note: October income noted above includes \$15,000 that was transferred to the general fund from our dedicated fair stand fund. This is the part of our fair stand profits that will help our general fund.

We also transferred \$4,000 to our youth ministry fund (this dollar amount is not represented in the above chart as it will remain in our dedicated funds).

Thank you for all of your time and work at our Pierce County Fair Church stand as it is very important to our annual finances and our ministry!

## Annual Meeting of the Congregation



**Sunday, January 26 at 9:20 am**

We will vote on amendments to our Constitution as suggested by the ELCA and approved by our council. Amendment information will be emailed, available on our website and printed in the gathering area. More information available at: <https://www.elca.org/Constitution>

# PRAYERS

## *Special Prayers:*

Blessings to our confirmation students and Ellsworth community for their time and donations of food for our Thanksgiving Baskets.

Congratulations to Dick & Vi Wilhelm on 60 years of marriage!  
Happy Anniversary!

### **Healing:**

Til Peterson

Jennifer Maday ~ Hip Surgery

### **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

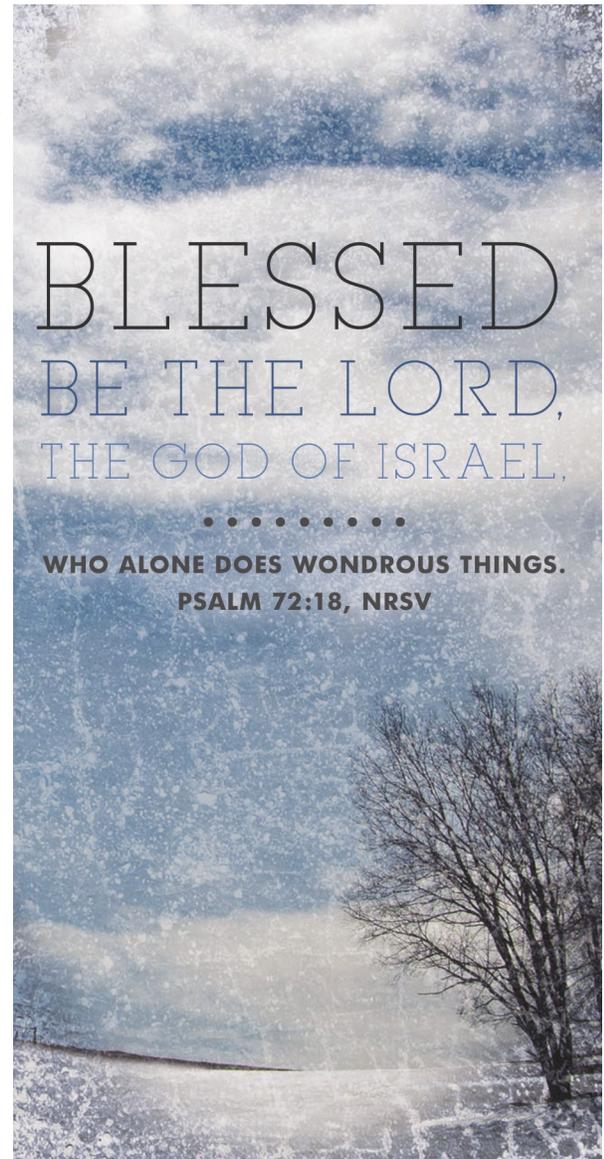
Esther Risberg, Julie Davis' Mother

### **Military service:**

Zack Daleiden

Cody Tschida

Johnathan Bergman



## **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 December  
~ Vicki Nelson

## **In Memory**

Richard Lee Hantsbarger died September 25, 2019. A funeral service was held November 10 at *English Lutheran Church*. Remember his family and friends in your prayers.



## “Don’t Lose the Baby”

An Advent Message from Bishop Laurie



On the First Sunday of Advent, every year, our family unpacks the wreath. Our tradition is to put an incomplete nativity scene in the center. We use the ceramic figures my mom made for us the first year we were married. The magi are put up on a high shelf until they make their appearance on Epiphany. Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, a few sheep, and an empty manger go in the center to wait.

One of our children would hide the tiny figure of the baby Jesus in a cup in nearby cabinet. Every year I’d worry a little and give a warning, “Remember where you put him, we don’t want to lose baby Jesus.” They were careful, but I would still worry that we might lose the baby Jesus. Before supper we’d light the blue candles on the Advent wreath and pray “Come, Lord Jesus be our guest.” Advent was about waiting to put the baby in the manger. On Christmas Eve, we retrieve the hidden baby Jesus, give a sigh of relief that we haven’t lost him, put him in the manger and light the Christ candle.

It’s possible to lose baby Jesus in the craziness of Advent. As Christians, surrounded by the most commercialized and secularized holiday of all, we are always in danger of losing Jesus. Not the ceramic Jesus figurine from our nativity set, but losing our way in Advent and never finding the holy in the midst of the hectic; never experiencing the expectant purposeful waiting that brings us to the awe and wonder of Jesus Christ, the baby born in Bethlehem.

Every year I want to issue some motherly WARNING: Don’t lose the baby! If you lose the baby, Christmas doesn’t make any sense at all. Without the baby, Christmas is a beautifully wrapped box with nothing inside. It is empty of meaning, but most of all it is empty of hope.

I want to issue a motherly CAUTION: Don’t lose the baby. If you lose the baby, Christmas doesn’t work. It is broken and like a cracked snow globe, the hope leaks out. The world needs Jesus this Christmas more than ever. There are so many broken things in our personal lives, the pain leaks out over grief, loss, and disappointment. There is so much systemic brokenness in our communities and in our country that it leaks out as violence. We need the hope and healing that only Jesus can bring.

Theologically, we don’t need to worry about losing Jesus because Jesus is with us. First in Luke 2 “**She gave birth to her first born son and laid him in the manger;**” then the incarnation of John 1, “**The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.**” The incarnation Jesus hasn’t been lost. In Matthew 28 Jesus promises to be with us “**always to the end of the age.**”

Perhaps a more accurate warning is this: DANGER: Don’t lose **sight** of the baby. That baby, that Word made flesh is the light of the world. In these dark days of winter we need the light of the world to shine in us and through us.

Now a little ENCOURAGEMENT for this Advent and Christmas: **PRACTICE INCARNATIONAL MINISTRY.** That means just show up and be Jesus for others. Go and be Jesus for those who may have lost sight of him. Go and be the Church, show your neighbors, your community the love of Jesus. Go to the dark places and bring Jesus. Go sit with those who are sad and be Christmas. Go and speak the truth into the cracks of the broken places in our society. Go, just show up and be the hands, feet, the voice, the love of Jesus. Go and let your light so shine before others, go be the light of Christ, the light no darkness can overcome.

May God bless you, your family and congregation, and may the peace of God made real to us in a baby born in Bethlehem fill your hearts this Advent and Christmas Season.

*Rev. Laurie Sta. O'Brien*



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 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



HEBREWS 13:2, NRSV

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

## 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)



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# December 2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| SUN  | MON | TUE | WED   | THU   | FRI | SAT |
|--|-----|-----|-------|---|-----|-----|
| Dec 1<br>8:30am Traditional Worship<br>10am Contemporary Worship<br>10am Sunday School<br>4:30pm Christmas in the Park ~ Live Nativity | 2   | 3   | 4     | 5   | 6   | 7   |
| 8<br>8:30am Traditional Worship<br>10am Contemporary Worship<br>10am Sunday School   | 9   | 10  | 11    | 12  | 13  | 14  |
| 15<br>8:30am Traditional Worship<br>10am Contemporary Worship<br>10am Sunday School Christmas Program                                  | 16  | 17  | 18    | 19  | 20  | 21  |
| 22<br>8:30am Traditional Worship<br>10am Contemporary Worship<br>10am Sunday School  | 23  | 24  | 25    | 26  | 27  | 28  |
| 29<br>8:30am Traditional Worship<br>10am Contemporary Worship  | 30  | 31  | Jan 1 |  |     |     |