



OUR WORSHIP SCHEDULE We will continue to stream worship services at 8:30am each Sunday on Facebook, YouTube, and the website www.elcmthoreb.org/home/worship/sermon-archive/, but will return to in-person worship on April 11. See page 3 for details.

OFFICE HOURS Our building will open to the public again beginning **Monday, April 12**. Until further notice, the church office will be staffed Monday-Friday from 9am to noon. Phone messages may be left at 437-5012. If you are coming into the building, you will be required to wear a mask and observe social distancing.

ELC'S STAFF

Pastor John Twiton

Pastoral Intern: Tamara Siburg

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

“Emerging into a new season”

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been;
Love is coming again like wheat arising green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Your touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

(“Now the Green Blade Rises” vs. 1 & 4 LBW#148)

I've been watching the daffodils outside my front door emerging despite the cold wind and occasional snow, and this Easter hymn comes to mind. That Easter story about new life emerging after the long, difficult hours of Holy Week, seems particularly apt this season. Even more, it feels as if our world is on the verge of a new season of growth and possibility, but those first steps do not always come easily, and the progress is not always smooth. Yet Easter is the message that the life and love of Christ always wins.

The new growth of spring takes patience and perseverance. It must be nurtured with care. As we look to this next season:

- Where do you see signs of hope and life in your experience?
- What particular things will you help to grow in your life of faith?
- Where is Jesus calling you to serve and love in his name?

It has been a long, difficult winter, and a trying year of pandemic living. I hope that we have each had a chance to evaluate the ways we use our days, learned what are the things we truly value, and perhaps a few things we discovered we could do without.

Read on through the newsletter to find details about a return to worship in the church, plans for Bible Camp and youth activities for summer, and be thinking about what you will be ready to help nurture into a new season of growth.

God's Peace

RETURN TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP BEGINNING APRIL 11TH

Beginning Sunday, April 11th, we will welcome people back into the building for Sunday worship following the guidelines spelled out by the church council. We will proceed carefully as we welcome people back into the building, and reassess our practices as we move forward.

Please note: We ask that you register for worship by Thursday evening if you intend to be there on Sunday morning. You can do this by following the 'Register for Worship' link on the top of the church webpage at www.elcmthoreb.org, or by calling the church office (437-5012). There will be one worship service at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday. Online and phone options will remain in place (see end of article for details), and please do not feel pressured to return if you are not ready to do so. The entire plan is detailed below, please note the extra precautions that will be in place.

ELC REOPENING PLAN FOR RETURN TO WORSHIP

ELC has developed this reopening plan based on best practices, Dane County guidelines, and recommendations from the Wisconsin Council of Churches. We will continue offering online and telephone services. Video and audio feeds are available on the church website, Facebook, and YouTube. A telephone service is available at (855) 514-2017.

- We'll begin with one Sunday service at 10:00am. The service will be abbreviated, roughly thirty minutes long.
- The capacity of the sanctuary is currently limited to county guidelines for indoor gatherings. We don't envision exceeding that in the short-term, but we will stream the service to the fellowship hall if necessary.
- Entry into the building will be limited to the front door and the Agape entrance. At the Agape entrance, use the stairs or elevator. Do not walk through the preschool area.
- Hand sanitizer is available at the entrances.
- We'll track attendance to help with contact tracing in case someone falls ill.

- We'll open as many windows and doors as are feasible, to improve ventilation.
- Masks are required.
- Socially distance from everyone except your family unit.
- Every other pew will be closed off.
- We'll have instrumental music, but no live singing or vocal reciting of liturgy. We will have readers for the lessons.
- We won't pass the offering plate, but you'll be able to leave offerings by the door
- We'll continue to celebrate Holy Communion with individual servings.
- The dismissal will be organized to minimize contact.
- We won't have a fellowship time, and the kitchen will remain closed. No coffee or donuts or drinking fountains.
- The nursery will be open, but we'll remove the toys, books, etc.

Continue to act prudentially. If you're sick or have any of the symptoms of Covid stay away. Be aware of your own personal risk. Stay home if you're uncomfortable with public gatherings. If you find you are diagnosed with Covid-19 please notify the office immediately so contact tracing can be started.

**LISTEN TO SUNDAY SERVICE "LIVE" ON YOUR PHONE
CALL: 855 - 514 - 2017**

CD RECORDINGS of the services are also available. Contact the church office if you would like one mailed: 437-5012 or elc@mhtc.net

MORNING DEVOTIONS by Pastor John on the ELC Facebook page at 8am Monday through Saturday

WHAT MATTERS Stay Connected To Synod Happenings, News, & Events! Grow in your faith and leadership! Stay connected to exciting events and stories of our faith in action in our synod! To sign up for synod news, please email Assistant to the Bishop for Synodical Life, Deacon Vicki Hanrahan at vickih@scsw-elca.org to be added to "What Matters."

PASTORAL VISITS Beginning in April if there are those who desire a pastoral visit or home communion, please call Pastor John. Both Pastor and Intern have received both doses of vaccine and are willing to visit by invitation, those who feel safe enough inviting us in. Please call to arrange a home visit.

PASTORAL INTERN

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Spring is finally here, the snow has melted. The plants are showing signs of growth. This time of year often leaves me thinking about 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!"

As we celebrate Jesus' resurrection in Easter at the beginning of the month, we are reminded that the very thought of life and death has been made new through God's love for each and everyone of us. As the planting season is upon us for those who garden and farm we wait in anticipation of the future harvest of crops as well as the beauty of all flowers and plants to help remind us of the beautiful diversity of all of God's creation that is continually being refreshed and made new.

This is even true for our church as we look forward to gathering again safely within the building for worship and other activities. Through this past year we have seen so much change around us, including the ways in which we have gathered and worshiped God together. As we move forward to gather again in ways we are more used to, we can marvel at the new creation that has been made through being able to adapt to this past year's circumstances. I am excited to be able to soon gather in worship in person with you all, as well as to continue to imagine into the future, how we can still utilize the technology we have learned to continue to share God's love with those who might not be able to gather in person for whatever reason.

This past year of what has felt like an exile from the church building, has truly been testament to God's creative powers in continuing to re-create our understanding of what it means to be a church together.

Also, let me know if you wish to meet for a chat at any time. I know many of you have been able to receive vaccines now and we thank God for that! I am also fully vaccinated and willing to meet with anyone, while still observing safe distancing practices.

Peace,

Intern Tamara

360-731-2937 / tsiburg@elcmthoreb.org



CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

2021 ELC SUMMER FUN (Save the dates)

- **VBS/DAY CAMP 2021 - JULY 12 - 15th 9:30-11:30am**
(Youth ages 3 - 5th grade)
ONLINE SIGN UP LINK: <https://forms.gle/3FCz1yfrYqQEKxph6>
A time to be together outside in God's creation.
- **EXPLORER DAY AT SUGAR CREEK July 26th, 9am-3pm**
(Children entering 1st - 5th grade in fall 2021)
- **CONFIRMATION CAMP AT SUGAR CREEK July 25-30th,**
(7th & 8th) Register online at www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org
- **GIVE/LOVE/SERVE (Service days) New for 2021** Middle - High school youth may join us on **Thursdays**, throughout the summer, to help in various local service opportunities. This provides us with helping our neighbors all summer, and allowing flexibility for our youths with their summer schedules.

TO REGISTER online: (Link can be emailed as well)

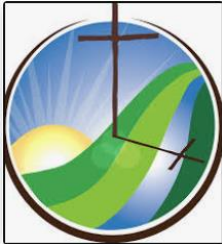
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4daea929a5ffc70-giveloveservice>

SUNDAY SCHOOL on ZOOM Happy Easter! No Sunday School on Easter, **April 4th**. We will resume on Zoom on **April 11th at 9am**.

7th & 8th GRADE CONFIRMATION Our 7th and 8th graders will be taking a two-week break from our classes. We will resume on **April 14th at 7pm at ELC**. With the weather getting nicer, we would like to meet in person. Please wear a mask. Social distancing will be observed. If your student prefers to join by Zoom, please let us know, so we can make those arrangements.

PRE-CONFIRMATION (6th Graders) Wednesdays, **April 14th - May 12th, 3:45 - 4:45pm** (5 sessions) at ELC. These gatherings are intended to enhance our Confirmation experience. (Share in fellowship, have fun, and review Bible stories) Please wear a mask and social distance will be observed. Students may join by Zoom, if needed.

FUSE NIGHTS (in person) 9th - 12th graders are welcome to join our high school group at ELC on **Tuesdays, April 13th & 27th at 7pm**. Please join us on **April 13th** for an Outdoor Scavenger Hunt, and an Escape Room Game on April 27th. Please wear a mask. Looking forward to seeing everyone in person!



SUGAR CREEK "BACK IN THE SADDLE"

Online Registration is open for Sugar Creek Bible Camp Summer programs. They have a variety of programs (new & favorites) listed on their website, <http://wp.sugarcreek bible camp.org>, for youth and families. Come and see in 2021!

SUGAR CREEK VOLUNTEER DAYS May 7 & 8

Help get the camp ready for summer programming. There are opportunities for individuals and families, Call the camp (608) 734-3113 for details or to sign up!

ELC YOUTH FUNDRAISERS Thank you for supporting our youth summer trips with our Easter fundraisers. Hoping everyone enjoys their homemade cinnamon rolls and their Easter Egg Hunts!

STARLA'S SEASONINGS Youth Fundraiser for April 5th - April 25th



Starla's seasoning blends are as unique as their names and are sure to complement any event. These seasonings are made in Wisconsin, made with the finest quality ingredients. All dip mixes and seasonings have No MSG and are Gluten Free. Easy recipes are on the back of each package for a variety of appetizer, main course and dessert

options.

TO ORDER: Complete the **SIGN-UP LINK** below OR order at church after the worship services (April 11, 18, 25) **ONLINE SIGN-UP LINK:** <https://forms.gle/y5voPtvH5LqjCRVYA>

Funds raised will go towards our youth summer trips, the ELCA Youth Gathering in 2022 and a mission trip. Checks may be written to **ELC Youth** and mailed to ELC Youth, %Brenda Martin, 315 E Main St, Mt Horeb, WI 53572. **Thank you for your continued support.**

GENERAL INFORMATION

BABY CAP MAKERS will meet Tuesday, **April 13 and 27th at 9:30am**. If the weather is warm and dry, we'll meet outside in the patio area off the lower church front with our lawn chairs. If the weather is cold or rainy, we'll meet via Zoom. If you want to join us, be sure Ruth has your email address so she can let you know how we'll meet. ruthheinecke@gmail.com 61 baby caps were delivered to Unity Point Meriter last month.

NO ELC 'COFFEE TIME' on Zoom Coffee Time will be taking a break from Zoom for a couple weeks, on March 31st and April 7th. Watch for announcements about Coffee Time by mid-April.

SPRING GREETINGS from AGAPE!

Spring break is on the horizon and will be here the last week of March! Let's hope mother nature cooperates and provides some warm days and sunshine, because we are all ready for spring, sunshine, warmer days and lots of outside time!

When classes resume in April, we will be enjoying many fun activities and projects about gardening, kites, wind, bugs, and butterflies. We also have many caterpillars arriving in April. The students will learn firsthand by watching them spin their cocoons and then hatch into beautiful butterflies. They will then be released in May with much celebration!

Enrollment is underway for the coming school year for both 3- and 4-year-old classes. Please spread the word to family and friends who may be looking for preschool options. Enrollment forms are available on the website or can be picked up from me during preschool hours by appointment.

Easter Blessings,
Amy Kellesvig

Upcoming calendar:

March 29 – April 2: Spring Break - No Preschool (3K, 4K or Toddler Time classes)
April 5: 3K & 4K Classes resume
May 25: Last day for Red Class
May 28: Last day for Yellow and Orange Class
June 8: Last day for all 4K classes



TREASURER'S REPORT February 2021

Cash Balances for ELC Mount Horeb Funds (\$)				
	General	Bldg Maint	Mortgage	Designated
2/28/21	51,744	74,115	25,623	56,723
12/31/20	68,449	72,610	26,535	58,426
2/29/20	6,115	65,329	30,518	48,301

General Fund Activity (\$)					
	Feb 2021	Feb 2020	YTD 2021	YTD 2020	YTD Budget
Income	20,062	23,389	42,870	42,811	61,146
Expense	30,871	31,786	59,534	63,109	64,116
Net	(10,809)	(8,397)	(16,664)	20,298)	(2,970)

Year-to-date General Fund income (9 Sundays) is 0% more than prior year (8 Sundays) and 30% less than budget. YTD expenses are 6% less than prior year, primarily due to fewer staff hours and savings in various Congregational Life expenses, partially offset by the cost of having an intern this year and increased snow removal expense; YTD expenses are 7% under budget, primarily due to fewer staff hours and savings in utilities and various Congregational Life expenses, partially offset by higher snow removal costs.

Building "Maintenance" (Capital) Fund Activity (\$)					
	Feb 2021	Feb 2020	YTD 2021	YTD 2020	YTD Budget
Income	779	880	1,504	1,577	1,633
Expense	0	0	0	1,899	6,500
Net	779	880	1,504	(322)	(4,867)

Year-to-date Building Maintenance Fund income is 5% less than prior year and 8% less than budget. There are no YTD expenses, while the prior year included HVAC repair expense.

Mortgage Repayment Fund Activity (\$) [Loan Balance is \$124,073]					
	Feb 2021	Feb 2020	YTD 2021	YTD 2020	YTD Budget
Income	2,319	3,307	6,348	6,725	7,260
Expense	3,630	3,630	7,260	7,260	7,260
Net	(1,311)	(323)	(912)	(535)	0

Year-to-date Mortgage Repayment Fund income is 6% less than prior year and 13% less than budget. YTD payments are equal to prior year and budget, and include \$1,073 in interest (5% APR). The final mortgage payment is scheduled for spring 2024.

Respectfully submitted by Stephen J. Hall,

CPA, ELCMH Treasurer, March 14, 2021

BENEVELONCE

Helping our Friends in Puerto Rico

The official name of our sister church in Puerto Rico is long and elegant, and rolls off the tongue beautifully: Iglesia Luterano del Divino Salvador. Translated literally, it reads Church Lutheran of the Divine Savior.

The work that Divino Salvador does in this community of roughly 25,000 people across the bay from San Juan is likewise beautiful. One of the few Lutheran churches on the primarily Catholic island, Divino Salvador has a sizable, engaged congregation that provides a support structure for daily life and is a beacon of hope during cataclysmic events such as Hurricane Maria in 2017, a storm so powerful it tore off the roofs off the church and many of its members' houses.

Many ELC members have had the privilege of attending services at Divino Salvador, and have shared stories about the friendliness they encountered -- and the legendary Sunday picnics the congregation hosts on a nearby beach. Our relationship with Divino Salvador stretches back many years, and we've integrated them into the Benevolence schedule since ELC started the program in 2013. We dedicate one month to collecting money for our friends in Puerto Rico and also contribute 10% of Benevolence donations throughout the year.

Traditionally, that money is used for a mix of capital repairs to the facilities and direct aid to people in the congregation, and this past year was no different. Recently, Heriberto Bousquet De La Rosa, president of the Church Council there, reported back to Pastor John the three uses for our annual contribution in 2020:

- \$600 for the purchase of 12 food shopping cards to distribute in aid.
- \$500 for improvements to the Pastoral House.
- \$1,000 for improvements to the Church.

Sr. De La Rosa sends gratitude, along with “a big hug in the love of God.”

Please consider a gift to Benevolence this month to help our friends in Puerto Rico as we all rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic and its fallout. You can donate by:

- **Mail:** Send a check to ELC and note “Benevolence” in the memo
- **Online:** Visit the ELC website and click “Give”
- **Digitally:** Download the "GivePlus Church" mobile app, or text "Benevolence" to 608-400-0183 with the amount you wish to give.

On behalf of Benevolence,

Adam Mertz
adammertz2@gmail.com

2021 BENEVOLENCE CONTRIBUTIONS

January: Compassion International - \$

February: Racial justice programming - \$



MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Nine of our 5th graders participated in our First Communion retreat in March. We congratulate them on receiving their First Communion on Maundy Thursday in a private family worship at church.

Sam Grundahl

Josie Sailor

Connor Heiting

Skylar Schulenberg

Claire Hurda

Carter Vesely

Mara Parks

Addie Zwolanek

Vanessa Rameker

PLEASE WELCOME EMERSYN JO KING into our church family.

Emersyn was baptized on Saturday, March 20, and is the daughter of Keith & Jorden King and granddaughter of Dennis Johnson. Her sponsors are Breanna Johnson and Erin Goplin.



Bonny Bender, Shirley Thompson, Devon Schlegel (Dawn Haag's father), Ginger Quaderer (Diane Mueller's cousin), Norbert Haag (Virgil Haag's brother), Richard Schuhler (friend of Ron & Bonny Kellogg), Agnes Robertson (friend of Holly Thompson), Delores Bryant, Makenzee Smith, Brock Howe, Dianne Haskins (friend of Char Smith), Brian Marshall (friend of Kim Kelliher), Mary Krantz, Jeannie U'Ren, Ruth Ann Nemet, Mike Olson (Wendy Rasmussen's brother), Sally Gaard (friend of Margie Kahl), Irene Brufat, Laurie Duden (Brenda Martin's aunt), Connie Fausett (sister of Diane Twiton & Jean Bower), Bill Steinhauer, Peter Toniazzo; Grace Aavang, Harlan Oimoen

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

- † **the family and friends of Beverly Luhman** (Kristy Schulenberg's mother). Beverly passed away on March 15.
- † **Kathy & Pat O'Donnell & family.** Pat's father, Francis J. O'Donnell, died on March 2.

**MEMORIAL GIFTS GIVEN IN LOVING
MEMORY of**

- † **Deloris Witte for Unspecified Memorials** from John Schwenn and Max & Betty Rosenbaum
- † **Rolf Knittel for Music** from Barb & Chris Underwood; and for **Unspecified Memorials** from Teri & Joseph Kroll
- † **Bill Redman for Lutheran College Scholarships** from Rose Klir
- † **Anna Storkson for Lutheran College Scholarships** from Rose Klir
- † **Deborah Sutter for Agape Christian Preschool** from LeRoy Collins
- † **Bill Olson for Unspecified Memorials** from Diane Bartz
- † **Baptismal Remembrance for Unspecified Memorials** from John Schwenn
- † **Francis. J. O'Donnell for Unspecified Memorials** from Carol & Dick Engstad
- † **Allan Greve for Unspecified Memorials** from Max & Betty Rosenbaum
- † **John Kahl for Saba, Intl.** from Max & Betty Rosenbaum





APRIL

Birthdays

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		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
4	Annalee Groves	15	Ingrid Erickson	25	Phyllis Murphy
	Adelynn Kelliher		Harlan Olmoen		Donald Williams
	Hannah Schulenberg	17	Keaton Little	26	Siobhan Mertz
5	Carl Sieg	18	Carol Engstad	27	John Rollins
6	Jean Bower		Gloria Foley		Andy Mullendore
	Maggie Stack		Geoffrey Krentz		Gabriel Sadler
	Andy Truman		Becky Muehlenkamp	28	Ingrid Frank
7	Ann Baumgartner		Amy Shay		Landon Kahl
	Blake Farnsworth		Nathan Steinl		Nolan LaBorde
	Allison Farrell		Sacha Tetzlaff		Skylar Schulenberg
	Cheryl Hanson	19	Ilsa Gaulke	30	Madeline Cook
	Weston Hanson		Brian Miller		Jerry Thompson
8	Noah Mullendore		Brigid Monahan		
	Sawyer Staplemann		Augustus Weber		
	Addison Turk	20	Sullivan Boettcher		
9	Shelley Lichte		Sharon Collins		
10	Lincoln Bull		Robert Davis		
	Garrett Getz		Lindsay Hellenbrand		
			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.



EASTER MORNING *message*

Early Sunday morning, some women who followed Jesus encountered a great surprise. Solve the puzzle to see what the angels told them.

Directions: Cross out every other letter in the maze. Write the remaining letters in order to complete Luke 24:5-6, NIV.

The maze is shaped like a rainbow. At the top left is a sun with rays, and at the top right are clouds. The letters along the top edge of the rainbow are: F, O, N, R, S, T, U, H, C, E, D, L, T, N, I, G. The letters along the left edge are: Y, S, O, B, O, C, K, F, O, N, R, S, T, U, H, C, E, D, L, T, N, I, G. The letters along the right edge are: B, O, R, N, H, G, K, E. The letters along the bottom edge are: W, X, R, V, S, Z, H, S, E, A, H, B, R, O, H, Y, N, W, S, K, I, L, E, P, D, E, A, F. Inside the maze, the following text is written in a stylized font: " _ H _
D _ _ O U L _ _
F _ _ _ _ _ I V I _ _
A M _ _ _ _ T H _ _ D E _ _ ?
H _ _ _ _ O T _ _ E _ E ;
_ _ _ A _ _ I S _ _ !"

LUKE 24:5-6, NIV

Answer: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" Luke 24:5-6, NIV

2021 SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

With summer in the not-too-distant future, we hope that all ELC youth who would like to attend summer camp have or soon will register with the camp of their choice. ELC Benevolence funds will be used to provide a **\$75 campership to each registered camper attending a full week** and a **\$50 campership to those going to ½ week camps.**



Complete the form below for each child or youth attending Bible camp and submit it to the church office. **The scholarships will be sent directly to the camp earmarked for each individual child.**

Name: _____

will be attending summer Bible camp this year from

_____ to _____ at the following camp:
(date) (date)

(Please check only one.)

_____ Okoboji

_____ Bethel Horizons

_____ Lutherdale

_____ Sugar Creek

_____ Other _____

Parent's Name _____

PLEASE FILL OUT ONE FORM PER CHILD.

