

OUR WORSHIP SCHEDULE is temporarily suspended. Worship services are available on line each Sunday morning at elcmthoreb.org or ELC Facebook page.

OFFICE HOURS Our building is closed until further notice, but the church office will be staffed every morning from 9am to noon. Phone messages may be left at 437-5012.

ELC'S STAFF

Pastor John Twiton

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

May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again. Amen.

I spoke this blessing, as I have for several years now, at the end of our worship time together on March 8th. Little did I realize how much I needed you to hear them and take them with you. For there was no way of knowing in that moment that would be the last Sunday morning of worship at ELC for an undetermined number of weeks.

My final blessing given that day remains my prayer for each of us, that the blessing, love, and comfort given by God's presence will surround us and sustains until we <u>can</u> gather again. As a principle of faith, I know that God's presence remains ever strong and faithful, and yet I'm sure many of you feel a constant current of fear, doubt, and discouragement that tugs at your soul. I know those feelings are always close by for me.

There are so many family members and friends that I long to run to and gather close around or wrap in a warm hug. But right now, that would not be the loving thing to do. The best act of love in this time is to keep a physical distance, to reach out with our words, our hearts, and our prayers, but not to touch with our hands.

We cannot gather for worship, but we can still be the church. The church never was that building at 315 E Main. The church will always be the body of Christ, made up of ordinary people like you and me, claimed, redeemed, and blessed by God to be a blessing to the world. We need to be very intentional about being there for one another. Call your family, often. Check to see if your neighbors need help. Pray, listen, trust....until we can gather again.

Meanwhile we have the gift of technology that allows us to share messages on social media. Wednesday Lenten services and Sunday worship will be available on the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mt. Horeb page on Facebook, as well on the church website: **www.elcmthoreb.org**. (Look for the most recent worship on "This week at ELC" – found in the lower left corner of the home page. Past worship messages are available in the worship menu under "Sermon Archive".

Each morning at 8:00 a.m. I'll share a morning devotion on the Facebook page as well.

Because of the current pandemic

The church building is not open to the public.

- Office staff will be in from 9am to noon each day to answer phones, email, and tend to ongoing tasks. Please leave voicemail on office phone for non-urgent tasks.
- If you need to contact Pastor John, leave a message on extension #3. These messages are automatically forwarded to his cellphone.
- Only groups deemed of vital public interest by emergency government (like the Red Cross) will be allowed in the building.

Pastoral visits will be extremely limited

- In order to safeguard health, in person visits are greatly discouraged. This is very difficult for both pastor and parishioners, but again is the most loving approach.
- Please make use of phone and email to communicate.

Church finances will be a concern

- Many people will probably have financial concerns with the disruptions to business and daily life. Without Sunday worship, the normal flow of offerings to the church are also curtailed.
- The congregational council and staff are doing what they can
 to reduce costs. Thermostats are turned way down, supplies
 are not being ordered. Hourly workers are dealing with
 reduced hours, and salaried workers are taken reductions in
 pay.
- Please share what you can by sending your offering through US Mail, or online giving options. Call the church office, or click the 'give' tab on the church web page

When will worship return?

 We don't know. It may be multiple weeks until the health department allows public gatherings again. We likely will not be in the church building for Easter this year. Our hope is to celebrate the resurrection when we can gather together at a later date.

Being the church in this time

While nearly all of our normal gatherings and programs are not possible under current conditions, how do we face the challenge to be God's presence in our community now?

♦ Caring for our neighbors

- We already have a list of volunteers who would be willing to do errands, or drop food and supplies at people's homes. If you'd like to join that list, email Pastor John (john.twiton@elcmthoreb.org) or call the office.
- If you need help or know someone who does. Let us know.
 Through Neighbors Helping Neighbors there are food deliveries available. But even if you just can't, or should leave your home for other things, let us know how we can help.
- Call, email, message, however you can check on your neighbors, friends and family. Isolation is not easy for human beings.

♦ Tend to your spiritual and emotional life

- Pray, make a regular time to intentionally deepen your relationship with God.
- Find a daily devotion. If you have access to the internet follow along with video devotions and worship.
- Breathe, know that God is with you!
- Don't forget to support ministry

To keep in touch, make sure Pastor John has your current email. Regular announcements are sent out to a large list each week, if you'd like to be included send an email to Pastor John at john.twiton@elcmthoreb.org

COUNCIL NEWS



The congregation meeting scheduled for April 5 has been canceled. Notice of new meeting date will be communicated in the near future."

A LETTER FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We know many of you will be facing tough times as our nation tries to fight off the coronavirus. Many have had their places of employment close, with no promise of when they can return. Others have seen their retirement savings reduced by the recent decline of the stock market. And all of us are facing an unknown and uncertain future.

As Pastor John's message indicates. The church is in a similar position. We have taken steps to curtail expenses, but the prohibition on large gatherings and the move to online services have and will continue to hurt our finances. Currently the General Fund balance is able to cover about one week's expenses. Pastor John has agreed to a pay cut. But it's going to take all of us to get through this crisis.

If your own financial situation supports it, please increase your giving to ELC. You can give by mail or online at

http://elcmthoreb.org/home/give/. Please also consider setting up your online giving as a recurring contribution, which adds predictability and stability to our budget.

We don't ask this lightly, but together, and with God's help, we can make it through this crisis.

On behalf of the Church Council,

Ben Brothers, Council President

TREASURER'S REPORT - February 2020

GENERAL FUND ACTIVITY (\$)						
Feb '20 Feb 2019 YTD 2020 YTD 2019 59,6						
Income	23,389	22,650	42,811	42,103	29,819	
Transfer In	0	1,722	0	3,445	0	
Expense	31,786	30,746	63,109	60,639	60,979	
Net	(8,397)	(6,374)	(20,298)	(15,091)	(1,342)	

YTD General Fund income (8 Sundays) is 2% more than prior year (8 Sundays) and 28& less than budget. YTD expenses are 4% more than prior year, primarily due to the bell choir director, staff raises, synod assembly, offering envelopes (timing) and youth/family, partially offset by savings from the vacant intern position; YTD expenses are 3% above budget, primarily due to the synod assembly meeting and snow removal, partially offset by lower utility costs.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE (CAPITAL) FUND ACTIVITY (\$)						
	Feb '20	Feb 2019	YTD 2020	YTD 2019	YTD Budget	
Income	880	487	1,577	897	1,333	
Transfer In	0	0	0	0	0	
Expense			1,899	1,611	2,666	
Net	880	487	(322)	(714)	(1,333)	

Year-to-date Building Maintenance Fund income 76% more than prior year and 18% more that budget. YTD expenses ((HVAC repair) are 18% more than last year (also HVAC) and 29% more that budget.

MORTGAGE REPAYMENT FUND ACTIVITY (\$); (LOAN BALANCE IS \$171,090)						
	Feb 2020	Feb 2019	YTD 2020	YTD 2019	YTD Budget	
Income	3,307	3,073	6,725	6,797	7.260	
Expense	3,630	3,630	7,260	7,260	7,260	
Net	(323)	(557)	(535)	(463)	0	

Year-to-date Mortgage Repayment Fund income is 1% less than prior year and 7% less than budget. YTD payments are equal to prior year and budget. Final payment is scheduled for June 2024.

Respectfully submitted by Stephen J. Hall, CPA, ELCMH Treasurer, March 15, 2020

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

Yes, our schedule for April looks very different than what is usually planned. I want us to be connected, even if we can't be together in person. We are trying to alter our programs to accommodate all the restrictions we have currently. Please keep watching your email for updates for new activities and keeping connected. This is a great opportunity for everyone to talk about faith together as a family. I hope everyone is staying well. If you have ideas for keeping connected, please let me know. Remember - keep watching email for updates.

SUNDAY SCHOOL I plan on emailing out plans that will follow our worship readings. This is a great opportunity to discuss the lessons as a family. If craft materials are needed, I can put together "Sunday School craft bags", which members could pick up at church, outside, by the back door.

COMMUNION RETREAT Our scheduled retreat & Seder Meal will not happen as planned. To modify this, we plan to have packets available for pickup, so that families can learn about Holy Communion as a family. I will send an email, when they are placed outside at ELC -back entrance to church for pickup. We plan to celebrate everyone's first Holy Communion, once we are able to worship together again.

PRE-CONFIRMATION CLASSES (6th graders) At this moment, I plan on creating lesson plans that can be done at home with your 6th grader, sent by email. I will look into possible ways of using technology as well.

SUMMER CAMP (SUGAR CREEK) 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. Check out their new camp programs too, especially one called "Night Camp". Invite a friend to go. Register online at www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org

2020 ELC SUMMER FUN (still planning and hoping for this to happen) - Registration forms available on the website

- Day Camp/Vacation Bible School (VBS) June 15-18, 2020
- **VBS** (9 11:30 am) for 3 5 years old
- Day Camp (9 am 3 pm) Children entering 1st 5th in fall
- Explorer Day at Sugar Creek July 7th, 9 am 3 pm (Children entering 1st - 5th grade in fall 2020)
- YouthWorks Mission Trip July 19 24, 2020;
 Leech Lake Reservation, MN
- Confirmation Camp at Sugar Creek July 26- 31, 2020 (7th & 8th) Register online at www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org
- Mini Mission Week Aug 11 13th (7th grade-High School)

Blessings and stay safe,

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



BENEVOLENCE Mission trip - Mount Horeb to

El Salvador to bring clean water to the thirsty.

For the past ten years, small teams of Mt. Horeb area residents have participated in mission trips to drill clean water wells in four different under-resourced countries in Central America. These trips are coordinated through Immanuel Lutheran Church in partnership with Living Water International (LWI), a not-for-profit Christian-based organization which exists to demonstrate the love of God by helping communities acquire desperately needed clean water.

More than a billion people in the world live on less than a dollar a day. At least 844 million people lack access to safe drinking water. Poor communities around the world are trapped in debilitating poverty because they constantly suffer from water-related diseases and parasites, and/or because they spend long stretches of their time carrying water over long distances.

Since LWI started in 1991, they have completed over 20,000 water projects in 23 countries around the world. Today, LWI trains, consults with, and equips local people to work with volunteers from mission teams to implement water solutions in their own communities.

John Schmitt, from here in Mt. Horeb, annually leads a local team to a rural community in Central America. John will again lead a team from Mt. Horeb on the 10th annual well-drilling trip to a rural village in El Salvador in June, bringing clean water and hygiene training in Jesus' name to the people of a small community needing water. We ask for your prayers and support of this effort.

You can donate to the team from Mt. Horeb, through our April Benevolence. Donate via any weekly offering, by mail, or online. To donate online, visit the ELC website, download the "Give Plus Church" mobile app, or text "Benevolence" to 608-400-0183 with the amount you wish to give.

If you would like more information on Living Water. Visit <u>www.water.cc</u>

On behalf of Benevolence, John Rosenbaum and Adam Mertz Adammertz2@gmail.com

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

BABY CAPS Baby cap makers should continue knitting and crocheting from home. We will not meet at church in April.

BABY CARE KITS...Once again this year, Rebecca Circle is collecting items for Baby Care Kits for LWR. With garage sales coming up, perhaps you can have some fun shopping for and then donating some of the following (especially needed are marked with stars):

- *baby blankets, cotton or flannel, crocheted or knitted, up to 52"square
- *infant jacket, sweater, or sweatshirt with a hood
- *hand towels, darker colored
- *bath-size bars of gentle soap (4-5 oz) in its original wrapping
- lightweight cotton shirts
- long or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers and socks
- diaper pins or large, metal safety pins

Monetary donations are needed for shipping. Checks can be made to Rebecca Circle and given to Helen Kahl or Sara Kittleson, marked LWR Baby Kit Shipping on Memo Line. These items can be new or gently used, clean items. St Vinny's and other thrift stores are good sources for some of the items. There is a box marked Baby Care Kits in Fellowship Hall near the coffee station. Thank you for your support and for bringing soap and towels the last few months.

share through our Bible camp by sponsoring one of the squares on the Horse Project poster in the narthex. You can write you name in one (or more) squares, and make a \$20 gift to Sugar Creek. Horse project envelopes on with the poster, and checks should be made payable to ELC.

ADOPT THE LAWN Remember the "Adopt the Lawn" last summer? It's coming back! Watch for a sign-up in the narthex. This is a wonderful opportunity for a family - and if you have teens - silver cords!

MOUNT HOREB AREA BLOOD DRIVE will be held on Friday, April 3, from 1:00-6:00pm at ELC. For an appointment, please contact (800) 448-3543 or visit www.redcrossblood.org. Over the last few days, we have seen blood drive cancellations grow at a



concerning rate. To date, about <u>600</u> Red Cross blood drives have been cancelled across the country due to coronavirus concerns, resulting in approximately <u>18,000</u> fewer blood donations. Increasingly troubling is that we expect this number to continue to grow with the number of COVID-19 cases on the rise, making it difficult to sustain the blood supply for patients in need. That's why the Red Cross strongly urges blood drive hosts to keep hosting blood drives and for healthy, eligible individuals to schedule a blood or platelet donation appointment at RedCrossBlood.org to help maintain a sufficient blood supply and avoid any potential shortages. The FDA said in a statement that coronavirus <u>does not pose any known risks to blood donors during the donation process</u> and urges people to continue donating in order to maintain the blood supply.

SAFETY FIRST At each blood drive, Red Cross employees follow thorough safety protocols. In addition to our standard procedures, the following additional protections will be performed:

- Pre-donation temperature screening
- Enhanced disinfecting
- Social distancing
- Staff wellness and protection
- Increased educational materials

VOLUNTEERS DRIVERS NEEDED IN MOUNT HOREB to drive eligible seniors, veterans and veterans' family members to medical and other important appointments and to deliver meals to seniors living in rural Dane County. These services allow them to remain living in their homes longer. Currently, the Mt. Horeb area has only two active RSVP drivers to keep up with the demand. Flexible scheduling and mileage reimbursement are available.

Come volunteer – your neighbors need you! Contact Gene Kundert, Drivers Services Manager at 608-441-7896 or

gkundert@rsvpdane.org. or Tom Poppe, Vets Helping Vets Coordinator at 608-238-7901 or **tpoppe@rsvpdane.org**.

GENERAL INFORMATION

SPRING FLING...postponed until May or June. Watch future newsletters for more information. For a number of years, ELC has honored the women of the church who are celebrating their 80th birthday in that calendar year. This year's celebration will take place in Fellowship Hall. Our theme is Baptism/Confirmation. If you want to display a confirmation dress or picture or baptism memorabilia, contact Helen Kahl for details. Bring your picture or other item with you that morning. Be sure your items are marked and you take them home with you after the program. We cannot be responsible for items left after the program. A light breakfast will be served.

NOTE: if you joined church after your 80th birthday or for some reason the church office doesn't have your birthday and you were missed, we want to celebrate you. Contact Helen by phone at 437-5311 or at **gvdairy@mhtc.net**.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

PLEASE WELCOME HANS OTTO LARSON into our church family. Hans was baptized on March 1. He is the son of Barry & Jennifer Larson and the brother of Colin, Ellie & Eva. His sponsors are Erin & Justin Kean

CELEBRATING THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF HER BAPTISM ON April 14 is Emerson Jane Klessig. Emerson is the daughter of Lacey & Zachary Klessig. Her sponsor is Makayla Anderson.



PLEASE PRAY FOR Linda Topper, Helen Martinson, Sammy Peede, nephew of Kari and Dan Hustad, Makenzee Smith, Delores Bryant, Brian Marshall (friend of Kim Kelliher), Brock Howe, Martha Hartman, Dorothy Jelle, Jeannie U'Ren, Mariann Brown (Rita Schraepfer-Derke's sister), Mike Olson

(Wendy Rasmussen's brother), Ruth Ann Nemet, Connie Fausett (sister of Diane Twiton & Jean Bower), Irene Bruflat, Sally Gaard

(friend of Margie Kahl), Laurie Duden (Brenda's aunt), Harlan Oimoen, Mary Jane Niles, Bill Steinhauer, Al Wilkening (Jan Ekenberg's brother-in-law), Grace Aavang, 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 Becky Strube and family. Becky's grandmother, Delores Church passed away on March 6.

MEMORIAL GIFTS GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY of

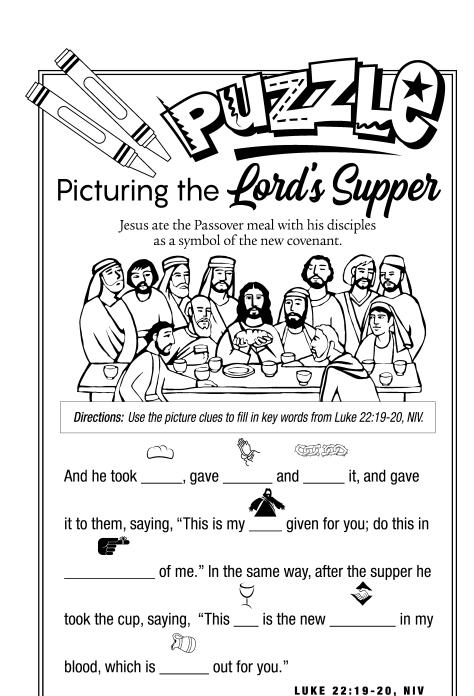
- Jeanette Richards for the Unspecified Memorials Fund from Sharon Collins, Kendall & Sara Kittleson and Vern & Betty Drape
- Gifts & Memorials
- ♣ Lois Alm for the Unspecified Memorials Fund from Robert & Linda Gomoll: for the Kitchen Fund from Helen Ladwig: and for the Benevolence Fund from Sharon Hendrickson
- Pearl Vierima for the Unspecified Memorials Fund from Diane Bartz, Beulah Uren, Vern & Betty Drape, Sharon Collins and Vern & Betty Drape: for the Kitchen Fund from Helen Ladwig; and for the General Fund from Wayne & Mary Knudson
- **Ron Johnson** for the **General Fund** from his family

MILITARY RECOGNITION If you know of an individual entering the military on active duty – this includes anyone who is a member of our congregation or who is family and not a member of our congregation (grandchild, son, daughter, etc.), please contact the church office (437-5012 or **elc@mhtc.net**). We would like to recognize this individual at one of our services before he/she begins their service.



1	Lauren Faust	11	Lynn Kitsemble	21	Hanna Errthum
	Ethan Frank		George Rothamer		Emma Pierick
	Timothy Geiger	12	Barry Larson	23	Maureen Cassady
	Jordyn Pasker		Donna Miller		Natalie Hosgeth
	Linda Wahlgren	14	Brian Frank	24	John Huseth
2	Bekett Eisele		Brock Howe	Α	Alexandra Grundahl
	Katie Gordon		Cade McKay		Scott Johanning
	Eugene Hefty		Rachel Slaney		Jill Knuteson
	Abigail Sadler		Sally Soltis		Dennis Lokken
	Nicole Vesely		Jonathan Winkler		Conrad Schult
	Shelby Ziebarth	15	Ingrid Erickson	25	Phyllis Murphy
4	Annalee Groves		Harlan Olmoen		Donald Williams
	Adelynn Kelliher	17	Keaton Little	26	Siobhan Mertz
	Hannah Schulenberg	18	Carol Engstad	27	John Rollins
5	Carl Sieg		Gloria Foley		Andy Mullendore
6	Jean Bower		Geoffrey Krentz		Gabriel Sadler
	Melissa Faliveno	E	Becky Muehlenkamp	28	Ingrid Frank
	Maggie Stack		Amy Shay		Landon Kahl
	Andy Truman		Nathan Steinl		Nolan LaBorde
7	Ann Baumgartner		Sacha Tetzlaff		Skylar Schulenberg
	Blake Farnsworth	19	Ilsa Gaulke	30	Madeline Cook
	Allison Farrell		Brian Miller		Jerry Thompson
	Cheryl Hanson		Brighid Monahan		
	Weston Hanson		Augustus Weber		
8	Noah Mullendore	20	Sullivan Boettcher		
	Addison Turk		Sharon Collins		
9	Shelley Lichte		Robert Davis		
10	Lincoln Bull		Lindsay Hellenbrand		
	Garrett Getz		Graham Osterholz		
			James Thomas		

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

(The following dates are tentative. Please check with your circle representative.

FAITH CIRCLE will meet at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, **April 14**, at the home of Carol Dann.

REBECCA CIRCLE will meet at 10am on April 21st

SARAH CIRCLE will meet **April 21st**. at 7pm We'll be doing the Bible Study from the April "Gather" magazine.

SEWING CIRCLE will not meet until further notice. Donations of sheets and blankets are always needed and very welcome. Lutheran World Relief quilts are a project of the entire congregation.

MEN'S BREAKFAST/BIBLE STUDY will not meet until further notice.

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THANK YOU to Social Committee #3 for serving funerals in March. Char Smith & Judy Steinhauer are co-chairs,

SERVING FUNERALS IN MARCH Committee #4, Co-chairs are Sandra Cannon & Dianne Hirsch

Social Committees are asked to continue serving while the church council is working on changes to the funeral lunch system.

EASTER MEMORIALS

ELC welcomes your memorial and honoring donations through the month of April for the Easter Lilies dual purpose of purchasing flowers to adorn the altar for the Easter Sunday festival services (to be held when it is safe to do so) and also to help feed the hungry in parts of the world where the need is greatest. ELCA World Hunger Appeal sends our donations to the hungry. The amount of each memorial is your personal decision. This gift is _____ in memory **or** _____ in honor of: (please check one of the above blanks)

Please mail your memorials to the church office at 315 E. Main St.

Amount: \$

Given by

Envelope #