

STEEPLE ECHOES

December 2018

*A Monthly Newsletter
of Evangelical Lutheran Church
of Mount Horeb*




EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
of Mount Horeb

*A family of faith, reaching out
to share God's love with all*



WORSHIP SCHEDULE AT ELC

Holy Communion Celebrated 1st & 3rd Sundays at all services.

SATURDAY: 5:00pm-(in Chapel) Modified Traditional Worship

SUNDAY: 8:30am Traditional Worship using liturgies from *Lutheran Book of Worship* & *With One Voice*

10:30am Contemporary Worship led by ELC Music Team

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY – THURSDAY: 9:00am – noon / 1:00 – 4:00

FRIDAY: 9:00 - noon

ELC'S STAFF

Pastor John Twiton

Pastoral Intern Jason Xiong

Accompanists: Carol Engstad, Ruth Heinecke, Barb Underwood

Agape Preschool Director: Amy Kellesvig

Bell Choir Director: Kristin Willcutt

Custodian: Brian Johnson

Junior Choir Director: Barb Underwood

Music team leader: Pat Doty

Office Assistant: Carol Engstad

Office Manager: Kathy O'Donnell

Organist/Senior Choir Director: Diane Dangerfield

Youth Director: Brenda Martin

A Note from PASTOR JOHN

Adult Advent Announcement

David A. Redding, from *If I Could Pray Again* (1965)

O Lord,
Let Advent begin again in us,
Not merely in commercials;
For that first Christmas was not
Simply for children,
But for the
Wise and the strong.
It was crowded around that cradle,
With kings kneeling.
Speak to us
Who seek an adult seat this year.
Help us to realize,
As we fill stockings,
Christmas is mainly
For the old folks —
Bent backs
And tired eyes
Need relief and light
A little more.
No wonder
It was grown-ups
Who were the first
To notice
Such a star.

As we begin a new season of Advent, I echo David Redding's reminder that the news we await is much bigger than Christmas stockings, shopping, and all that occupies so much space this season. The truly important event is for all those longing for a sign of hope, a light in the dark, and a promise of a future. Those things are what I need now as much as I've ever needed any Christmas gift.

God's Peace,



FROM the INTERN'S DESK

It Takes a "Village"!

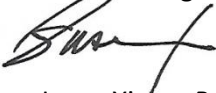
"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." (Matthew 18:20 ESV)

Growing up my mom was very much into getting our house decorated for the Christmas season. She was never early (we usually decorated on Thanksgiving or the weekend after) and there were some traditions she carried out year after year. One of my particular favorites was a set of Department 56 hand-painted porcelain houses that lit up. We had about a dozen of these extraordinary pieces along with countless other accessories. She and my dad would create an entire "village" on the mantle each year, carefully placing the houses, the people, and lots of fake snow. This was a labor of love for her and even if she did not anticipate being able to "show it off" to anyone – it was for her and it was special. I have now inherited this entire village of houses and I plan to continue this tradition – once we have the space.

This time of year many families and friends will come together to celebrate the birth of the Son of God as we do every year. Tradition is an important part of the season but there is also something to be said about seeing what new things can be started that may become tradition. That Christmas village from my childhood grew into a tradition, and over the years it took all three of us to get it put together. What are the traditions in your group? Do they get the entire "village" involved? Life is not an easy road for us to be on. We need a village some days just to get through life and no matter what God is right there with us, among the whole village of our friends, family, and neighbors.

No matter what your Christmas season looks like remember that as we celebrate the birth of the Savior that Jesus is already with us and living among the village with us. We can't do this alone and rejoice in the presence of God during this coming month and all year-round.

Christmas blessings to you and your village!



Vicar Jason Xiong, *Pastoral Intern*

YOUTH NEWS

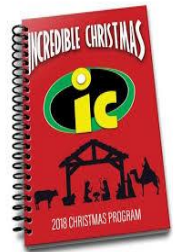
Peer Ministry Training at ELC - December 1st, 8:30 - 5:30 pm. - All adults and high school youth are invited to participate in a new ministry at ELC, "Peer Ministry". Peer Ministry is equipping students with skills to care for others, in everyday situations. Youth today have many difficult issues they deal with; being good students, peer pressures, use of social media and how to be a true friend, to name a few. Mt Horeb has also suffered loss this past year, young lives taken too soon. Please join us for this great opportunity to work together with Lyle Griner, our presenter. Email brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org to register.

YouthWorks Mission Trip to Indianapolis - Currently, we have 11 youth and 3 female adults signed up to attend our week of serving others in Indianapolis, June 23 - 28, 2019. We will be serving in food pantries, homeless shelters, and community organizations. **We do have 2 open youth spots available until the end of Dec., if someone would love to join us. Also we are in search of an adult male leader to attend as well.** The cost of the trip should be covered by our fundraising this year. Please check your calendars! Let Brenda know if you would like to join us.

Confirmation Christmas Party - 7th & 8th Grade

Confirmation students are invited to a Bowling Christmas party at the Norsk Bowling on Dec 19th, 7:00 - 8:30 PM. Please bring \$5 for the evening. Drop off and pick up at the Norsk as well.

Sunday School - Everyone is welcome to join our Sunday School children as they present "Incredible Christmas" on December 23rd at the 10:30 AM service.



No Sunday School - Reminder that there will be no Sunday School on December 30th. We will resume at 9:30 AM on January 6th, 2019.

High School Youth Movie/Game Night - All high schoolers (9th - 12th) are invited to a movie/game night at church on December 27th. Our event will begin at 6 PM and end at midnight. A time to hang out with friends, enjoy movies, games and of course - FOOD! We will need some adult helpers throughout the event, including preparing food. Please sign up on my office

door or email Brenda, if you can come or help out. We need participation in order for this event to occur.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and many blessings to the New Year!

Brenda Martin, Youth Director, brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org

COUNCIL NEWS

ELECTION RESULTS FROM ANNUAL MEETING:

Council

Diane Bartz

Sandy Glaeve

Bruce Meister

Becky Strube

Katie Zelle

Treasurer

Steve Hall

Audit

Greg Kellesvig

Personnel

Sue Kaletka

Holly Thompson

Endowment

Ann Baumgartner

Nominating Committee

Dave Edwards

Amy Mertz

Barb Underwood

Emilie Van Galen

Synod Voting Members

Jean Bower

Shawn Cannon

Helen Kahl

Synod Voting Members (Youth)

Samantha Bower

THANK YOU to Tim Anderson, Dave Edwards, Jeff Grundahl, Debby Schneider, Dawn Haag, Cathie Anderson, Sandra Cannon, Kate Hook, Vicky Rosenbaum, Holly Thompson, Diane Twiton, Shannon Hadac, and Jim Cook for their dedication and service.

2019 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES ARE NOW AVAILABLE. They can be found, in alphabetical order, on the tables in the narthex by the library. A big thank you to Bob & Sharon Schiefelbein for organizing them!

TREASURER'S REPORT - October 2018

General Fund Activity (\$)					
	Oct 2018	Oct 2017	YTD 2018	YTD 2017	YTD Budget
Income	25,953	29,407	245,423	251,423	269,928
Expense	27,078	26,275	279,020	253,707	272,918
Net	(1,125)	3,132	(33,922)	(2,284)	(2,990)

General Fund income for the month was down 12% from last October (4 Sundays vs 5). Expenses were up 3%, primarily due to building maintenance expense.

Building Maintenance (Capital) Fund Activity (\$)					
	Oct 2018	Oct 2017	YTD 2018	YTD 2017	YTD Budget
Income	716	617	10,516	145,319	6,040
Expense	0	1,100	14,150	96,928	10,000
Net	716	(483)	(3,634)	48,391	(3,960)

Building Maintenance fund income for the month was up from last October. There were no expenses.

Mortgage Repayment Fund Activity (\$); (Loan Balance is \$225,746)					
	Oct 2018	Oct 2017	YTD 2018	YTD 2017	YTD Budget
Income	4,321	3,510	67,860	28,486	36,300
Expense	3,630	3,630	51,300	36,300	36,300
Net	(691)	(120)	16,560	(7,814)	0

Mortgage Repayment Fund income for the month was more than last October. YTD income, including \$15,000 from the Maxine Dimick estate, is more than prior year and budget. YTD payments are \$15,000 more than previous year and budget due to an extra principal payment. Final payment is scheduled for October 2024.

Designated Fund Activity (\$)		
	October 2018	YTD 2018
Income	3,870	33,143
Expense	3,224	34,348
Net	646	(1,205)

Respectfully submitted by Stephen J. Hall, CPA, ELCMH Treasurer

2018 CONTRIBUTIONS All end of the year contributions must be in the church office by 4:00pm on December 31 in order to get credit for 2018. Thank you.

2019 ELC CHURCH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEMBER	HOME PHONE	EMAIL
Diane Bartz Property	444-1240	barbarabartz@gmail.com
Ellie Berg Agape	630-7954	ellie.berg@me.com
Ben Brothers Social Action	217-1202	ben.brothers@gmail.com
Sandy Glaeve Stewardship	698-3998	sglaeve@msn.com
Suzi Grundahl Spiritual Growth & Fellowship	437-7838 219-8023	grundahl@mhtc.net
Steve Hall TREASURER Budget & Finance	712-5154	hall@urology.wisc.edu
Jeff Hook PRESIDENT Mutual Ministry	437-4601 556-3287	JeffHook@mhtc.net
Bruce Meister- VICE PRES Technology	437-6443	spgbam@mhtc.net
Julie Schmitz Inreach Outreach	513-4805	zanderjul@mhtc.net
Steve Steinl- SECRETARY Personnel	345-1848	sksteinl@mhtc.net
Becky Strube Worship & Music	469-1748	rebeccastrube@gmail.com
Katie Zelle Children & Youth	235-1149	kathrynzelle@gmail.com
Pastor John Twiton	437-7091	john.twiton@elcmthoreb.org
Brenda Martin, Youth Director	576-6012	brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org
Vicar Jason Xiong		Jason.xiong@elcmthoreb.org

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS FROM AGAPE,

As December begins, we anticipate many exciting lessons and activities for our enthusiastic preschoolers. Our 3-year-old classes will learn about advent and the birth of Jesus and our 4K school district students will discover and explore many cultures and holiday traditions. Our 3K students will welcome in the Christmas season with a program on Thursday, December 6 at 9:00 am. Pastor John and our intern Pastor Jason will join us by reading the story of Jesus birth and include a reenactment of the story by our special holy family; Jessi, Tyler, Harper and Everly Sullivan. Our appreciation to their family for assisting in this joyful event. The 4K classes will have two winter-themed programs on Friday, December 7th at 10:00 am and 1:00 pm. All of the programs will include fun filled, entertaining holiday music with crafts and activities.

As the cold winter days quickly approach, we will again collect new children's hats and mittens for the Mt. Horeb Community Clothes Closet. Please look for the collection bin outside my office door from November 19 thru December 14. Thank you for consideration a donation!

Most of all, thank you for your continued support of the Agape Christian Preschool. I am blessed and grateful to be a part of this amazing ministry of ELC.

Blessings and Merry Christmas,
Amy Kellesvig
608-437-7100

Upcoming dates:

Nov 19 – Dec 14 Children's New Hat and Mitten collection for MHCCC

December 6 3K Winter Program at 9:00 am

December 7 4K Christmas Program 10:00 am and 1:00 pm

Dec 24 Jan 1 Preschool closed for Winter Break

January 2 Preschool classes resume

BENEVOLENCE

Do They Know It's Christmas?

By the time you read this, Christmas music will have been playing on the radio in the Madison area for a few weeks already, thrilling some and enraging Thanksgiving enthusiasts like my oldest daughter.

At whatever juncture you decided to get into the spirit of the season and tune in, you'll probably hear a song a group of British and Irish chart-toppers recorded in the early 1980s called "Do They Know It's Christmas?" The all-star group was pulled together in response to TV reports of the extensive famine in Ethiopia, with all proceeds going to benefit the hungry in a place where survival took the place of holiday celebrations.

Sadly, despite 40 years of global progress in many areas, hunger remains a fact of life for more than 800 million people – 11% of our planet's population. Some live in Ethiopia, some in Central America, some in far-flung cities across the U.S. and some right down the block from all of us.

As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work. Working with and through our congregations, ELCA World Hunger is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, ELCA World Hunger supports sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

Throughout December, we'll be collecting donations for ELCA World Hunger through our Benevolence program. As we enter a season that for many of us features a bounty of food (perhaps against a backdrop of our favorite holiday tunes), please consider a gift to help those without.

On behalf of the Social Action Ministry Team,

Adam Mertz

adammertz2@gmail.com

HELP OUT THE HOMELESS! Volunteers needed for ALL MONTHS IN 2019! We are looking for volunteers to make Homeless Lunches. This is a great activity for a family, church circle, youth or civic groups. This will involve buying the groceries, making 50-80 sack lunches (depending on the month) and delivering them to the Men's Shelter between 7-9 pm on the 2nd or 4th Saturdays of the month at Grace Episcopal Church at 116 W. Washington, Madison.

There is a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board next to the church offices through out the year. If you sign up, I will send you a reminder with the instructions about a week in advance of that 2nd or 4th Saturday.

Thank you so much to all the volunteers who helped out with this mission in 2018. I hope you found as much gratification from helping with this mission as the people who receive the meals are thankful.

If you are interested in volunteering to make lunches in 2019 but are unfamiliar with the process, please call me at 608-516-6986. Also, please note that if you are interested in, or only able to do part of the process for making these lunches, you can always share the job with another volunteer. Thanks for making this a great mission for our church.

Nancy Balbach

OPERATION CHRISTMAS Women of ELC (W/ELC) will sponsor Operation Christmas to help Dane County Lutheran Social Services (LSS) distribute gifts to several Dane County agencies. These agencies serve adults with mental illness, elderly living in apartments and various families with young children who have special needs. Bring your gifts in boxes, unwrapped, with wrapping paper and bows. A BIG Christmas box will be in the narthex from November 18 –December 9.

SUGGESTED GIFTS: Men's, women's and children's hats, gloves, and scarves...and baseball hats; Sweatshirts, flannel shirts (especially extra-large sizes); Small purses & wallets; Hand lotions, aftershave lotions, chap sticks; Puzzles & board games for all ages; Movie passes; Coloring books for adults and children; also crayons, paints, colored pencils and other craft supplies; Gift cards for Walmart, Target, Walgreens & fast food places; Small stuffed toys; Specialty candy boxes

GENERAL INFORMATION



Advent by Candlelight

Mark your calendars for next month on **Wednesday, December 8 at 7:00 p.m.** as we gather for a dessert potluck (bring a favorite dessert to share) and candlelight worship as we enter the season of Advent. Come and learn about the advent candles while making your own handmade set to take home. All ages are invited and welcome to join us as we learn about Advent, share in fellowship, and accompany one another in the art of candle making to take home something to encourage your prayer each day in advent.

Please contact Vicar Jason with any questions about our *Wednesday's with Luther!*



ADVENT BRUNCH The Women of ELC invite everyone to join us for brunch on **Saturday, Dec. 8, at 9:30 a.m.** for the Advent Brunch. Kick off the season with music and fellowship. The program will be presented by the American Legion in honor of Pearl Harbor Day. PLEASE pre-register with the church office by noon on Dec. 4 for food planning purposes.

CHRISTMAS AT ELC Mark your calendar! The annual Christmas at ELC Benefit will be held Sunday, **December 9**. The concert time is 5pm followed by a chili supper at 6:00. Free will donations will benefit the Mount Horeb Area School District's Weekend Backpack Meals program this year.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

PLEASE WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY on Nov. 4:

- **Scott & Roxanne Johanning**, Colby & Louie
Sponsors: Jeff & Brittany Kahl
- **Pamela Knutson**
Sponsors: Mikaela Sherven & Shannon Hadac
- **Teddiann Sadler**, Abigail, Sophia & Gabriel)
Sponsor: Amy Kellesvig
- **Warren & Marilyn Wilson**, *Sponsor: Brenda Martin*

AND KAYSON & LOUIE, who were baptized on November 11:

- Kayson Little, son of Karsen Haag and Bradley Little. Kayson is the grandson of Dawn & Virgil Haag.



- Louie Johanning, son of Scott & Roxanne Johanning

CELEBRATING THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BAPTISM during December is Mason Daniel Sherven on December 10. Mason is the son of Dan & Mikaela Sherven. His baptismal sponsors are Jim & Shannon Hadac, Ryan Knutson and Thomas Sherven

CONGRATULATIONS to Andrew & Melissa Knudson and sister Samantha, who welcomed a new member to their family, Henry Warren. Grandparents are Wayne and Mary Knudson and Bob & Donna Skogen.



Patsy Funk (Nancy McKinney's sister), Cheryl Stensvad (Connie Floan's sister), Sally Gaard (friend of Margie Kahl), Dianne Hirsch, Ashley Letheby (Lois Alm's granddaughter), , Laurie Duden (Brenda's aunt), Michael Curtis (Ellen Cook's great-grandson), Barbara Bendlin (Connie Curran's aunt), Harlan

Oimoen, Mary Jane Niles (Rubelle Zwald's daughter), Bill Steinhauer, Al Wilkening (Jan Ekenberg's brother-in-law), Irene Brufat, Grace Aavang, Gary Fritz, Teresa Nichols-Trace, Mary Kohl, Todd Martin, Dewey Wagner, Peter Toniazzo.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS our partner congregation IGLESIA EVANGÉLICA LUTERANA DIVINO SALVADOR (Divine Savior Lutheran Church) in Cataño, P.R



OUR SYMPATHIES AND PRAYERS are with

- † **Gary & Cindy Hamburg and family.** Gary's mother, Lorna Hamburg, passed away on November 4.
- † **Andy Mullendore & family.** Andy's mother, Virginia Mullendore, recently died.
- † **Molly & Bob Jahn** (former members of ELC). Their son, son Jay Kyle, passed away in September. His memorial service was held t ELC ong November 24.
- †



MEMORIAL GIFTS GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY of

- † **Paul Bower** for the **Mortgage Fund** from Dick & Carol Engstad; for the **General Fund** from John & Helen Kahl, Kathy & Pat O'Donnell and Max & Betty Rosenbaum; and for **Divine Savior Lutheran** from Bob & Sharon Schiefelein
- † **Dale Boness** for the **General Fund** from Max & Betty Rosenbaum
- † **Lorna Hamburg** for the **Music Fund** from Ben & Linda Magnuson



December

BIRTHDAYS

1	Addison Klaetsch	13	Clay Gordon	21	Olivia Turk
	Todd Nesheim		Mary Lokken	22	Lucas High
	Lindsey Steinl		Nancy McKinney		Charles Thomas
4	Dan Huseth	14	Hudson Kahl	23	John Anderson
	Jarod Okeson		Blake Turk		Larry Dangerfield
	Kris Sveum		Andrew Zell		Bob Faliveno
5	Steven Doty	15	Ruth Osterholz		Dawn Haag
	Carol Johnson		Evan Stange		Lindsey LaBorde
	Susan Kaletka	16	Michael Eggers		Madlyn LaBorde
	Maynard Schmitz		Jim Ekenberg	24	Brooke Anderson
	Pete Walton		Steven Helwig		Brenda Fritz
6	Dawn Kellesvig		Kate Hook		Edna Williams
7	Jillian Meister		Weston Kahl	25	Siri Amundsen
10	Dan Allen		Xander Strube		Ella Kahl
	Amanda Baum	17	Barb Iverson		Steve Stensby
	Jerilyn Faltz		Jeffrey Kahl		Holly Thompson
	Sam Farrell		Grace Rollins	26	Bonny Kellogg
	Curtis Gullick		Becky Stube	27	Karen Bunke
	Joseph Scudder		Jeannie U'Ren		Marian Jelle
	Aiden Scudder		Emilie Van Galen		Jeff Paske
	Jane Topper	18	Deb Segebrecht	29	Brian Johnson
	Catherine Zurbachen		Rachel Smith		Sharon Hendrickson
11	Staci Baum		Willy Watson		Nicholas O'Connell
	Dennis Dreger	19	Chris Coffin		Samantha Olson
	Connie Heiting		Garrett Klassy		Amy Thompson

Anita Laabs	Jordan Sadowski	30	Brett Farnsworth
Anna Landen	20 Berg	Erik	Anna Ollendick
Nathan Zelle	Craig Kittleson		Olivia Schrank
12	Pat Bendickson	21	Lucas Kittleson
Amy U'Ren	Hunter Stamn	31	Gwen Olson
	Cole Stamn		

If we've missed you or a member of your family, or if we've listed your birthday incorrectly, please contact the church office.



CIRCLES & BIBLE STUDIES

FAITH CIRCLE will meet at **11:30 a.m.** on **Tuesday, Dec. 11**, at the home of Carol Dann for our annual Advent Potluck.

REBECCA CIRCLE will meet in Fellowship Hall at **10:30 on December 18** to sign cards and then car pool to Avanti in Verona. Call Janet by 12/14 for reservation.

SARAH CIRCLE Connie Curran will host our Sarah Circle Christmas gathering on **Tuesday, December 18th, at 6:30 p.m.** Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Connie's address is 500 Nordic Trail.

SEWING CIRCLE meets **Thursdays at 9:00 a.m.** to sew and tie quilts. All are welcome. As of this newsletter, 28 new quilts have been completed.

MEN'S BREAKFAST/BIBLE STUDY will meet the first & third Fridays, **December 7th & 21st, at 6:30am.** Come join us for coffee and conversation about the week's Bible readings. Everyone welcome!!

WOMEN OF ELC COORDINATING COMMITTEE meets **December 4 at 9:30am** in Fellowship Hall.



THANK YOU to Social Committee #11 for serving funerals in November. Ann Baumgartner & Amy Kellesvig are co-chairs,

SERVING FUNERALS IN DECEMBER: Social Committee #12, co-chairs: Betsy Baguhn & Cathie Field

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

Poinsettia Hunger Fund Gifts

ELC will be receiving memorial and honoring donations through **Sunday, December 16**. After purchasing poinsettias to adorn the altar, the remainder of the donations will go to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Memorials will be published in the Christmas bulletins.



Please fill in the form and leave it in the church office, in the offering plate, or mail it to ELC with your monetary donations.
Make checks payable to ELC.

This gift is _____ in memory **OR** _____ in honor of:
(Please check one of the above blanks)

Given by _____

Envelope # _____

Amount \$ _____

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM ON OR BEFORE SUNDAY, DECEMBER
16.**