

WELCOME to ELC MT. HOREB



OUR WORSHIP SCHEDULE We will continue to stream worship services at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday on Facebook, YouTube, and the website www.elcmthoreb.org/home/worship/sermon-archive/ See page 4 for February's schedule.

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

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

New growth will come

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it Isaiah 55:10-11

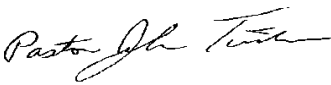
As I write this I'm looking out the window at a world frozen in snow and ice. At the moment the idea of new growth seems unlikely at best. But we know a new season is coming, and things will look different in few months. But there will be some cold, dark nights before we get there.

This is true of the Bible story we follow in the next weeks as well. We are entering into Lent this month and follow the story of Jesus' ministry and journey toward the cross. Of course, we know that Easter lies ahead, but there will be dark days in the story before we get there.

This season in history has been especially difficult. We've been enduring struggles for months now, and we still have a way to go. There will be difficult days, but this season will end. In the story of the pandemic, hope comes with advances in vaccines and the power of medicine.

In the story of our life of faith, hope come becomes we know that God's people have endured difficult seasons in the past, and that God continues to send the Word which brings hope, healing, and life. God's Word will continue to do that which God intends. The Word will bring new life! What can we do to nurture that seed of new life for the days ahead? How can we use our gifts to strengthen our community of faith so that we are ready for a new season of growth?

God's Peace,



LENT 2021

Ash Wednesday – February 17th

We will offer ‘drive-up’ imposition of ashes from Noon to 1 PM and 4 to 5 PM at the entrance to the new addition off the parking lot. Ashes will be shared by staff with masks, gloves, and face shields. You can pull into the circle drive and opening your car windows. Each person in the car must be wearing a mask as well.

There will also be some packets of ashes that you could take home if you wish to impose ashes as a family.

Ash Wednesday worship, with a special new virtual choir performance, will be available online beginning at 11 AM.

Beginning of February 24th, we will share the Lenten Series:

“DEAR PAUL”

After many years of writing letters to the early Christian churches, Paul is still at it in Heaven, reading letters from, and answering, 21st century folks. Paul's sometimes humorous, always heartfelt responses to modern-day issues and questions reflect the same message of grace, love and Christian unity he shared with the church at Ephesus 2000 years ago.



This series of brief weekly plays will be presented online as a way of introducing the lessons from the Letter to the Ephesians. If you would like to take part in a zoom recording of one of these plays, please contact Pastor John.

These Lenten worship services will also be available online beginning at 11 AM each Wednesday.



WAYS OF “BEING CHURCH While the building is closed, and we don’t gather as usual, worship continues. You can participate in online worship by joining us on Facebook on Sunday morning at 8:30am, or

watch the video later on the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mt. Horeb Facebook page, or on the church website at: <http://elcmthoreb.org/home/worship/sermon-archive/Worship> services are also available on YouTube at: Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mt. Horeb

FEBRUARY WORSHIP

We will continue to stream worship services at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday on Facebook, YouTube, and the website www.elcmthoreb.org/home/worship/sermon-archive/

We will hold one parking lot worship in February – the date to be set when we get our equipment repaired. Those of you who attended in January know that our broadcasting equipment was not working. We will also hold zoom gatherings with the sharing of communion, watch your email for an invitation.

If you are not receiving weekly emails from Pastor John, please send you email address to: john.twiton@elcmthoreb.org.

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 INTERN

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Thank you for making the start of the new year a good one here at the church. As we are approaching almost a year of participating in church differently due to the pandemic there is hope on the horizon as the vaccine is slowly starting to be delivered throughout the community. I know that there is still much lamenting that it is not yet safe to gather in large groups yet but remember we are doing the hard work of staying physically distanced out of our love that God has taught us to have, to love our neighbors. When the pandemic started to affect us here in the U.S., I doubt any of us expected we would still be dealing with all of this now, that we still would be gathering together over virtual means or in the parking lot, instead of in the sanctuary space. This is a hard time for us all as we are dealing with feelings of disconnection and grief within our current situations. We trust in the good news that God is always with us no matter what. God is able to work through all the means we have at our disposal. God is there with us as we join together for worship virtually as well as in the parking lot.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you ever want to have a chat over the phone or over zoom. This time of the year, being colder makes it harder to safely physically distance but know that if you would like to bundle up for a distanced chat out in the elements, I am willing to do that as well.

I have shared some words on behalf of this month's Benevolence offering of racial justice & equity programming throughout this year. I encourage you to check that out and look forward to more information in the coming weeks/months. Please let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Peace,
Intern Tamara
360-731-2937
tsiburg@elcmthoreb.org

TREASURER'S REPORT December 2020 Financial Report

GENERAL FUND ACTIVITY (\$)					
	Dec 20	Dec 19	YTD 2020	YTD 2019	YTD Budget
Income	33,236	46,741	297,648	337,679	363,437
Transfer In	0	0	0	12,057	0
Expense	24,764	29,335	295,583	342,247	363,437
Net	8,472	17,386	2,065	(7,489)	0
Grant Inc	39,972		39,972		
Adjusted net	48,444		42,037		

Year-to-date General Fund income (52 Sundays) is 12% less than prior year (52 Sundays) and 18% less than budget. YTD expenses are 14% less than prior year, primarily due to the Jan-Jul intern vacancy, fewer staff hours, & lower Leadership Development, Spiritual Growth, Pastoral Ministry, Youth & Family, Maintenance, Administrative, & Utilities costs; YTD expenses are 19% under budget, primarily due to free intern housing, fewer staff hours, benefits savings, & lower Leadership Development, Spiritual Growth, Pastoral Ministry, Youth & Family, Maintenance, Insurance Administrative, & Utilities costs. We applied for loan forgiveness in Dec. for the \$39,972 we borrowed through the SBA Paycheck Protection Program in April. The loan was forgiven, so we removed the debt & recorded it as grant income.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE (CAPITAL) FUND ACTIVITY (\$)					
	Dec 20	Dec 2019	YTD 2020	YTD 2019	YTD Budget
Income	4,745	1,182	14,043	8,695	8,000
Transfer In	0	277	0	277	0
Expense	2,200	0	7,084	16,482	14,667
Net	4,745	1,459	6,959	(7,510)	(8,000)

Year-to-date Building Maintenance Fund income is 62% more than prior year & 76% more than budget. YTD expenses (HVAC repair, tree pruning, & wall repairs, grading & erosion repairs) are 57% less than last year (HVAC repair, carpet runners, A/C unit replacement, sidewalk repairs, & stone repairs) & 56% less than budget.

MORTGAGE REPAYMENT FUND ACTIVITY (\$); (LOAN BALANCE IS \$159,348)					
	Dec 2020	Dec 2019	YTD 2020	YTD 2019	YTD Budget
Income	6,906	6,151	42,702	44,072	43,560
Expense	3,630	3,630	48,560	53,626	43,560
Net	3,276	2,521	(5,858)	(9,554)	0
Grant Inc	1340		1340		
Adj. Net	4,616		(4,518)		

Year-to-date Mortgage Repayment Fund income is 3% less than prior year & 2% less than budget. YTD payments are 10% less than prior year (due to extra \$10,000 principal payment last year) & 11% more than budget (due to extra \$5,000 principal payment this year). Final payment is scheduled for May 2024. We applied for loan forgiveness for the \$1340 we borrowed through the SBA Paycheck Protection Program in April. The loan was forgiven,

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

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

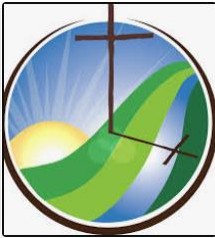
SUNDAY SCHOOL on ZOOM Youth, ages 3 yrs. - 8th grade meet each Sunday at 9 am on Zoom. For the link, please email Brenda.

LENTEN/EASTER CRAFT BOXES - Craft boxes are back! They will contain family games and crafts to help guide families through the Lenten season and Easter. Sign up by emailing brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org to reserve your box by Feb 8th. Estimate pick up will be around Ash Wednesday.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY ZOOM. We will have a Children and Youth Ministry meeting on February 2nd, at 7:00 PM (Zoom). Anyone interested in planning for our youth, please email Brenda.

CONFIRMATION on ZOOM Our 7th & 8th graders continue to study the Ten Commandments. During Lent, we will watch the Lenten services together on Zoom.

CONFIRMATION CAMP (SAVE THE DATE) - ELC will be attending the Confirmation Camp at Sugar Creek Bible Camp the week of July 25 - July 30. 7th-8th graders are encouraged to attend. Register online: <http://wp.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org>.



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.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org>, for youth and families. Come and see in 2021!

FUSE NIGHTS on ZOOM
Youth, who are 9th - 12th graders are welcome to join our high school group on ZOOM, **Tuesdays, February 9th and 23rd at 7 pm.** Time for games and a chance to connect.



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

ELC 'COFFEE TIME' on ZOOM - Join us on Wednesdays at 10 AM each week to catch up with our church family. Time to connect and see each other! Zoom link is emailed each week. If you need the link, contact Pastor John, Tamara or Brenda.

THANK YOU - BUCKY BOOK SALES: Thank you again to everyone who supported our Bucky Book Sales these past few months. With adding some new modifications for selling this year (adding our online option), our youth earned \$409 towards summer activities. Thank you for supporting our youth.

ELC PAINTING CLASS ELC Ministries (Children & Youth; Spiritual Growth & Fellowship) invite you to join us on March 6th, 9 am - 12 pm, on Zoom for an opportunity to paint a picture together. Our class will be led by Sarah Gerg. She is from Mt Horeb, and currently studying at Rhode Island School of Design. She will guide everyone 'step by step' to complete a springtime painting. Everyone is welcome to join us. Please RSVP to brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org by February 12th. Materials will be available for pickup prior to the workshop. Our fee for the class is \$15/person to help with the costs of the materials. Looking forward to this opportunity!



ELC PAINTING CLASS (on ZOOM) with Sarah Gerg

March 6th, 9 am – 12 pm

Join us on an adventure to learn to paint a springtime picture, designed by Sarah.

Please RSVP to brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org by February 12th.

FEE: \$15.00/person

Hosted by ELC Ministries (Children & Youth; Spiritual Growth & Fellowship)

EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
of Mount Horeb

BENEVOLENCE

Elevating the Racial Justice Movement Through ELC

Many of the charities that we support through the Benevolence Program benefit neighbors of color. It has come to our attention through witnessing the events of the past year that we have much work to continue to do in understanding the issues of racial inequality that has and continues to wreak havoc and sow division and misunderstanding within our own communities. This month the Social Action Team has devoted the Benevolence donations to go towards educational programming on racial justice and racial equity. It is fitting to have racial equity education as our fundraising efforts for the month as we remember and celebrate Black History Month. We are hoping with the funds raised that we will be able to offer educational programming throughout the year of 2021 not just for us, here at ELC but to also be able to reach out to and include others from our community of Mt. Horeb so we can learn as a community together.

I am grateful for Adam asking me to be a part of making this a reality here at ELC because there are a few reasons why racial justice and equity education are important to me personally. One of the first times I had the opportunity to truly be made aware of racial inequalities was when I participated in Lutheran Volunteer Corps for a year after graduating college. For that year I worked at a community center in the inner city of Wilmington, Delaware working mostly with elementary aged children of color. It is true that children pay attention to what goes on in the world around them. Some of the things these children would say based on their observations of society were heart breaking. This was in 2013-14, which was near the beginning of when I started to notice national attention of people who looked like these kids, some not much older than those I worked with, being killed indiscriminately while the killers were often not held accountable in the justice systems. I remember one kid had asked “why do people hate us just because we’re black?” I had no answer, how do you answer a question like this that was asked by a 2nd grader? Or what do you say to a child that says they wish they were your color? Platitudes and saying that their color is beautiful only goes so far when they already know and realize that a person's skin color can impact how our society treats them. There's nothing I could say other than to vow to work to change these societal systems that have allowed these things to be their reality. That year helped to really open my eyes at how privileged I am that I never had to truly worry personally about most of what they all already had real reasons to worry about.

Another reason why this topic is important to me is that a few years ago I gained a brother-in-law who is black. He quickly became a family member whom I hold dear, and I deeply value his perspectives and insights. This past summer I remember getting a text message from him saying that he was getting pulled over, and it included his geographical coordinates. I instantly dreaded what this might mean because I have heard of many traffic stops gone bad, especially for people of color. I was trying to figure out what I could do to help him being halfway across the country. I was scared for my loved one. A short time after that initial text, another came through saying that the last one was just a test of a new app he had downloaded for a future "just in case" moment. Just the thought that people, let alone a loved one, feels like it is necessary to have an app to be able to send their location at any given moment "just in case" they are stopped by the police is another heartbreaking moment that I had never thought about on a personal level before that instant. I truly hope that in my lifetime I will see that this type of app is no longer needed, but I know for that to become a reality it requires real work from people like you and me to make that change a reality.

The future programming throughout the year that this month's funds will go towards is still in the process of being finalized. The hope for this programming is that we have a chance to not only learn more about the history of the systems in place that have led to the unequal treatment of our siblings in Christ but to also learn actionable ways to be better allies within our own communities.

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,
Intern Tamara Siburg

GENERAL INFORMATION

BABY CAP MAKERS will meet via Zoom on **Tuesday, Feb. 9 and 23 at 9:30am**. If you'd like to join us send your email address to ruthheinecke@gmail.com and she'll send you the link. If you have finished baby caps, please contact her to pick them up. Last month 57 baby caps we're delivered to SSM (Saint Mary's) hospital.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS TO MEL HANSON

on her graduation from UW LaCrosse. She majored in Middle Childhood to early adolescence education with minors in Math and Science education.



Devon Schlegel (Dawn Haag's father), Norm Haag (Virgil Haag's brother), Ginger Quaderer (Diane Mueller's cousin), Vivian Stone, Bonnie Bender, Richard Schuhler (friend of Ron & Bonny Kellogg), Allen Olson (father of Ingrid Frank), 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, Harlan Oimoen, Peter Toniazzo, Grace Aavang, Shirley Thompson

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

- ✝ **Kate Hook & family**. Kate's father, Glenn Thronson, passed away December 31
- ✝ **The friends and family of Deloris Witte** who passed away January 4



MEMORIAL GIFTS GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY of

- ✝ **Allan (Skip) Greve** for the **Sewing Group** from Davie & Patircia Flom, and for **Unspecified Memorials** from Gordy & Margie Kahl, Dorothy Bergum, Diane Bartz and Kenneth & Linda Kellogg
- ✝ **Deloris Witte** for **Unspecified Memorials** from Richard & Dianne Weigle, LeRoy Collins, Alice Engelkins and David & Dorothy Witte
- ✝ **Bill Redman** for **Unspecified Memorials** Paul & Ruth Heinecke, Phil & Ann Dettwiler, Jim & Cheryl Hanson, Mary Stamm, Diane Bartz, Vern & Betty Drape, Ron & Sandy Cushman, Julie & Jerry Landmark, Bob & Becky Kleppe And Mary Curtis; for the **Mortgage Fund** from Saundra Roth; for the **Scholarship Fund** from Helen Martinson; for **Agape** from DeLayne Krentz; for the **Building Fund** from Grace Aavang; for the **General Fund** from Helen Kahl; for the **Technology Fund** from Norm & Rita Hefty and for **Lutheran World Relief** from Bob & Sharon Schiefelbein
- ✝ **Bernadine (Bernie) Johnson** for **Women's Ministry** from Mary Stamm and for the **Technology Fund** from George Johnson
- ✝ **Betty Hardyman** a **Christmas Memorial for World Hunger** from Carol Losenegger



FEBRUARY

Birthdays

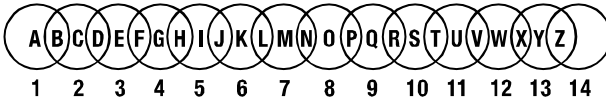
1	Nancy Balbach George Johnson Zachary Peter Dean Stange	9	Beth Heiting Scott Klassy Declan Otis Kristi Schulenberg	17	Grace Casey Joyce Fargo Kanen Getz Mara Johnson
2	Rob Farnsworth Sara John Mary Kaboth	10	Adrienne Hogseth Christina Kahl Margie Kahl		Siri Martin Steve Mueller Marc Powell
3	Jim Uptegraw		Adam Sailor		Joan Stensby
4	Ben Brothers Reece Watson	11	Lauren Albrecht Eva Larson	18	Cheryl Schlicht
5	Owen Aeschlimann Jackson John Doug Nesheim Stephanie Rollins Pamela Roth Sophia Sadler		Colton Martin Sarah Strube	19	Elva Jeanne Hanna Jan Lukken Madison Lukken
		12	Kayla Bredeson Paige Densmore Meghan Mason Jonah Siebold	20	Jim Cook Mary Krantz Molly Mason Jessica Hanson
6	Scott Hall Regan Soyring Mark Sutter		Ryan Sinner	21	Anthony Truman Craig Vesely
		13	Addison Anderson Hailey Hanson	23	Mary Ann Powell
7	Sawyer Kahl Lacey Klessig Mark Peter Kalah Thomas		Quentin Rosborough Dan Sherven		Paul Yapp
		14	Ashley Thompson	24	Sean LaBorde Gerald Stamm Jenifer Stone
8	Makayla Krueger Charlie Miller Scott Underwood Carter Vesely Cathy Woller	15	Theresa M. Toniazzo	25	Mary Hastings Jared Leuzinger
		16	Taylor Freitag Kayson Haag-Little	26	Bernette Allemann
				27	Jennifer Ekenberg
				28	Amanda Balbach Donald Field
				29	Craig Mortvedt Hannah Stapelmann

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!

Use the code to complete the blanks — and find out how God wants us to treat people.

CODE:



1,2 3 6 5 7,8 2,3 1 7,8 2,3

2 8 7 8,9 1 10 10 5 8 7,8 1 10,11 3

10,11 8 8 7,8 3 1 7,8 8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10'

3,4 8 9,10 4 5 11,12 5 7,8 4 3 1 2 4,5

8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10' 5,6 11 10 10,11 1 10

5 7,8 2 4,5 9,10 5 10 10,11 4 8 2,3

3,4 8 9,10 4 1 11,12 3 13 8 11'

EPHESIANS 4:32, NIV

Answer: Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32, NIV