

STEEPLE ECHOES

March 2019

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
people*



WORSHIP SCHEDULE AT ELC see page 11 for Lent schedule

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

“Don’t give up, take up”

Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

Matthew 16:24

We often hear of people “giving up” something for Lent in keeping this as a season of repentance and fasting. Our Lutheran tradition does not demand this type of sacrifice, but there’s a value in doing something to help ourselves focus on our spiritual life during this season of the year.

But this year I’d like you to consider not ‘giving up’ something, but ‘taking up’ something instead. Jesus took up his cross, giving of himself for the sake of others, and calls his followers to likewise take up their cross. While it’s not at all likely than we will have a real cross, there is much we can take up to give of ourselves to others.

So this Lent perhaps you can consider taking up a practice, a habit, or an effort to give of yourself for the sake of others. Here’s some ideas to take up something for Lent:

- Take up a time of daily prayer for those hurting, those in need, and for those you disagree with
- Take up an attitude of thankfulness, and take note of the abundance of God’s grace each day
- Take up an effort to be generous in sharing your gifts
- Take up an opportunity to meet a new neighbor
- Take up the time to listen to the needs of others
- Take up the challenge to bring someone to worship

What can you take up this Lent for the sake of Jesus, who took up the cross for you?

God’s Peace,

God’s Peace,



FROM THE INTERN'S DESK – Vicar Jason Xiong

Talking Is Easy...Listening Is Hard!

“Take this simple test: After your next long conversation with someone, estimate what percentage of it you spent talking. Be honest. No, you're already underestimating. How do I know? Because it's more fun to talk than to listen. Talking is like drinking a great Cabernet. Listening is like doing squats ... Listening is like reading a corporate report. Talking is like eating a cinnamon bun.”

- Rob Lazebnik, a writer for the
TV show The Simpsons

It is no secret that I like to talk ☺! But I am also a great listener...to people. I am not so good a listener when trying to hear God. I suspect that I am not alone in this either. Do you maybe talk more than you listen to God? For me, prayer is an ongoing conversation between me and the Divine. It is about conversing as one would with an old friend who knows me better than I know myself; as God does. I often will pray spontaneously throughout the day, I have even been known to talk out loud to God while in the car. The trouble is, I often do not stop long enough, stop talking, to hear God's response. Am I afraid of what God might say? What God might offer in response to my talking? Perhaps.

This Lent I am embarking on a personal journey to talk less and listen more, and I invite you to do the same. This will not be easy, as listening is often much harder than talking, but just imagine the possibilities. Imagine what we may hear. Imagine what God is trying to tell us, if only we talked less and listened more. Now, I will not stop praying, but I will intentionally find ways to become comfortable in the silence that accompanies the listening and enjoying what new things I may hear.

Blessings as we begin our Lenten journey together!



YOUTH NEWS

2019 SUMMER FUN AT ELC *Registration forms available on the website, by the chapel's bulletin board, or contact Brenda.*

- **Day Camp/Vacation Bible School (VBS) June 10 - 13**
VBS (9 - 11:30 am) for 3 - 5 years old
Day Camp (9 am - 3 pm) Children entering 1st - 5th in fall
- **Confirmation Camp at Sugar Creek July 21 - 26** (7th & 8th)
Register online at www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org
- **Explorer Day at Sugar Creek July 30th, 9 am - 3 pm**
(Children entering 1st - 5th grade in fall 2019)
- **Mini Mission Week** Aug 13 - 15th (Middle-High School)

SUMMER CAMP AT SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP Youth entering 3rd - High School are invited to experience a week at Sugar Creek. Great opportunity to enjoy God's beauty, while experiencing games, Bible Studies, crafts, water time in the pool, horseback riding and much more. Invite a friend to go. Register online at www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org

INDY 700 FUNdraiser -Google tells us it is 700 miles to have our youth and adults travel to Indianapolis this summer! Well, we have an easy FUNdraiser for you! Help our youth and adults who are participating in the YouthWorks Mission Trip this summer by sponsoring some miles. Each mile is \$2.00. Checks are written to **ELC Youth**. Place any donation with your name in our Track Envelope or in Brenda Martin's mailbox. (Stayed tuned for a Sponsorship Reception after our trip in June.) Watch our progress on our **Indy 700 Track** in the Narthex! Guess we will find out who wants us back home! Thanks for your continued support.

MOM'S COFFEE TIME Every Monday AM, 8:30 am - 10 am in Fellowship Hall at ELC, moms can enjoy coffee while their young children have a large area to run and play in. A great time to get together.

FUSE Nights - Every Monday evening, 7-8:30 pm, 9th - 12th graders & friends, are invited to hang out, enjoy food, games, and group

activities. Come whenever works for your schedule. Love to have you come!

Blessings, *Brenda Martin, Youth Ministries Director*
brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org

GREETINGS from the AGAPE MINISTRY!

We are all hoping that March is less “wintery” than January and February and are wishing for spring-like weather and no more snow days! In March we will celebrate Dr. Seuss Birthday and St. Patrick’s Day. We will also learn about dinosaurs, transportation, ducks, frogs, and of course, spring. I’m sure a lot of fun and exciting adventures will take place!

We are well underway with enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year! The registration forms are available on our website www.agapechristianpreschool.com or packets can be picked up in the Agape office during preschool hours. Our 4K program with the MHASD is also enrolling students for the upcoming school year. The registration forms can be found on the school district website www.mounthorebschools.org under the 4K section.

Ms. Wendy and our students have been learning some awesome songs. They will be sharing their enthusiastic selections on Sunday, March 3th at the 10:30 am service. We hope to see many of you, there!

Butter Braid Frozen Pastries will be delivered on Wednesday, March 6th. You may either pick up that week during preschool hours or on Sunday, March 10 from 9:30 am – 10:30 am. We surpassed our goal of \$4000 this year and will be sprucing up the playground area with many new items. Thank you to those who purchased as we couldn’t do it without your support!

Blessing, Amy Kellesvig, Director
Agape Christian Preschool
MHASD 4K Community Site

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, Mar 3 – Agape students sing at ELC 10:30 am service

Monday, Mar 25 – Monday, Mar 29 – No Preschool; Spring Break
Monday, Apr 1 – 3K Preschool classes resume
Tuesday, Apr 2 – 4K Preschool classes resume
Sunday, April 28 – Spring Program for all classes (3K & 4K) 1:30 pm

COUNCIL NEWS

General Fund Balance Concern

Thank you for your faithful support of the ministry of God's grace in Jesus Christ through Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mt. Horeb! We are writing because we are concerned that while the inclement weather has made it difficult for some to attend worship this winter, the needs of ministry continue. Along with the weather of the past month, we have seen a decrease in financial giving. This follows a year in which the General Fund had expenses that were 8% more than income. As a result, the General Fund balance has dropped to a critically low level.

We are writing to ask you to prayerfully consider increasing the frequency and/or amount of your gifts to the General Fund. It is also a great time to consider using one of the following options to automate your giving:

1. Set up automatic payments through the bill pay service at your bank and inform the church office.
2. Authorize ELC (through a third party called Vanco) to make automatic scheduled withdrawals from your bank account,
3. Online giving through the ELCMH website, GivePlus mobile app, or GivePlus text messaging,

The necessary forms and instructions for all of these options are available in the narthex and in the church office. Contact office staff or any of the council members with set-up questions.

We are fortunate to have a strong community and an abundance of blessings. We continue to baptize and teach, worship and sing, rejoice and mourn together. Your support has touched people in programs for the hungry and homeless, supported our young people as they learned and served, helped our partner congregation recover from the hurricane in Puerto Rico, touched

lives of children in Kenya, and so much more. We thank you for your financial support and all your involvement in our faith community.

Sincerely,
 ELC Mount Horeb Church Council

TREASURER’S REPORT – January 2019

GENERAL FUND ACTIVITY (\$)					
	Jan '19	Jan 2018	YTD 2019	YTD 2018	YTD Budget
Income	19,453	21,739	19,453	21,739	27,045
Expense	28,171	28,423	28,171	28,423	28,207
Net	(8,718)	(6,684)	(8,718)	(6,64)	(1,162)

GENERAL FUND income for the month was 11% less than last January and 28% less than budget. Expenses (excluding intern compensation, covered by a transfer from the Designated Fund) were 1% less than last January, primarily due to staff hours, with Spiritual Growth over budget and utilities under budget. Expenses were on budget, with staff salaries and insurance under budget, offset by

BUILDING MAINTENANCE (CAPITAL) FUND ACTIVITY (\$)					
	Jan '19	Jan 2018	YTD 2019	YTD 2018	YTD Budget
Income	410	1,100	410	1,100	1,000
Expense	1,611	0	1,611	0	1,000
Net	(1,201)	1,100	(1,201)	1,100	0

BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND income for the month was less than last January and budget. Expenses were more than last January and budget due to a furnace repair.

MORTGAGE REPAYMENT FUND ACTIVITY (\$); (LOAN BALANCE IS \$214,921)					
	Jan '19	Jan 2018	YTD 2019	YTD 2018	YTD Budget
Income	6,365	9,313	77,507	42,586	43,560
Expense	3,630	3,630	58,560	43,560	43,560
Net	2,735	5,683	18,947	(974)	0

MORTGAGE REPAYMENT FUND income for the month was down from last January and slightly better than budget. Expense was equal to prior year and budget. Final payment is scheduled for October 2024.

DESIGNATED FUND ACTIVITY		
	Jan '19	YTD 2019

Income	1,934	1,934
Expense	2,675	2,675
Net	(741)	(741)

DESIGNATED FUND YTD income includes \$860 for benevolence; \$760 for youth; and other smaller gifts. Expenses include \$901 for benevolence and a \$1,722 transfer to the General Fund for intern compensation.

Respectfully submitted by Stephen J. Hall, CPA, ELCMH Treasurer, 1/13/19

BENEVOLENCE

March Benevolence: ELC summer youth programming

Summer will be here before we know it ... hopefully. With a full slate of youth programming at ELC planned for this summer, we have an opportunity to provide amazing memories for dozens of kids in our community.

In addition to our traditional offerings such as Vacation Bible School for young kids, we've got a crew of high schoolers heading to Indianapolis to participate in a YouthWorks mission trip, and closer to home we'll do a shorter version of our mission week for middle school and high school students.

Registration fees cover a good portion of the costs of our local events, and our teens have been fundraising for their Indy trip. But to ensure that cost is not a barrier to participation for anyone, and that we're offering the best experiences we can, we are collecting donations through our Benevolence Program throughout the month of March.

You can donate by placing an envelope in the offering plate and designating that gift for Benevolence, or by using our electronic giving platform.

On behalf of Benevolence,

Adam Mertz
adammertz2@gmail.com

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Dear Members of ELC,

On behalf of the Community Clothes Closet Board, Steering Committee and our shoppers, thank you for your church's support. Under the guidance of Kate Hook, volunteers working in January put in nearly 107 hours of service. This made it possible for 158 shoppers to receive basic



clothing and bedding which they are in need of.

We appreciate each of you for your generosity of time to serve this ministry. We can't imagine what we would do without you and the 15 partner churches. They dedicate many hours sorting donations, folding and shelving clothing and cleaning the facility. Please extend our thanks to Kate and those in your congregation who helped the facility.

We continually have a need for seasonal clothing and bedding and ask that you keep us in mind when cleaning your closets.

We are blessed and give thanks for your time and prayers.

Amy Gordon, Community Clothes Closet Coordinator

KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS, keep cranking out those baby caps! We'll resume meeting in the Faith Room in **March on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 9am**. Red caps are requested for the emphasis on heart health in February. Contact Ruth Heinecke with any questions at 444-4949.

REBECCA CIRCLE IS COLLECTING BABY ITEMS for Lutheran World Relief. A complete list will appear in next month's newsletter. We especially need baby blankets and diapers. Also, donated adult size T-shirts can be made into diapers. A bin will be available in Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAYS WITH
LUTHER 

Seeds of Life



Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019

You are invited to join us for our next **Wednesdays with Luther** as we begin the season on Lent.

We will gather on Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019
Dinner will be available from 6pm-7pm
with Worship following at 7:30pm

Everyone will have the opportunity to share in fellowship together while taking part in a **seed planting project** that will allow you to journey through Lent nurturing a new plant. You will then invite to bring your plant back to church on Easter Sunday to help adorn the sanctuary.



All Ages Are Welcome!
Don't have a green thumb? Don't worry,
neither does Vicar Jason! We will learn together!
See Vicar Jason or Brenda Martin with any questions!



**LEN
MIDWEEK**

Join us during the season of Lent for our Midweek Worship services on Wednesdays as we take a deeper look at Jesus' Sermon on the Mount from the Gospel of Matthew.

Wednesdays, March 13 through April 10, 2019

11:00 a.m. – Midday Worship
12:00 p.m. – Luncheon
6:00 p.m. – Dinner
7:30 p.m. – Evening Worship

Wednesday, March 13 – “Salt & Light”
Rev. Barry Hoerz, Vermont Lutheran Church

Wednesday, March 20 – “Prayer & Fasting”
Rev. Bob Fisher, Retired

Wednesday, March 27 – “Do Not Worry”
Vicar Jason Xiong, ELC

Wednesday, April 3 – “Judge Not”
Rev. John Twiton, ELC

Wednesday, April 10 – “Build on the Rock”
Rev. Kelli Fisher, Perry Lutheran Church

GENERAL INFORMATION



Lenten lunches will begin on Ash Wednesday, March 6th and every Wednesday during Lent. There will be a church service at 11:00 and then lunch immediately following at approximately 11:30. In the past, these were soup lunches; however, this year something different is in store starting with lasagna the first week. There is a Lenten Luncheon sign up sheet posted near the church entrance asking for workers and

baked goods each week. Please plan to help and/or participate in the service and lunches. There will be a free-will offering to help with the cost of the lunches.

STEEPLE FRIENDS will be held in the Activity Room at the Ingle Communities on **Monday, March 11th at 3:30**. There will be a church service with communion and piano hymns. There will be an Irish theme and coffee and cookies will be served. For any questions regarding the Lenten lunches or Steeple Friends, please contact Margie Kahl at 437-5341

SPRING FLING Every year, the Women of ELC gather to celebrate those women who will observe their 80th birthday during the year. In 2019, we have more than the average year. They will be sharing their childhood memories of the World War II era, FDR's funeral, and possibly the Korean War with us. Please, come and join us on Saturday April 6 at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please register with the church office by March 30. All women of the Mount Horeb ELC congregation and their guests are invited.

HONOREES: Karen Bunke, Grace Casey, Polly Field, Sara Kittleson, Susan Koller, Ruth Osterholz, Julie Vasen, Linda Wahlgren

LEAD CONFERENCE ELC will be hosting the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin's annual LEAD event coming up on Saturday, March 9. **Leadership Education and Development** is the synod's largest event which means we will need lots of volunteers to make sure our guests have a good experience here at ELC. Watch for sign-up sheets in the narthax over the next few weeks and online. See Jeff Hook if you have questions.

SEASONS OF GRIEF-SEASONS OF HEALING GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP. Our next sessions will be offered on Thursday evenings starting **March 21st**. **Dates are: March 21st, 28th, April 4th and 11th.** We have split the dates to avoid Holy Week. **Times: 7-9pm.** **Place: Mt. Horeb Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Matthew room.** All are welcome who have lost a loved one no matter how long it has been. This location is handicapped accessible. Refreshments will be offered. **Please contact Mary Williams at 437-4810 by March 13th** because I need to get reading materials for the first session out to the participants by Monday, March 18th.

ANNUAL USHERS' MEETING The annual meeting of all usher teams will be held on **Saturday, March 23 at 9:30am** in Fellowship Hall. If you are currently serving as an usher, or are interested in serving, please stop by for a review and discussion on usher duties and news. Donuts, pastries, and coffee will be on hand! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jim Cook (phone: 608-960-3314 or email: mthorebcubfan@gmail.com)

**Junior Choir Begins Again
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27th!**



Junior Choir is starting up again on
Wednesday, February 27th!
Rehearsals are from 6:30 pm–7:15 pm
in the choir room next to the sanctuary.

We will rehearse **February 27, March 6, 13, 20 and
April 3, 10, 17 and 24.**

We plan to sing in church services on Sunday, March 17th and
on a Sunday later in April.

**We welcome all singers in kindergarten through 6th grade!
I look forward to seeing those who are returning and we always
welcome new members!!**

Barb Underwood, Junior Choir Director
Email: underwod@mhtc.net Phone: 437-1956

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



CELEBRATING THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BAPTISM during March is Liam

Arthur Brager on March 18. Liam is the son of Adam & Angela Brager. His baptismal sponsors are James Brager & Kaia Ackerman.

PLEASE PRAY FOR, Lucia Lozano (Evonne & Vern Martin's granddaughter), Linda Luenser, Emilie Van Galen's brother, Darrin, Pearl Vierima, Patsy Funk (Nancy McKinney's sister), Sally Gaard (friend of Margie Kahl), 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 Bruflat, Grace Aavang, Gary Fritz, Mary Kohl, 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 & PRAYERS are with Kristin Kiel and her family. Krisitin's mother, Janet Kiel passed away February 8.



HONORING GIFT GIVEN IN HONOR of Sedona & Isla Vondra's baptism for the **General Fund** from Ben & Serena Vondra



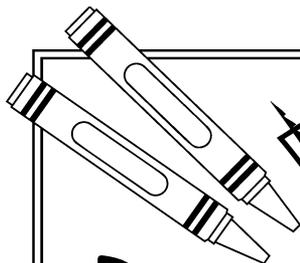
March

BIRTHDAYS

1 Steinhauer	Abby	9 Hadac	Jim	21 Erickson	Disa
2 Boettcher	Chad	Danny Muehlenkamp		Michael Friske	
Isabella Cross		10 Skogen	Donna	Sarah Gordon	
Jordan Freitag		Jennifer Larson		Catherine Ivey	
Bridgett Killinger		11 Kahl	Rebecca	22	Jacey Morin
Berkley Segebrecht		12 Kellesvig	Amy	24 Fritz	Sara
Sarah Zelle		Ingrid Parks		Gail Huseth	
3 Kiarra Eith		13 McKay	Karen	25 Johnson	Ryan
Christopher Balbach		Ava Magnuson		Porter Kreul	
Amy High		Sharman Moen		Micky Schulenberg	
Rita Schraepfer-Derke		Laura Zemp		26 Ableman	Vaughn
DiAnne Stamm		Kady Zupan-Walsh		Neal Brunner	
4 Eggers	Lauren	14 Faltz	Bill	Cheryl Mortvedt	
Zachary Eggers		Daryl Rothamer		Kayla Mullendore	
Daniel Field		Steven Stack		Steve Slocum	
Danielle Schulz		15 Killinger	Quinn	27	Samantha Knudson
5 Christianson	Daryl	16 Fendrick	Ethan	28 Farnsworth	Diane
Camille Samuelson		Ken Schulenberg		Bradley Miller	
6 Kelliher	Derek	Diane Twiton		Wendy Rasmussen	
Kolleen Nesheim		17 Hogseth	Paul	Brayden Reeson	
Sabrina Sieg		Charlie Laabs		Ella Reeson	
Owen Stamm		18 Gray	Emily	29 Boettcher	Melissa

Bill Walsh	Ashley Hall	Nathan Mullendore
Sydney Wyss	20 Ian Farrell	30 Jennifer Turk
7 Ellie Hadac	Cyndy Hamburg	Nyaah Schloesser
Cody Hanson	Lyle Opsal	Isaac Schloesser
Betty Martinson		31 Al Bartz
Rylie O'Connell		Duane Christoph
Garrett Spellman		Paul Kellesvig
8 DeLayne Krentz		Nathan Seibel
Emily Watson		

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



PUZZLE

Decode The days

At this time of year, God's creation "springs" to life.

Directions: After reading Genesis 1:1-2:3, write the correct Creation day number under each picture. Then add up each day's total and write it on the correct blank below.

Day 1 (light) ____ **Day 2** (waters) ____ **Day 3** (land and plants) ____ **Day 4** (heavenly bodies) ____

Day 5 (birds and water animals) ____ **Day 6** (land animals and people) ____ **Day 7** (God rested) ____

Answers: Day 1 = 3, Day 2 = 3, Day 3 = 10, Day 4 = 6, Day 5 = 10, Day 6 = 15, Day 7 = 2



March

CIRCLES & BIBLE STUDIES

FAITH CIRCLE will meet **March 12, at 10:00am** at the Homestead. New members and visitors are always welcome.

REBECCA CIRCLE will meet at **10am on March 19th** in Fellowship Hall.

SARAH CIRCLE will meet on **Tuesday, March 19th**, in the fellowship hall at church at 7 p.m. to make quilts for the graduates. Please bring sewing scissors and masking tape. Nancy will bring a treat.

SEWING CIRCLE meets **Thursdays at 9:00am** 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, **March 1st & 15th, at 6:30am**. Come join us for coffee and conversation about the week's Bible readings. Everyone is welcome!!

WOMEN OF ELC COORDINATING COMMITTEE will meet **Tuesday, March 5, at 9:30am** in Fellowship Hall. We will begin planning activities for 2019. This December, a new President (or two co-presidents) will be elected. We ask all women to consider taking on this office.



THANK YOU to Social Committee #2 for serving funerals in February. Dawn Haag & Mary Meister are co-chairs,

SERVING FUNERALS IN MARCH: Social Committee #3, co-chairs: Char Smith and Judy Steinhauer