



Cross Beams

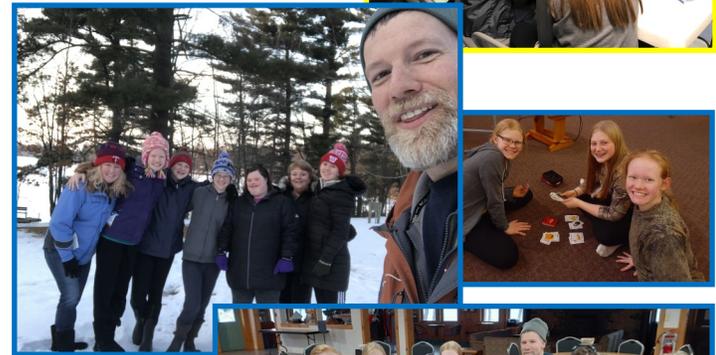
April 2020

www.englishlutheranchurch.org

Our Vision: A Christ-centered, serving community.



Lent Soup Suppers & Games



Confirmation Retreat



Holy Week & April Worship

Join us in April for On-Line Worship on Facebook!
April 5, **Palm Sunday**, 10:00 AM
April 9, **Maundy Thursday**, 6:30 PM
April 10, **Good Friday**, 6:30 PM
April 12, **Easter**, 10:00 AM
April 19 & 26, Sunday, 10:00 AM



"And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:20b

Grace & peace dear siblings in Christ!

My how things have changed just since I wrote to you in this newsletter last month! We are truly living in unprecedented times for most, if not all of us! This is true for English Lutheran Church too. A few weeks ago, I had all of the Sunday and Wednesday worship services planned through Good Friday. Now all those plans had to be scrapped or significantly modified. A few weeks ago, I'd never done a Facebook Live video- as of this writing, I'm about to record my fifth worship service to be streamed on-line. A few weeks ago, it would take me 30 minutes to do the last minute preparations for a worship service. Now it can take 3-5 hours to get all the pieces ready to record a service (PowerPoint, sound, lighting, family helpers, re-takes, internet upload, etc.) A few weeks ago, I'd only done video conferencing a couple times while I served on the Luther Point Board. As of today, I've participated in nearly a dozen "Zoom" video conferences and have many more scheduled. A few weeks ago, we were planning a Palm Sunday Breakfast, First Communion classes, Wednesday night game and folk dancing nights, a Children's Easter event and so much more, all of which have been cancelled or postponed. A few weeks ago, if I received word a member was at the end of life in a care center, I'd visit them and give them a special blessing. Now, when this happens, I'm only able to do so via FaceTime. I'm praying the things we are learning from some of these changes will help God's church move into the 21st century in innovative ways that will continue long after this crisis is over.

Yes, much has changed, at least temporarily. But, of course, one thing has not changed; Jesus is still Lord and Savior of all!

We may not be able to gather this year together on Easter Sunday- at least not for the date on the calendar, but that does not mean that we can't rejoice in spirit together, once again, that Jesus Christ conquered the grave and death for us, all those years ago. That same Jesus promises to be with us in good times and bad until the end of the age. I hang onto that promise in troubling times such as these and I hope you will too. We'll get through this together, with Jesus at our side. And speaking of Easter again, whenever we are able to gather again in our sanctuary, I'm hoping we can celebrate Easter in a big way then too. What a wonderful day that will be! In the meantime, I pray that all of you stay safe, stay healthy, that you are able to keep your head above water financially, emotionally, and spiritually, and that you will keep the faith that you are loved by God, no matter how bad things may get. I miss you all and can't wait to see you face to face when the time is right.



God bless you all abundantly,

Pastor Jeff

Join ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH'S Holy Week & Easter Celebration!

We Invite Participation on EVERY Front Lawn!



Before Sunday, April 5

Make a cross that can be put in your front lawn. The larger the cross the better, but do whatever you are able and have the supplies to do! Make sure it can handle some rain and wind. If anyone needs to do this, please email Pastor Jeff pastor@englishlutheranchurch.org or the church office and we'll try and get one set for you! We know we have some amazing woodworkers in our congregation!



On April 5, Palm Sunday

Place any palm branches or leafy plants around your cross to remember Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem.



On Maundy Thursday, April 9

Place water pitchers, towels, and a big heart on your cross. This is the day Jesus washes his disciples' feet before they have the Last Supper. He tells them "Love one another as I have loved you."



On the morning of Good Friday, April 10

Take a crown of thorns which you have made and place it on the cross. See Pinterest for ideas or just draw one that can be added.

At the end of the day, after sunset, take the crown off and let your cross be empty as we remember Christ being laid in the tomb.

<http://www.totalhealthnow.me/recipe/homemade-crown-of-thorns-lenten-activity/>



Late Saturday or Early Easter Morning, April 12

Deck out the cross! Flowers, butterflies, a white cloth ... whatever you have! Decorate your cross and get it ready for your neighborhood on Easter morning, Sunday, April 12 when we can ALL SEE signs of new life given through our Risen Lord Jesus Christ!



PLEASE TAKE PICTURES & SEND THEM TO PASTOR JEFF

E-MAIL pastor@englishlutheranchurch.org or text 651-235-7204, or on Facebook!

What an Easter celebration this will be to see all these crosses as we remind our community of the Easter hope and joy we have in Jesus, even when we can't be together!!! Those who don't belong to English Lutheran are invited to join us in the fun too!

Thank you to Cheryl Halvorsen and Pastor Sarah Cordray of Luther Memorial Lutheran in Syracuse, Nebraska for sharing their inspiration of such a great idea!

CHRISTIKON STOCK SALES



With our church building essentially shut down for COVID-19, our ten youth going to Christikon may not be able to do some of the fundraising we had planned. If you are able, we would greatly appreciate your purchase of "Stock" in our trip to Montana in July. Please mail donations to English Lutheran and write "stock sales" in the memo of your check. Thank you!

What "Dividends" do you receive with your stock purchase?



\$20 STOCKHOLDERS RECEIVE:

1. At least 2 cards/postcards from a youth going to Christikon.
2. Our sincere gratitude!
3. Joy knowing you helped a child go to Christikon (Bible Camp)!



\$30 STOCKHOLDERS RECEIVE:

1. At least 2 cards/postcards from a youth going Christikon.
2. Our sincere gratitude!
3. Joy knowing you helped a child go to Christikon (Bible Camp)!

PLUS:

4. A special invite to a "THANK YOU" Ice Cream Social Event after the trip

Cookie Cutter Jesus: An Easter Message



I visit a different church in our Synod nearly every Sunday. This Sunday I discovered a 15 foot cookie cutter outline of the figure of Jesus hanging high above the altar. I kept staring at the shape during the first hymn thinking about the outstretched arms of Jesus and realized this as an Easter cookie cutter. This is the resurrected Jesus who showed the wounds of the nails in hands when he appeared to Mary Magdalene and the other women. These are the women who became the first witnesses to announce that Jesus had risen from the dead to the other disciples. I was still thinking about the cookie cutter shape of Jesus when the last hymn was sung. After worship I visited with a long time member of that congregation, Shirley. I remarked how I appreciated the 15 foot cookie cutter Jesus above the altar. Shirley smiled and then told me this story: The church sanctuary was built in the 1970s. Everyone was so excited for the first worship service. The construction workers were busy putting the finishing touches on the sanctuary. The metal shape of Jesus was lying flat on the floor in the church waiting to be hung above the altar. At the

time Shirley's daughter, Kari was about 3 ½ years old. Shirley and little Kari were checking out the progress in the sanctuary. Kari, a normal curious child, stepped into the cookie cutter frame and stood in the middle of the Jesus shape. Kari said to Shirley, "Look mommy, I'm standing in Jesus' hand." It was a sweet memory of that long ago moment. Shirley then went on to finish that story. She told me that her daughter Kari died of complications from cancer treatment two years ago. She was only 46. Shirley said that she finds comfort in knowing that her daughter is now resting forever "in Jesus' hands." She often thinks about Kari when she sees the shape of Jesus above the altar. She envisions her daughter in Jesus, resting in Jesus. This Easter, remember we are "in Jesus." We have been baptized into his death and resurrection. We are people who believe "in Jesus."



Friends, as I write this I realize that we are living in complicated times, COVID-19 frightens, cancer kills, politics are ugly, wars rage, immigrant and refugees suffer, racism, gun violence, sexism, climate change, drug abuse are real concerns and yet here we are standing "in Jesus." During this season of Easter, no matter where you are on your spiritual journey, know that the resurrected Jesus reaches out his nail scarred hands to us all, appearing to us in our grief, in our scariest moments, in our despair. This Easter Jesus walked on the road to Emmaus with the two grieving disciples. This is the resurrected Jesus who appeared to the terrified disciples in the locked room and said "peace be with you." This is the resurrected Jesus who ascended into heaven and says to us all, "Go and make disciples of all nations and remember I am with you ALWAYS to the end of the age." You are "in Jesus." Go in peace and share this Easter good news with the world.

Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

***Romans 6:3-4** Do you not know that all of us who have been **baptized in Christ Jesus** were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.*

***2 Corinthians 5:17** So if anyone is **in Christ**, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!*

1. I bake and decorate hundreds of rolled out cookies every year and have a collection of old cookie cutters.
2. The women at the tomb were the first witnesses to the resurrection. 2020 is the 50th Anniversary of the ordination of women pastors in the United States. Save the date, November 7, 2020 is the Synod's Day of Celebration for the 50th Anniversary at Luther Park's new ministry center.
3. Thank you to Shirley Bostrom for giving me permission to share this part of her story.



March Council

- † Election of a new president. Peter Carr accepted the nomination and was elected president of the English Lutheran Church Council.
- † Online worship plan. Council approved online worship plan for Wednesday's at 6:30 p.m. and Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Resume in person services following the CDC/Wisconsin state guidelines.
- † A consensus was reached by the council to place a hold on hiring a youth leader for now due to Covid-19. There have not been any responses to the advertisement.
- † The council discussed the church finances during the Covid-19 outbreak and beyond. The council will look to the Finance Committee for guidance. No changes for now from the council.
- † Discussed ways to support the church, each other and the community.
- † No reports submitted at this meeting.

Thank You!

Thank you to Warren Johnson for his time on council and serving as president!

Puzzle
Picturing the *Lord's Supper*
Jesus ate the Passover meal with his disciples as a symbol of the new covenant.

Directions: Use the picture clues to fill in key words from Luke 22:19-20, NIV.

And he took _____, gave _____ and _____ it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my _____ given for you; do this in _____ of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This _____ is the new _____ in my blood, which is _____ out for you."

LUKE 22:19-20, NIV

Answer: bread, thanks, broke, body, remembrance, cup, covenant, poured

2020 General Fund

Month	Actual Monthly Income	Actual Monthly Expense	Actual YTD Income	Actual YTD Expenses
January	15,199.64	18,437.01	15,199.64	18,437.01
February	12,812.80	45,778.25	28,012.44	64,215.24

Cash Balances as of February 2020 month end:

Total = \$152,700.86
 General Fund = \$16,431.49
 Dedicated Fund = \$66,269.37
 Thrivent = \$70,000

Notes:

- ~ \$70,000 was moved to Thrivent Financial (\$28,000 from General Fund & \$42,000 from Dedicated). These funds are available, if needed, on short notice.
- ~ The expenses for the month of February are higher due to \$28,000 being moved to Thrivent from this fund.

Mission Endowment Fund

The Women's Group approved and funded 3 requests in the last quarter of 2019 from interest earned on money in the Women's portion of the Endowment Fund:

- \$250 for turkeys for Thanksgiving Baskets
- \$321.91 to replace the Holden Evening Prayer books for Lenten Services
- \$100 for material to make graduate quilts

PRAYERS

Special Prayers:

Prayers for those suffering with the Coronavirus and those who are treating them.

Death of Randy Ellefson, (Vern Ellefson's brother) pray for his wife Shelby and daughter Leia.

Pray for the family of Bryan & Cindy Reuvers, Bryan's Dad, Jim Reuvers, died.

Healing:

Rusty Crow

Steve Staker, Judy Dumermuth's Brother-in-Law ~ Cancer

Long-term:

Sherry York ~ Surgery

Debbie Kannel-Howard

Terry Wegerer, Brother of Darla Moquin

~ Stage 4 Lung Cancer

Jerry Place, Deanna Redding & Darren Place's Dad

~ Dementia

Gary Karlstad, son of Joyce Karlstad

~ 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

Wendy Wegerer ~ Health Issues





Happy Anniversary!

Anniversary wishes to:

Clint & Dorothea Olson ~ 68 years on April 5

Jim & Elaine Hines ~ 60 years on April 9

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

Luther Point
BIBLE CAMP

Let's Go To Camp

Summer Camp
2020

Registration open now
Early Bird discount until May 1

WWW.lutherpoint.org

Luther Point Bible Camp

The Schedule for Summer 2020 is out and registration is open. Be sure to check out the *Summer Discounts* section, including the *member church* discount.

Luther Point has waived all nonrefundable deposits. Sign up for camp today with no deposit.

www.LutherPoint.org

Note that children in grades 6 and under can receive \$100 towards their camp fees from our Children's Endowment Fund. Contact the church office.



~ Thank You ~

Many thanks to all of our volunteers who help when we have worship services and now when we are out of our physical church for a time.

Thank you to Jeanette for helping with our mailing and sending out cards for our deaconess ministry!

Thank you to those who have supported us through prayers and encouragement as we head down this uncharted path.

Thank you to those who have volunteered to send cards and provide meals to those in our congregation and community.

Thank you to our first responders and caregivers in our community whether they are actively serving in a facility or from home. We thank you for your talents and time!



Support our Local Small Businesses

Check out the Ellsworth Chamber of Commerce website "Our Community" page for an updated list of those small businesses in our area who are open for business now and the services/hours they are operating.

Time to rally.

Together, let's support local businesses, the bedrock of our community. Here's how...





English Lutheran Church
 229 West Main Street
 Ellsworth, Wisconsin
 Phone: 715-273-4617
 Church website:
<http://www.englishlutheranchurch.org>
 Find us on Facebook!

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.

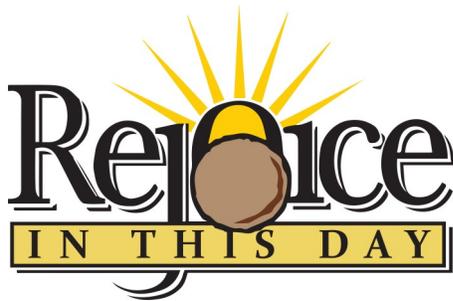
**Communications Coordinator &
 Finance Administrator, Trina Groen**
office@englishlutheranchurch.org

Custodian, Julie Baggenstoss

Music Director, Evan Mitchell
music@englishlutheranchurch.org

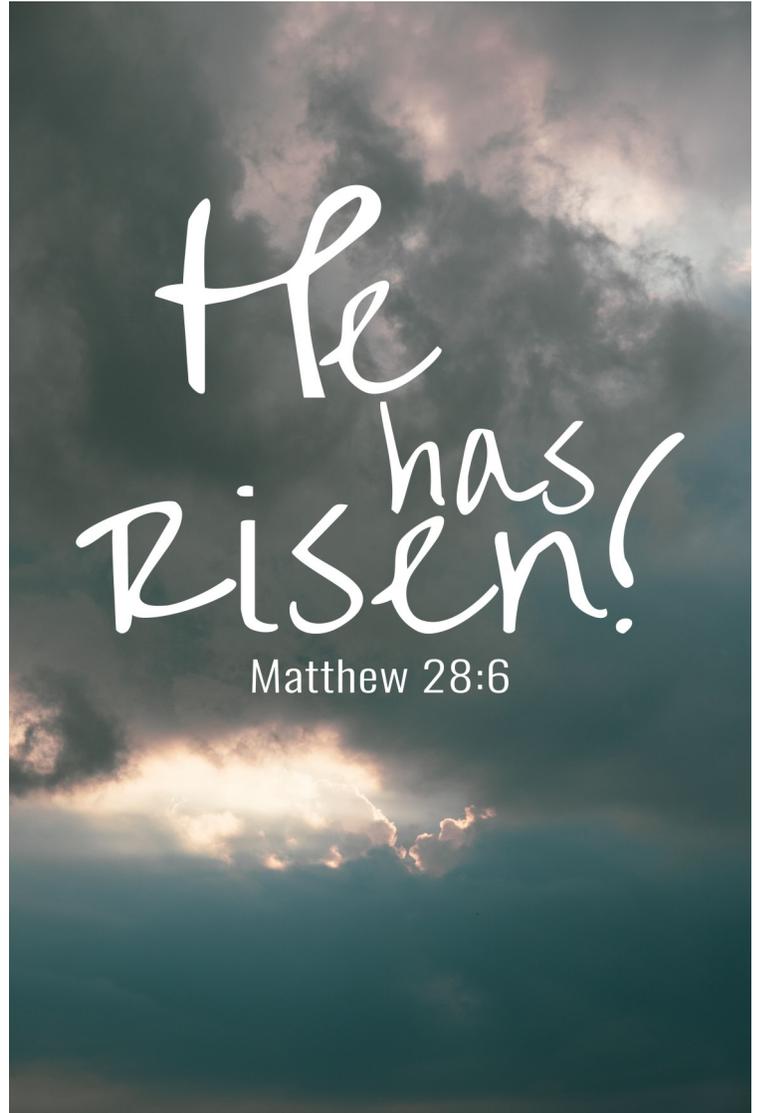
Congregational Council

President: Peter Carr
Vice President: Dennis Boettcher
Treasurer: Gary Brown
Secretary: Julie Davis
 Jen Abbas
 Melba Smith
 Eric Van Nocker



Sunday Worship Times

10:00 a.m. Online Worship



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 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

	TUE 31	WED Apr 1	THU 2	FRI 3	SAT 4
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Online Lenten Worship Ser 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Online Worship 	7	8	9	10	11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Online Worship 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Confirmation Class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Online V 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Good Friday Online Worshi 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Online Easter Worship 	14	15	16	17	18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Online Easter Worship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:30am Salem Group Meeting 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Online Worship 	21	22	23	24	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Online Worship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Church Council Meeting 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Online Worship 	28	29	30	May 1	2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Online Worship 	27				