

STEEPLE

March 2023

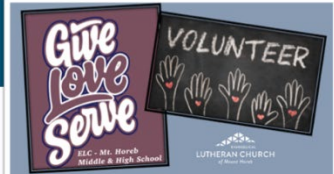
*A Monthly Newsletter
of Evangelical Lutheran
Church
of Mount Horeb*

SUGAR CREEK
BIBLE CAMP

CONFIRMATION CAMP - JULY 9 - 14

MARCH BENEVOLENCE 2023

ELC Youth Summer Programming



LOCAL MISSION WEEK - JULY 17 - 20



VBS/DAY CAMP 2023
ELC of MT HOREB
June 19 - 22



LUTHERAN CHURCH
of Mount Horeb

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

WELCOME

ELC of MOUNT HOREB

We welcome all to ELC. Everyone. Without exception. Regardless of race, ethnicity, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, faith traditions, physical or mental abilities, financial resources, family status, or personal struggles. We are committed to being an anti-racist community. By the power of the Holy Spirit we will work to extend God's grace, love, justice, and dignity. You belong here. Your story and your life are valuable. In Christ's love, we welcome you.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE AT ELC

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

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

SUNDAY 9:00 am Blended Service

Pre-recorded online worship available:

www.elcmthoreb.org/home/worship/sermon-archive/

or listen to Sunday service "live" on your phone 855-514-2017

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

ELC'S STAFF

Pastor John Twiton

Accompanists: 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: Barb and Chris Underwood (interim)

Office Manager: Nancy Voss

Organist/Senior Choir Director: Diane Dangerfield

Youth Director: Brenda Martin

A Note from PASTOR JOHN

How do we answer?

The season of Lent is an opportunity to reflect on our journey of faith, focus on the call to discipleship, and seek to deepen our trust in God's mercy and guidance. The call to follow as Jesus' disciples comes to each one of us, and we'd like to think we'd respond willingly as the prophet Isaiah did:

⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'

- Isaiah 6:8

But if we are honest with ourselves and with God, we might recognize that our response too often looks like that of Jonah when God's word comes to him:

"Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying, ²'go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before me.'³ But Jonah set out to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord."

- Jonah 1:1-3

During our mid-week Lenten services this year, we will follow Jonah's journey, and see that even though his initial response is to turn away and flee from God's call, God does not give up on him, and continues to work through him.

I hope we will come to realize that we are never judged by our worst moments, and that the love of God does not abandon us, or give up on us. God's grace persists and continues to call us. God can, and will, use each of us to bring hope and healing to the world.

God's Peace,



CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

FIRST COMMUNION RETREAT - March 18th, 10 AM-12 PM

Our 5th graders are invited to our First Communion Retreat at ELC. SIGN UP with the link: <https://forms.gle/4yjaxZ3iDhnhSKk59>.

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15 - 11 am (3 years old - 8th grade) - Join us for Bible stories, music, games, and snacks. Service Day is March 19th.

7th & 8th GRADE CONFIRMATION- Youth will meet Wednesdays in Lent in their small groups at 6:45 pm. Everyone will gather for worship during Lent at 7 pm.



FUSE EVENT - MAR 12th, 7 pm- High schoolers are welcome to join our youth group as we will be discussing Anxiety and Depression. Friends are welcome to attend.

SUGAR CREEK "JUMP INTO SUMMER" – Online Registration is open for Sugar Creek Bible Camp Summer programs. Check out the many programs for youth and families. <http://wp.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org>. ELC of Mt Horeb will help with camp costs, by giving each camper \$100 towards their camping week. Please let Sugar Creek know that you are registering with ELC. If additional scholarships are needed, please contact Brenda or Pastor John. Come and see in 2023!



2023 YOUTH SUMMER SCHEDULE:

- **DAY CAMP/VBS WEEK AT ELC - June 19 - 22, Register with link or QR code- <https://forms.gle/qYotzWLkqgNXDLef6>**
 - VBS (9 am – 11:30 am) 3 yr. – Kindergarten

- **DAY CAMP (9 am – 3 pm) 1st – 5th grade in fall (One day to Sugar Creek on June 21st for K – 5th)**

- **CONFIRMATION CAMP - July 9 - 14, 7th & 8th graders will attend Confirmation Camp at Sugar Creek Bible Camp. ELC will pay \$100 towards the price of camp per person. Register online: <http://wp.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org/>**

2023
VBS/DAY CAMP at ELC
REGISTRATION



CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS cont.

- **GIVE/LOVE/SERVE (Local Service Week) - July 17 - 20, Middle - High school youth are invited to our local mission week, Monday - Thursday. Silver Cord hours will be given to our high school students. Register with link or QR code**
<https://forms.gle/muPBvDA5UpZ9RPUJ8>

2023
GIVE/LOVE/SERVE
REGISTRATION



PARENTS NIGHT OUT/GAMES & CRAFTS AT ELC - March 10th, 5:30 pm -8:00 pm at ELC:

Our experienced high school youth will be offering a night of fun, games, crafts, and treats for youth ages 3 years through 5th grade at ELC.

Donation: \$10 per child and \$5 for additional children (family rate). Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend. Sign up with the link or QR code.

<https://forms.gle/Zuob4so82YiR316CA>

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT
MARCH 10TH, 2023
REGISTER



ELC YOUTH EASTER FUNDRAISERS -

EASTER BREAKFAST - April 9th, 7 am - 9 am Come and enjoy our Easter Breakfast in Fellowship Hall, featuring homemade cinnamon rolls, egg bakes, fruit, juice/coffee.

EASTER EGG HUNT - HOME DELIVERY - Our ELC Youth would love to help your families this Easter by hiding 30 eggs at your home for your children. (A chance to have their own personal egg hunt.) Plastic eggs with treats inside, would be hidden either after 9 pm on Sat, or early Easter morning. (We are not responsible for any squirrels stealing them 😊) Sign up for egg delivery with your address & time preferred. Easter donation: \$30 for 30 hidden eggs.

TO ORDER:

SIGN UP LINK: <https://forms.gle/PkrnfDxbta3o5i9B8>

Funds raised will go towards our Youth Gathering Trip in 2024. Thank you for your continued support.

Brenda Martin, Youth Ministries Director

brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org

AGAPE

Greetings from Agape Christian Preschool,

Snow, Snow and more Snow!! Whew, it has been a busy winter! We are looking forward to spring coming soon with many fun activities for the month of March. We will celebrate Dr. Seuss Birthday and St. Patrick's Day. We will also learn about outer space, transportation, and, of course, all things spring. I know a lot of fun and exciting adventures will take place!

Enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year will start on March 1st, 2023, for our 3K program. The registration forms are available on our website www.agapechristianpreschool.com or you can pick them up in the Agape office during preschool hours. The collaborative 4K program with the MHASD is still accepting enrollment for the upcoming school year. 4K registration should be completed online at the school district website, found at www.mounthoreschools.org under the 4K section. If you have any family or friends looking for more information about our programs, please have them reach out to me anytime.

The Butter Braid Frozen Pastries will be delivered on Friday, March 3rd. If you placed an order, I will reach out to coordinate a pick-up time. We sold just over \$9000 this year, raising almost \$4000 for the preschool. We will continue to use those funds to improve classroom and playground equipment. Thank you to those who donated or purchased butter braids. We could not do it without your support!

Blessings,

Amy Kellesvig, Director

TREASURER'S REPORT

On behalf of the church council, I want to offer a sincere thank you to the congregation for your increased giving this month. Because of your continued support, including several substantial individual donations, the general fund and mortgage fund are in a much stronger position than they were two months ago. For January we were able to fund our operating expenses from current income. And we received an extra \$5000 donation that will be applied to the principal along with February's mortgage payment, leaving us on a pace to retire the debt for the new addition this fall.

Building fund expenses included \$2860 for stonework, less an \$820 credit from the general fund for last month's downspout extension payment. Designated fund expenses included \$100 for technology,

while designated fund income included \$1000 for technology, \$1693 for youth, \$400 for internship, and \$102 unspecified.

Respectfully submitted by Ben Brothers, February 14, 2023.

TREASURER'S REPORT Cont.

BALANCE SHEET	1/31/23	12/31/22	12/31/21
General Fund	\$ 23,180	\$ 18,205	\$ 64,591
Mortgage Fund	\$ 12,636	\$ 4,566	\$ 13,790
Building Fund	\$ 25,639	\$ 23,201	\$ 24,391
Designated Funds	\$ 138,133	\$ 134,727	\$ 61,908
Mortgage	\$ (38,477)	\$ (41,933)	\$ (87,223)
TOTAL	\$ 161,111	\$ 138,766	\$ 77,457

CASH FLOW	Jan 2023	2022
Operating Income		
General Fund Income	\$ 35,546	\$ 329,736
Mortgage Fund Income	\$ 11,700	\$ 39,401
Total	\$ 47,246	\$ 369,137
Operating Expenses		
Personnel	\$ 18,180	\$ 239,777
Mission and Outreach	\$ 1,917	\$ 40,465
Congregational Life	\$ 695	\$ 16,245
Facilities and Administration	\$ 9,692	\$ 79,437
Mortgage Repayment	\$ 3,630	\$ 48,645
Total	\$ 34,114	\$ 424,569
Net Gain (Loss) from Operations	\$ 13,132	\$ (55,432)
Other Income		
Benevolence	\$ 780	\$ 12,182
Building Capital Fund	\$ 4,477	\$ 10,358
Designated Funds	\$ 3,195	\$ 94,291
Total	\$ 8,452	\$ 116,831
Other Expenses		
Benevolence	\$ 569	\$ 11,618
Building Capital Expenses	\$ 2,040	\$ 11,547
Designated Fund Expenses	\$ 100	\$ 22,007
Total	\$ 2,709	\$ 45,172
Net Gain (Loss) from Non-Operating Expenses	\$ 5,743	\$ 71,659
NET GAIN (LOSS)	\$ 18,875	\$ 16,227

BENEVOLENCE

Help Provide Life-Changing Activities for our Youth!

There's a Pastor John go-to line that sticks with me from my days as a Confirmation guide, because it seems fresh every time I hear him deliver it to our youth. It goes something like this: "You're not the church of tomorrow - you're the church of today!"

The point is that a congregation's strength springs from its emerging leaders. There's a vibrancy that kids and teenagers bring to the equation, and a sense of hope that the faith community we're building today will live on through them.

As such, there's no better investment than in providing these youngsters the opportunity to get involved and engage in experiences that open their eyes to the world around them and to the potential inside each of them.

We're seeing a lot of new, young faces in this church and it's exciting to nourish their interest in what we have to offer. A great example of that is our rich menu of summer youth programming, which Brenda Martin has carefully developed and expanded through the years.

Every March, we dedicate funds raised through the Benevolence Program that month to help fund these programs - directly or through scholarships that make sure these opportunities are inexpensive and accessible to everyone.

Here are some highlights for the coming summer:

- **Vacation Bible School at ELC for kids age 3 through kindergarten, June 19-22.**
- **Day Camp at ELC for kids entering first through fifth grade this fall (includes a day trip Sugar Creek Bible Camp that ELC pays for), June 19-22.**
- **Confirmation Camp at Sugar Creek, July 9-14, for which ELC pays \$100 toward the registration fee.**
- **Give / Love / Serve, our local service week, July 17-20. Middle schoolers and high schoolers take part in projects in our community and surrounding areas that qualify for Silver Cord hours. They'll stay close to home this year after participating in a life-changing trip to St. Louis last year; since that time this group has raised nearly \$3,000 for Urban Reach St. Louis!**

BENEVOLENCE cont.

There are ways to help beyond making monetary donations:

- **Volunteer as a Day Camp leader:** Sarah Strube has volunteered to serve as one of our leaders for the Day Camp, and we're recruiting other young adults to be part of the team. We're planning to compensate them for their time, just as we would the Sugar Creek camp counselors who often guide our programs.
- **Volunteer as a driver:** We need adults to help drive our Day Camp attendees to Explorer Day at Sugar Creek on June 21, and to service events during Give / Love / Serve.
- **Volunteer at an event:** We're always looking for extra servers and cooks to help our youth as they host Brats in the Lot on June 3 at Miller & Sons Supermarket in Mount Horeb, and to host a brat sale in the Wyser Engineering lot for the Mount Horeb Art Fair on July 15th
- **Suggest or lead a service opportunity:** We're always on the watch for new activities that will inspire our kids to participate. One new project we're initiating will have our youth team up with the Rebecca Circle to collect and assemble Baby Kits.

You can contribute to our youth programming 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

BENEVOLENCE cont.

2023

January: Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response \$780

February: Compassion International TBD

March: ELC youth and summer programming

UPCOMING

April: Reconciliation in Christ (RIC) social justice programming

May: Divine Savior

June: Neighbors Helping Neighbors

July: Lutherans United Against Disasters

August: Little John's Kitchen

September: Saba, International

October: Accessible local health care (Our Lady of Hope Clinic in Madison, Community Connections Free Clinic in Dodgeville)

November: TBD - intentional open month

December: Madison Area Jail Mi

COUNCIL NEWS

Happy March to you! It is such an honor to be part of our church council. We have a really wonderful group of people who meet to help with some of the work and decisions for our congregation.

Inreach/Outreach Ministry is the ministry team to which I am the liaison. This is a very committed group who have many projects throughout the year to share God's love with church members and also reach out to others who aren't members of our church. Activities include making connections with our homebound members, remembering members who are serving in the military, providing lunch after the morning Lenten services and other projects as well. We welcome you to join us on the Inreach/Outreach Ministry! We don't have regularly scheduled meetings but we meet as needed to plan and organize. If this sounds interesting to you please feel free to contact me through the church office. This group is a great way to get to know church family members you may not know and a wonderful way to help spread God's love in our community.

Being involved in one of our groups or ministries is a great way to feel included in and connected to our congregation. There are so many ways to be involved: being a reader, singing in the choir or praise team, serving as an usher, or joining one of our ministry teams are just a few opportunities. Our Personnel Ministry is currently looking for a few more members, if you have an interest in that group. Please feel free to contact me or any council member if you are wondering how you can be more connected and involved in our congregation. All are welcome - you are welcome!

**In God's Love,
Barb Underwood**

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

We are excited to announce Barb and Chris Underwood as our new Praise Team Music Leaders. They happily accepted the position after their time as interim. Barb will hold the official title for Personnel purposes; though we know they will work great as a team and

continue to bring us the beautiful music we are accustomed to. We truly are blessed with our musical talents at ELC.

REBECCA CIRCLE & YOUTH TEAMING UP!!

BABY KITS - COLLECTIONS



Our youth and members of Rebecca Circle are teaming together to collect and assemble the baby kits which will be sent to Lutheran World Relief this fall. Everyone is welcome to donate items. This is a great opportunity to shop at garage sales or go to thrift stores. Items should be in good condition, clean and in infant sizes no larger than 36 months. Each month, we will focus on one/two items, so we have many kits to make in July, during our Mission Week. There is a bin in Fellowship Hall near the coffee station for your donations.

We need the following items:

- MARCH -** *Long or Short Sleeved gowns or sleepers
and Baby Socks*
- APRIL -** *Jackets or Sweaters with or without hoods*
- MAY -** *Cotton, lightweight T-shirts*
- JUNE -** *Baby Caps
and Bath-size bars of gentle soap
(must be individually wrapped)*
- JULY -** *Hand towels (dark colors)*

Helen Kahl, Rebecca Circle & Brenda Martin

SOCIAL ACTION

ABOUT LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Often, when natural disasters strike or when war drives families from their homes, our hearts ache with compassion, but we don't know how to help. Making Lutheran World Relief Kits is a simple, fun and tangible way to offer comfort to those suffering and express love to our neighbors in need.

LWR Kits are specifically designed to help people coping with poverty, disaster, conflict and more. Whether a kit helps someone to maintain good hygiene, care well for a newborn baby, keep education going during a crisis or learn a new vocation, LWR Kits provide dignity and hope in the direst situations.

SCHOOL KITS

Education is one of the strongest tools a community has for breaking the cycle of poverty. Ensuring that girls attend school, especially in places where their access is deprioritized, has even stronger results. School Kits contain essential supplies to help children – and in some cases, adults – continue learning in the face of serious obstacles. That learning leads to a better life for them, their families and their communities.

Each School Kit needs:

- 1 30-centimeter ruler**
- 1 pencil sharpener**
- 1 pair of blunt scissors**
- 5 unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers;**
- 5 black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink);**
- 1 box of 16 or 24 crayons**
- 1 2½" eraser**
- 1 sturdy drawstring cloth bag (These will be provided)**

This list will be printed again at "Back to School" time

source: lwr.org

PRE-PLAN FOR PEACE OF MIND

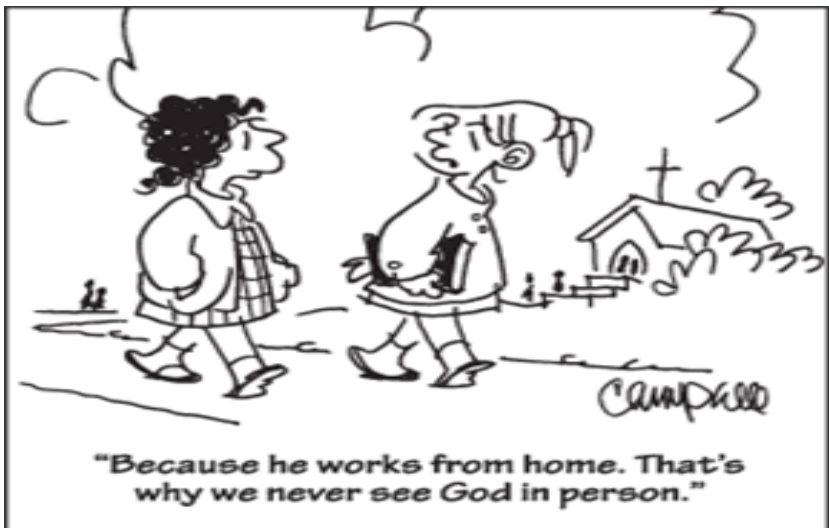
Sunday, March 19th

After worship in fellowship hall

- Why should we make plans for the end of our lives?
- What things should we consider when making choices about a funeral or burial?
- What can we do to make things easier for our families when we die?
- How can we make our wishes known?

Pastor John, along with Melissa Thiessen of Gunderson Funeral Home will help lead us through some of the questions we might want to consider in making plans for the time of our passing. This is an opportunity to ask questions, make plans, and consider what mistakes we might avoid, as well as what would be beneficial for our loved ones when our life on this earth comes to an end.

Grab a cup of coffee and join us after worship.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

LENTEN POTLUCK: Everyone is welcome to join us for a potluck on Wednesdays at 6 pm, during Lent.

REBECCA CIRCLE- TBD

SARAH CIRCLE will meet Tuesday, March 21st, 7 pm in the Matthew Room at church. We will do the March Bible study from "Gather" magazine - session 3 on the Ten Commandments. Contact Connie Curran (curranconnie@hotmail.com) with any questions about the study materials or meeting details. Always welcoming new participants as well as those we haven't seen recently."

BABY CAP MAKERS will meet Tuesday, March 7th and 21st at 9:30 am in the Faith Room. Contact ruthheinecke@gmail.com with questions.

ELC SEWING LADIES SEWING DAYS are Thursdays from 9 a.m. to Noon in Fellowship Hall

MEN'S BREAKFAST/BIBLE STUDY 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 6:30 am on Zoom. Contact Pastor John for the link.



ELC COFFEE TIME We'll see you after Easter!



HOURS

MONDAY-THURSDAY 9AM - NOON and 1PM-4PM
FRIDAYS 9AM-NOON

****The Church Office will be closed on Friday March 17th****

STEEPLE ECHOES ARTICLES DUE BY Thursday March 23rd.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED on Tuesday, March 28th to assemble the April newsletter. *Newcomers are welcome.* The assembly process usually takes about 2 hours. Please, come and enjoy the fellowship

THANK YOU FOR ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP IN March If you are unable to fulfill your volunteer role on your scheduled date, please be sure to contact a substitute and let the church office (437-5012 or elc@mhtc.net) know by the Wednesday prior.				
	MARCH 4 & 5	MARCH 11 & 12	MARCH 18 & 19	MARCH 25 & 26
READERS	Bonny Kellogg Helen Kahl	Bonny Kellogg Chris Coffin	Ann Baumgartner Barb Underwood	Not Filled Steve Knuteson
ACOLYTES	Sam Grundahl Connor Heiting	Claire Hurda Landon Kahl	Mara Parks Vanessa Rameker	Drake Ploessl Ben Rothamer
COMM. ASST.	Ken & Amy Sinner Jody Morey	No Communion	Chris & Barb Underwood Chris Coffin	No Communion
USHERS	Team 2 Mary & Wayne Knudson	Team 3 Dennis Lokken Irv Steinhauer	Team 4 Doug Nesheim Gerald Stamm	Team 5 Carol & John Nielsen
ALTAR GUILD	Patti Anderson, Karen Bunke, Polly Field, Dawn Haag, Mary Knudson			
COUNCIL DUTIES	Barb Underwood			

PRAYER list

PLEASE PRAY FOR PLEASE PRAY FOR PLEASE PRAY FOR PLEASE PRAY FOR Mary Greenlaw-Meyer (Vicky Rosenbaum's friend), David Reis (Mary Stamm's Son in Law), John Scheele & family (Char Smith's Brother in Law) Linda Stoenner, David Field (Donna Miller & Dawn Kellesvig's brother), Hazel Hermann, Betty Tharp(Katie Zelle's grandmother), Ken Rabideau (Helen Ladwig's Brother in Law), Jerome Bell, Nick O'Connell, Paul Kerscher (Amy Thompson's Dad), Donald Strube (Pete's Dad), Steve Mueller, Joyce Fargo, Alycen McKinney, Harold "Chick" Gullickson (Brother of Mary Krantz), Cara Mavis, Amy Hall, Joan Schraepfer (Rita Schraepfer-Derke's Sister in Law), Todd Collins, Norm Hefty, Lincoln Kuhn, Brooklynn Kreul, Mary Jane Ellis (friend of Bonny Kellogg), Connie Peterson, Bonnie Bender, Ginger Quaderer (Diane Mueller's cousin), Delores Bryant, Makenzee Smith, Shirley Thompson, Brock Howe, Jeannie U'Ren, Ruth Ann Nemet, Mike Olson, Grace Aavang, Carol Johnson.

Our partner congregation IGLESIA EVANGÉLICA LUTERANA DIVINO SALVADOR (Divine Savior Lutheran Church) in Cataño, P.R

In Loving Memory Of:

By:

Don Lokken

Mary Curtis

Betty Drape

Helen Kahl

Mary Lokken

David Powell

Dave & Ann Baumgartner

Irene Brufat

Bob & Sharon

Schiefelbein

PUZZLE



The light of forgiveness

The Lord is full of mercy and light. What happens when we confess our sins to God?

Directions:

Use the coded shapes to fill in the blanks and complete 1 John 1:7-9, NIV.



But if we _____ in the _____, as he is in the _____,
we have _____ with one another, and the _____
of Jesus, his Son, _____ us from all sin. If we claim to be
without sin, we deceive ourselves and the _____ is not in us.
If we _____ our sins, he is _____ and just and will
_____ us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 JOHN 1:7-9, NIV

Answer: walk, light, light, light, fellowship, blood, purifies, truth, confess, confess, faithful, forgive

EASTER MEMORIALS

ELC welcomes your memorial and honoring donations through Sunday, April 2nd for the dual purpose of purchasing flowers to adorn the altar for the Easter Sunday festival services and also to help feed the hungry in parts of the world where the need is greatest. After purchasing the lilies to decorate the altar on Easter, ELC sends all contributions to ELCA World Hunger Appeal. 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)***

Given by _____

Envelope # _____

Amount: \$ _____

Please return this form on or before Sunday, April 2nd,



LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE



11:00 a.m. Worship - followed by lunch in fellowship hall

7:00 p.m. Worship – with potluck meal at 6:00 p.m. in fellowship hall

This Lent, we will focus on the story of Jonah.

Ash Wednesday - February 22nd *God Calls and Persists* - God's calling can sometimes lead us to people or places that are profoundly disturbing or uncomfortable. In such situations, it is understandable if our first instinct is to flee. Thankfully, God's kindness and faithfulness mean that our "no" to divine commandment has no impact on God's unshakable "yes" to us in Christ.

March 1st *Intercepted and Redirected* - Encounters with God often come in the form of disruptions to everyday life. They take us off course and throw us off balance. But in many cases, disruptions have the potential to bring us into a sacred encounter with God and our neighbor in ways that we might not expect—or in ways that might show us something new about ourselves.

March 8th *God in the Depths of Chaos* - Luther's theology teaches us to look for God in the midst of suffering—not only the suffering of Christ on the cross but also the suffering of God's children in this world. God meets us with a word of hope in the fire (Daniel 3), in broken heartedness (Ps 34:18), and in death itself (Jonah 3). In these places we learn one of the most basic but crucial lessons of faith: to cry out for help to a God who is good and tenderhearted.

March 15th *Obedience and Preservation* - Ironically, the true examples of repentance and obedience in Jonah are the foreigners—first the penitent sailors and then the soft-hearted Assyrians. Both gain a new lease on life by fearing and obeying God. The prophet stands in contrast to them. Disobedience leads him to the realm of death.

March 22nd *Faithful and Unfinished* - In this world, all of us are unfinished. Every vocational responsibility we have— to our family, friends, neighbors, creation—represents an opportunity to grow in love, excellence, and faithfulness. We do not undertake that effort alone. God accompanies us, helping us each step of the way to see others as God does.

March 30th *Jesus a new Jonah* - Jonah is the ironic foil to every other human and non-human character in the book—all of whom obey God without question or protest. In Matt 8:23-27, Jesus exemplifies peace 4 of 5 in the thick of disruption. Disruptions have a way of exposing things that are otherwise buried beneath the surface. The onset of a violent storm lays

bare the disciples' lack of trust. But it also simultaneously exposes Jesus for who he is: The Lord of creation who stops the storm and saves his



March
BIRTHDAYS

followers.

1	Abby	9	Jim	21	Disa
Steinhauer		Hadac		Erickson	
2	Chad		Danny Muehlenkamp		Michael Friske
Boettcher		10	Jennifer		Catherine Ivey
	Isabella Cross	Larson			
	Jordan Freitag		Donna Skogen		Julie Schmitz
	Bridgett Killinger	11	Rebecca	22	Jacey Morin
		Kahl			Brooks Kosa
	Berkley Segebrecht	12	Amy	24	Sara
		Kellesvig		Fritz	
	Sarah Zelle		Ingrid Parks		Gail Huseth
3	Kiarra	13	Karen	25	Ryan
Eith		McKay		Johnson	
	Christopher Balbach		Ava Magnuson		Porter Kreul
	Amy High		Sharman Moen		Micky Schulenberg
	Rita Schraepfer-Derke		Laura Zemp	26	Vaughn
				Ableman	
	DiAnne Stamm		Kady Zupan-Walsh		Cheryl Mortvedt
4	Lauren	14	Bill		Kayla Mullendore
Eggers		Faltz			
	Zachary Eggers		Daryl Rothamer		Steve Slocum
	Everly Pierick		Steven Stack		27 Samantha Knudson
	Danielle Schulz	15	Quinn	28	Diane
		Killinger		Farnsworth	
5	Camille	16	Ethan		Bradley Miller
Samuelson		Fendrick			
6	Kolleen		Ken Schulenberg		Wendy Rasmussen
Nesheim					
	Sabrina Sieg		Diane Twiton		Brayden Reeson
	Owen Stamm	17	Cyndi		Ella Reeson
		Eggers			
	Bill Walsh		Paul Hogseth	29	Melissa
				Boettcher	
	Sydney Wyss		Charlie Laabs		Nathan Mullendore
7	Ellie	18	Ashley	30	Nyaah
Hadac		Hall		Schloesser	
	Cody Hanson	19	Scarlett		Isaac Schloesser
		Cannon			
	Betty Martinson	20	Ian		Jennifer Turk
		Farrell			
	Rylie O'Connell		Cyndy Hamburg	31	Al

		Bartz
Garrett Spellman		Duane Christoph
8 DeLayne Krentz		Paul Kellesvig
Emily Watson		Nathan Seibel
If we've missed you or a member of your family, or if we've listed your birthday incorrectly, please contact the church office.		