

# STEEPLE ECHOES

**DECEMBER  
2023**

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

**DECEMBER BENEVOLENCE 2023**  
*Madison Area Jail Ministry*



*"Remember those in prison, as though you were  
in prison with them" Hebrews 13:3 (NRSV)*



*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 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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/](http://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**

**Intern Zach Smirris**

**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**

**Office Manager: Nancy Voss**

**Organist/Senior Choir Director: Diane Dangerfield**

**Youth Director: Brenda Martin**

# **A Note from PASTOR JOHN**

## ***Preparing for Christmas***

***'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel',  
which means, 'God is with us.' - Matthew 1:23***

**Matthew's telling of the birth of Jesus begins quietly, with Joseph's dream, where he is told of the importance of this child who will arrive. It's a far cry from the extravaganza that has become the hallmark of our Christmas celebrations over the past years.**

**Preparing now begins months ahead, with decorating, shopping, planning of travel and gathering, along with an incredible amount of spending. Now I'm no Scrooge when it comes to preparing for Christmas. I love the lights, the music, and gatherings. But I hope we can learn each year to keep some perspective.**

**Multiple news sources estimated that last year Americans spent an average of between \$1000 and \$1500 on Christmas, with total spending approaching one trillion dollars. It's a long way from a quiet manger in Bethlehem, accompanied by a few shepherds.**

**For perspective, while we spend freely for a holiday named for Christ's birth, according to our annual report, more than half of our givers share less than \$750 all year for the ongoing work of Christ's church in the world.**

**As we prepare to celebrate this year, let's remember who we proclaim this season, and make sure that while we find ways to celebrate the love we have for our families as we gather, we also make sure that we find some way to lift up the ongoing message of the babe born in Bethlehem.**

**God's Peace,**



**Pastoral Intern –  
SMIRRIIS**

**ZACH**

***But Imagine We Did Get Coal***

*Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them  
on the day of the Lord's wrath;  
in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed;  
for a full, terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the  
earth.*

*~~ Zephaniah 1: 18~~*

**When I look back at how I understood God as a child, I feel like I took Christmas for granted. Somehow, I had missed the memo that the threat of a world without Jesus would be an awful world indeed, that there was a substantial **THING** that Christ's arrival on earth saved us from. On one hand, I consider this a blessing. Unlike most of my generation, I was able to avoid the religious trauma. I never realized that God could be something to be afraid of and in my head. God was my safe space, the church the place where I could be myself, and a place where I felt loved.**

**On the other hand, without the concept of punishment, I lost the weight of the resurrection, of why the baby showing up this time of year is so important. Zephaniah, which you might remember from a lesson back in November, is dealing with the very real darkness that surrounds a world without Christ. We, my beloved siblings, live in a world where Christ shields us from the worst of what the world can do. We are warm, our bellies full, and we can worship without fear. But not everyone can. Many in Bethlehem will be experiencing a cold, bitter Christmas morning.**

**This Christmas season, I invite you to consider the impact that Christ had on your life, and how we can hold the gift of grace with the harshness of reality. Merry Christmas, my friends.**

**God's peace be with you all, my friends.**

**Zach Smirris  
Pastoral Intern, ELC of Mt. Horeb  
internzach@elcmthoreb.org**

# AGAPE

December greetings from Agape,

The preschool is busy with the anticipation and excitement that always takes over during this month. The energy and spirit brought into the building is magical for us all.

Ms. Wendy will be teaching winter, Christmas, and other songs from a variety of cultures for the holiday season. The 3K classes will have special lessons about the upcoming birth of baby Jesus. All our students will learn about holiday traditions experienced throughout the world including the extra special baking unit. We all look forward to the wonderful scents and smells coming from the gingerbread baking and the spices in the sensory bin. Yummy!

All of us at ACP wish you peace, comfort, and joy for 2024.

Merry Christmas,  
Amy Kellesvig  
Director

## Upcoming dates:

Dec 25 - Jan1	Preschool closed for Winter Break
January 24K	classes resume, 3K classes resume (red & purple)
January 4	3K classes resume (yellow)
January 5	Toddler Time Resumes
January 19	No school - No 3K or 4K Classes (end of first semester)

## **CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15 am - 11 am - (3 years old - 8th grade) - Join us for Bible stories, music, games, and snacks. We begin in the chapel. No Sunday School on December 24 & Dec 31, 2023. We will resume on Jan 7th.**

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** - Join us on December 17th during our 9 am worship to celebrate *"Bethlehem at 9"* featuring our ELC children. Fun time to hear the Nativity Story as a news broadcast.

**7th & 8th GRADE CONFIRMATION**- Our 7th & 8th graders meet together each Wednesday, (7 - 8:30 pm).

*\*Christmas Party is on Dec 20th.*

*\*No Confirmation class on Dec 27th and Jan 3rd.*

*\*Classes resume Jan 10th, 7 pm.*

**PARENTS NIGHT OUT/KIDS NIGHT OUT** at ELC Dec 8th, 5:30 pm -8 pm at ELC: Our experienced high school youth will be offering a night of 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). Funds raised will support our youth to attend the Youth Gathering in New Orleans in 2024.

Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend. Sign up with the link/QR code. <https://forms.gle/RvndCmPgS7zggTGv5>



**CHRISTMAS AT ELC** - Join us on December 10th, 5:00 pm for Christmas music followed by a chili supper. Free will offering will help support our youth who will be attending the Youth Gathering in 2024. The youth will be serving the chili supper.

**KRUMKAKE MAKING AT ELC** - Dec 16th; 1pm - 3 pm - Middle and high school youth are invited to help make Krumkake, a Norwegian waffle cookie. They will be sold for our bake sale on Dec 17th.

# CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS cont.

**BAKE SALE:** Our ELC youth will be hosting a Bake Sale on December 17th, after worship. Come and pick up some Christmas goodies to share! If you are interested in baking some goodies for our bake sale, please contact Brenda. We appreciate your support our youth.

**FUSE NIGHT (Youth Gathering Edition) -** 8th - 12th graders are welcome to join us on Dec 17th, 7 pm in the youth room.



We will focus on discovering more about the Youth Gathering theme, "Created to Be: Free". Youth attending the Gathering are expected to attend.

**CHRISTMAS CD'S** - Time to get ready for Christmas with two Christmas CD's that were created by The Cambridge Road Ensemble (Paul & Ruth Heinecke). Thank you to Paul & Ruth for donating their CD's to the youth. Each CD sells for \$5.00 each. (Lots of music for \$10) CD's will be available after worship in December. Another opportunity to support our youth!

**TROLL WAY PIZZA (TIME TO ORDER)** - Our youth are taking orders for our delicious "church-made" pizzas after worship services Dec 17th - Jan 14th. Orders may be placed online,

using the link below or the QR Code. Pick up day for these unforgettable pizzas will be on February 4th, in Fellowship Hall. (After worship service) One great way to stock up on pizzas before the Super Bowl. Funds raised will support the youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in 2024.



<https://forms.gle/u1t8fKgJR5owPuVJ9>

*Brenda Martin, Youth Ministries Director*  
[brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org](mailto:brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org)

TROLL WAY PIZZA  
ORDER HERE



# **TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Prepared November 13, 2023**

**The big news in November, as always, is the adoption of the 2024 budget. Thank you to everyone whose advice and input helped create that budget, which was approved at the annual meeting. Our estimated expenses for 2024 are \$382,631. This represents a 4.6% increase over the 2023 budget. The increase includes 2% personnel raises, inflationary pressures on utilities, and seven months of the 2023-2024 internship program. We've also included money for several maintenance projects in 2024, including repairs to the sidewalk (from the building capital fund), fixing the air conditioner in the fellowship hall, and improving the carpeting on the altar stairs.**

**We have retired the mortgage for the building addition. Nancy submitted the final pay-off on October 31. A combination of increased spending from designated funds, and higher giving in October has stanchd the bleeding from the general fund, which gained \$177 for the month. We have \$6,055 in outstanding liabilities and \$1,210 in cash on hand, leaving a balance of -\$4,845.**

**Expenses from designated funds include \$16,145 for the pipe organ restoration from the Rose Klir estate, \$2,824 for internship expenses, and \$419 for our youth programs. The internship designated fund is now at -\$3,025, which is how we've avoided the need to transfer money from the designated fund to the general fund. Designated fund income included \$168 for youth, \$150 for landscaping, \$120 for internship, \$25 for music, and \$120 unspecified.**

**Building fund expenses included \$379 to Oimoen Electric, and \$1,218 for elevator maintenance.**

**Respectfully submitted by Ben Brothers, November 13, 2023**

# TREASURER'S REPORT cont.

<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>	10/31/23	9/30/23	12/31/22
General Fund	\$ (4,845)	\$ (5,023)	\$ 18,205
Mortgage Fund	\$ 359	\$ 384	\$ 4,566
Building Capital Fund	\$ 21,392	\$ 22,514	\$ 23,201
Designated Funds	\$ 114,888	\$ 134,203	\$ 134,727
Mortgage	\$ -	\$ (4,791)	\$ (41,933)
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ 131,794	\$ 147,287	\$ 138,766

<b>CASH FLOW</b>	October 2023	YTD 2023
General Fund Income	\$ 30,670	\$ 272,874
General Fund Expenses		
Personnel	\$ 21,542	\$ 196,418
Mission and Outreach	\$ 1,917	\$ 20,268
Congregational Life	\$ 1,137	\$ 15,772
Facilities and Administration	\$ 5,897	\$ 63,465
Total General Fund Expenses	\$ 30,493	\$ 295,923
<b>Net General Fund Gain (Loss)</b>	\$ 177	\$ (23,049)
Other Income		
Benevolence	\$ 784	\$ 11,231
Building Capital Fund	\$ 475	\$ 9,631
Designated Funds	\$ 583	\$ 18,803
Mortgage Fund	\$ 5,198	\$ 33,508
Total Other Income	\$ 7,040	\$ 73,173
Other Expenses		
Benevolence	\$ 1,295	\$ 8,165
Building Capital Expenses	\$ 1,597	\$ 11,440
Designated Fund Expenses	\$ 19,387	\$ 41,708
Mortgage Repayment	\$ 5,150	\$ 38,491
Total Other Expenses	\$ 27,429	\$ 99,804
Net Gain (Loss) from Other Expenses	\$ (20,389)	\$ (26,631)
<b>NET GAIN (LOSS)</b>	\$ (20,212)	\$ (49,680)

# **BENEVOLENCE**

*Arrested? Jailed? Humbled? Jesus has been there, done that.*

For many people, landing in Dane County Jail means hitting rock bottom. Maybe it's somewhere they've never been, paying the price for something they might never have imagined doing, and looking for answers about how this happened. Maybe they've landed back behind bars and are finally ready to change course.

Either way, the Madison Area Jail Ministry is there to help. And that help is never more important than at the holidays, when Chaplain Todd Marcotte can offer a Christmas message of hope to the men and women who find themselves incarcerated, separated from society and from their families.

As Chaplain Todd often notes, even though he's been at the Dane County Jail daily for five years, he can't tell you what it's like to be arrested, booked into jail and facing an uncertain future. But Jesus can – and not just because he is divine and all-knowing, but because he has what we call “lived experience.”

Jesus knows what it's like to be facing trumped-up charges. To have a warrant out for his arrest. To be betrayed by a close friend who turned him in for personal gain. To be brought into custody. To have the people you trust abandon you in your hour of need. To suffer violence while in custody. To stand trial and be condemned.

It's easy - even convenient - to forget about people who land behind bars, to write them off. But that's not what we're called to do in Hebrews 13:3: “Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them.”

The Madison Area Jail Ministry serves as our outreach to everyone in the jail – including the Sheriff's Deputies who work there. That's why we support them annually through our Benevolence Program.

Here's what you can do:

**Tutor:** Are you passionate about a particular school subject and interested in educating someone interested in helping someone learn so they can better themselves? If so, you can provide one-on-one tutoring for the men and women in the Dane County Jail. To learn more about the program, contact Rosemary Russ at [rruss@madisonjailministry.org](mailto:rruss@madisonjailministry.org).

# BENEVOLENCE cont.

**Connect:** To learn more about MAJM, visit their website ([madisonjailministry.org](http://madisonjailministry.org)) and sign up for their newsletter, and "like" their Facebook page.

**Pray:** Support this "ministry of presence" by praying for Chaplain Todd, the men and women who are incarcerated, and the men and women responsible for their safety.

**Give:** You can donate financially by:

- **Mail:** Send a check to ELC and note "Benevolence" in the memo
- **Online:** Visit the ELC website and click "Give"
- **Digitally:** Download the *VANCO MOBIL FAITH ENGAGEMENT APP*, or text "Benevolence" to 608-400-0183 with the amount you wish to give.

On behalf of Benevolence,

Adam Mertz  
[adammerz2@gmail.com](mailto:adammerz2@gmail.com)

## 2023 LINEUP

**January:** Lutheran World Relief & Lutheran Disaster Response (\$702.00)

**February:** Compassion International (\$646.42)

**March:** ELC youth and summer programming (\$1485.32)

**April:** Reconciliation in Christ (RIC) social justice programming (\$1083.92)

**May:** Divine Savior, our sister church in Puerto Rico (\$995.35)

**June:** Neighbors Helping Neighbors (\$930.92)

**July:** Young Adults in Global Mission (\$1317.92)

**August:** Lutherans United Against Disasters (\$827.41)

**September:** Saba, International (\$1209.01)

**October:** Accessible local health care: Our Lady of Hope Clinic in Middleton & Community Connections Free Clinic in Dodgeville (\$706.00)

**November:** Lutheran Disaster Response – (TBD)

**December:** Madison Area Jail Ministry

# COUNCIL NEWS

## *ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM YOUR COUNCIL*

First, a big thank you to all who attended the annual meeting on November 13. Thanks also to Shannon Hadac and Serena Vondra for their past service on the Church Council. Thank you also to Vicky Rosenbaum for serving as Council President for the past two years.

As we head into 2024 we continue the quest to renew the body of our Church – you the people. One way we are trying to do this is through the survey which you have received. Each person can fill out a survey, including the youth, or one can be done as a family. Please help us learn what you appreciate and what you would like to see improved. Deadline for returning the survey is December 10, 2023. There is an online version as well as the paper copy. To access the online survey, go to the Church website – [www.elcmthoreb.org](http://www.elcmthoreb.org) From there click on the “Events” tab, then “Calendar” on the dropdown menu. The survey is located right below the calendar. There is also a QR code you can use to access it. It is also available in this newsletter.

Congratulations to all who have made retiring the mortgage debt four years early a reality. Now we must continue to support the ministries and functions of ELC as we face new challenges and expenses during the coming year. Automated giving helps us maintain a steady income. Check it out on the website listed above or give Nancy a call. She will be happy to help walk you through the process.

May each of you have a meaningful and special Christmas, and let’s all try to help each other reach that peace which we all long for through this beautiful season and throughout the year.

Merry Christmas,

John Coffin  
Council Representative

# **COUNCIL NEWS cont.**

## ***Know Your Council 2024***

### **COUNCIL MEMBER**

#### **Email**

**President - Mark Mostrom**  
markkmostrom@gmail.com

**Vice President - Vicky Rosenbaum**  
jvrosen@tds.net

**Secretary - Becky Strube**  
rebeccastrube@gmail.com

**Treasurer - Ben Brothers**  
ben.brothers@fastmail.com

**John Coffin**  
jcoffin@mhtc.net

**Dave Edwards**  
d\_kedwards@yahoo.com

**Alie Grundahl (youth)**  
alieoakley@icloud.com

**Jan Ekenberg**  
janek825@gmail.com

**Sean LaBorde**  
slaborde@tds.net

**Andy Mullendore**  
mullendore@live.com

**Carl Sieg**  
carlsieg1@gmail.com

**Amy Sinner**  
amylsinner@gmail.com

**Barb Underwood**  
underwod@mhtc.net

### **LIAISON MINISTRY**

**Mutual Ministry**

**Agape**

**NA**

**NA**

**Technology**

**Personnel**

**Spiritual Growth & Fellowship**

**Worship & Music**

**Stewardship**

**Property**

**Children & Youth**

**Social Action**

**Inreach/Outreach**

# **COUNCIL NEWS cont.**

## *Know Your Council 2024*

### **COUNCIL MEMBER**

#### **Email**

**John Twiton**

**john.twiton@elcmthoreb.org**

**Brenda Martin**

**Brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org**

**Zach Smirris**

**internzach@elcmthoreb.org**

### **LIAISON MINISTRY**

**Pastor**

**Youth Director**

**Pastoral Intern**

Each council member is assigned to a particular ministry serving as a liaison for the group to communicate with Church Council. You may reach out to any member with questions or concerns. Meetings are held in the Matthew Room the first Monday of each month beginning in January at 7:00 p.m.

### **To Members of ELC,**

I want to say thank you for the positive comments and support I have felt as a part of Council and more specifically as the president for the past 2 years. Not having ever done anything like that before, I will say it has been a very good experience. You're not done with me yet as I have another year on Council, but I would encourage anyone who is hesitant but has a heart for helping the Church to consider giving it a try when next year's nominating committee is looking for volunteers to be on the ballot. There are also many ministries that could use your help. We really need ushers, communion assistants, greeters, and committee members for the various ministries. Becoming involved definitely offers rewards not only to the Church but personally as well.

**Thanks again,  
Vicky Rosenbaum**

## ***WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!***

At our annual meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup>, we introduced a survey to our congregation. This survey is being done to obtain feedback from all of you on our church and also to identify areas that you would like to get more involved in. We would ask that you take a few minutes to complete the survey no later than December 12<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to paper copies that are available at church, there is also an option for you to complete the survey on-line via our ELC website ([www.elcmthoreb.org](http://www.elcmthoreb.org)) (Go to the 'events' tab, click on 'calendar' and scroll down). You can also scan the QR code to access the survey or use the link below. Thank you for your time and feedback to help make our church better.

ELC SURVEY



**LINK TO THE ELC SURVEY - Found on our [elcmthoreb.org](http://www.elcmthoreb.org) website. Click on Events tab, then Calendar tab to find the link.**

**<https://forms.gle/q19WKCArSn2KRST97>**

## **SPIRITUAL GROWTH & FELLOWSHIP**

### **ELCA Good Gifts**

Spiritual Growth & Fellowship has set up a Christmas tree in the narthex to call attention and support the ELCA Good Gifts program.

**What is the ELCA Good Gifts Program?**

A creative, meaningful way to support the ministries of ELCA around the world. Current ELCA programs are the ELCA Fund for Leaders, ELCA Global Church Sponsorship, ELCA New Congregations, ELCA Vision for Mission, ELCA World Hunger, Disability Ministries and Lutheran Disaster Response. Each of these programs is a long-term, partnership-based ministry that focuses on the needs identified by local congregations and global companion churches and their communities.

**How it works:**

- 1. Choose an ornament**
- 2. Make a donation to ELCA Good Gifts**
- 3. Share the ornament with friends and family or display it wherever you choose**

# SPIRITUAL GROWTH & FELLOWSHIP cont.

## How to donate:

Online: [goodgifts.elca.org](http://goodgifts.elca.org)

Phone: 800-638-3522

Mail: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America P.O. Box 1809  
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Make your check payable to "ELCA Good Gifts." To designate your gift, write your gift(s) on the



**PLEASE PRAY FOR** Ingrid Hoerz, Dolores Kahl, Sara Kittleson, Helen Ladwig, Terri Naylor (Dennis & Mary Lokken's daughter), Linda Wahlgren, Pete Strube, Mary Greenlaw-Meyer (Vicky Rosenbaum's friend), John Scheele & family (Char Smith's Brother in Law) Linda Stoenner, Betty Tharp (Katie Zelle's grandmother), Ken Rabideau (Helen Ladwig's Brother in Law), Nick O'Connell, Paul Kerscher (Amy Thompson's Dad), Steve Mueller, Joyce Fargo, Alycen McKinney, Rick 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, Mike Olson, Grace Aavang, Carol Johnson.

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

# MEMORIALS

Given in Memory of:

*Dave Field*

*Beverly Schwierske*

Given By:

*Sharon Collins  
Paul & Dawn Kellesvig  
Gary & Marilyn Festge  
Ann & Dave  
Baumgartner  
Mary Powell  
Lyle & Sharon  
Hollfelder  
Jeanie Baumgartner  
Jim & Janis Hiltbrand  
Steve & Diane Miller  
Ronald & Sandra  
Cushman  
Mary Stamm  
Leroy Collins  
David Flom  
Gordon & Margie Kahl  
Bonny Kellogg  
Doug & Gail Dahlk  
Julie Vasen  
Barb Schwoerer  
Dale Mickelson*

*Mary & Wayne  
Knudson*

# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

**BABY CAPS MAKERS** will meet once this month, Tuesday, Dec. 5, 9:30 am in the Faith Room. Contact [ruthheinecke@gmail.com](mailto:ruthheinecke@gmail.com) with questions or for more information.

**REBECCA CIRCLE** will meet at church for our December outing on Tuesday, December 12. We will sign cards beginning at 11:00 and leave for lunch in Verona at 11:30. Watch your emails for further details.

**SARAH CIRCLE.** will meet for an Advent evening visit at the home of hostess Chris Coffin on Wednesday December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. We will be deciding where to send our mission money that night. Bring an appetizer/snack to share and don't be afraid to stop by later if 6:30 doesn't work for you. You can contact Connie Curran ([curranconnie@hotmail.com](mailto:curranconnie@hotmail.com)) with any inquiries concerning details of this meeting.

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



**MEN'S BREAKFAST/BIBLE STUDY 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Thursdays at 6:30 am on Zoom. Contact Pastor John for the link.



**ELC COFFEE TIME** Wednesdays at 10am in Fellowship Hall. A great time to connect with our church family!

**NICK'S WINTER CRAFTS** - Nick's Crafts are available for purchase in Fellowship Hall during December. Proceeds will be donated to NHN.

## Christmas at **ELC**

**Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**

5:00 p.m. Concert and Carol Sing

6:00 p.m. Chili Supper

A benefit for area youth attending  
the 2024 ELC Youth Gathering



**MONDAY-THURSDAY**

**9 AM - NOON & 1 PM-4 PM**

**FRIDAY 9 AM - NOON**

*The church office will be closed on Mondays, December 25th & January 1<sup>st</sup>*

*In observance of Christmas & New Year's Days.*

**STEEPLE ECHOES ARTICLES DUE BY Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup> for the January issue.**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED on Wednesday, December 27th to assemble the January newsletter. *Newcomers are welcome.* The assembly process usually takes about 2 hours. Please, come and enjoy the fellowship**



# HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

## Holden Evening Prayer

### *A Sung Liturgy for All*

I was fortunate enough to visit Holden Village, a Lutheran hamlet of about 60 in the Cascade Mountains in Washington State this past winter, and I am excited to share the mountain magic with you all! Each Wednesday evening at 6:15, we will gather in the chapel to sing Holden '86, an evening prayer that was written in the village by popular composer Marty Haugen. This prayer holds a special place in my heart, and every time I hear it I am drawn back to the mountain. You are invited to join us for prayer, singing, and reflection. Below is the class photo of Wartburg Seminary students who attended Holden '23. -Zach Smirris



### **A Word about the Advent Season at ELC**

If you carefully follow the church year calendar, you will notice that our worship this December is not in sync with the prescribed schedule. The season of Advent is supposed to be celebrated on the four Sundays prior to Christmas Day. This year that would mean that the last Sunday of Advent should be celebrated on December 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Eve Day. But since most of our members attend Christmas Eve Candlelight services that day, we decided to move the Advent Season up one week, beginning Advent this year on November 26<sup>th</sup>. This means that there will not be Sunday morning worship on the 24<sup>th</sup> of December, instead we will only celebrate that day with Christmas Eve Candlelight worship at 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. that Day. (With Christmas morning worship at 10:00 a.m.)

# HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<b>Wednesday November 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Advent Midweek Service (Holden Eve Prayer)</b>	<b>6:15pm Chapel</b>
<b>Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup></b>		<b>5:00pm Chapel</b>
<b>Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup></b>		<b>9:00am Sanctuary</b>
<b>Wednesday December 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Advent Midweek Service (Holden Eve Prayer)</b>	<b>6:15pm Chapel</b>
<b>Saturday December 9<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>5:00pm Chapel</b>
<b>Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>9:00am Sanctuary</b>
	<b>Christmas at ELC Concert &amp; Carol Sing</b>	<b>5:00pm Sanctuary</b>
	<b>Chili Supper</b>	<b>6:00pm FH</b>
<b>Wednesday December 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Advent Midweek Service (Holden Eve Prayer)</b>	<b>6:15pm Chapel</b>
<b>Saturday December 16<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>5:00pm Chapel</b>
<b>Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>9:00am Sanctuary</b>
<b>Wednesday December 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Advent Midweek Service (Holden Eve Prayer)</b>	<b>6:15pm Chapel</b>
<b>Saturday December 23<sup>rd</sup></b>		<b>no service</b>
<b>Sunday December 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>5:00pm Sanctuary 8:00pm Sanctuary</b>
<b>Monday December 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Christmas</b>	<b>10:00am Sanctuary</b>
<b>Saturday December 30<sup>th</sup></b>		<b>no service</b>
<b>Sunday December 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>New Year's Eve</b>	<b>10:00am Sanctuary</b>



# December

## BIRTHDAYS

<b>1</b> Klaetsch	<b>Addison</b>	<b>14</b> Kahl	<b>Hudson</b>	<b>22</b> High	<b>Lucas</b>
	<b>Todd Nesheim</b>		<b>Blake Turk</b>	<b>23</b> Anderson	<b>John</b>
	<b>Lindsey Steinkl</b>	<b>15</b> Stange	<b>Evan</b>	<b>Caroline Boettcher</b>	
<b>4</b> Huseth	<b>Dan</b>			<b>Bob Faliveno</b>	
	<b>Jarod Okeson</b>	<b>16</b> Eggers	<b>Michael</b>	<b>Dawn Haag</b>	
	<b>Kris Sveum</b>		<b>Jim Ekenberg</b>	<b>Lindsey LaBorde</b>	
<b>5</b> Doty	<b>Steven</b>		<b>Steven Helwig</b>	<b>Madlyn LaBorde</b>	
	<b>Carol Johnson</b>		<b>Kate Hook</b>	<b>Lincoln Pokallus</b>	
	<b>Susan Kaletka</b>		<b>Weston Kahl</b>	<b>24</b> Anderson	<b>Brooke</b>
	<b>Pete Walton</b>		<b>Josephine Sailor</b>	<b>Brenda Fritz</b>	
			<b>Xander Strube</b>	<b>Edna Williams</b>	
<b>6</b> Kellesvig	<b>Dawn</b>	<b>17</b> Iverson	<b>Barb</b>	<b>25</b> Amundsen	<b>Siri</b>
<b>7</b> Meister	<b>Jillian</b>		<b>Jeffrey Kahl</b>	<b>Ella Kahl</b>	
<b>10</b> Allen	<b>Dan</b>		<b>Grace Rollins</b>	<b>Steve Stensby</b>	
	<b>Amanda Baum</b>		<b>Becky Stube</b>	<b>Holly Thompson</b>	
	<b>Jerilyn Faltz</b>		<b>Jeannie U'Ren</b>	<b>26</b> Kellogg	<b>Bonny</b>
	<b>Sam Farrell</b>		<b>Emilie Van Galen</b>	<b>27</b> Bunke	<b>Karen</b>
	<b>Joseph Scudder</b>	<b>18</b> Segebrecht	<b>Deb</b>	<b>Jeff Paske</b>	
	<b>Aiden Scudder</b>		<b>Rachel Smith</b>	<b>29</b> Johnson	<b>Brian</b>
	<b>Jane Topper</b>		<b>Willy Watson</b>	<b>Sharon Hendrickson</b>	
		<b>19</b> Coffin	<b>21</b> Chris	<b>Nicholas O'Connell</b>	

<b>11</b> Baum	Staci	Garrett Klassy	Samantha Olson
	Dennis Dreger	Jordan Sadowski	Amy Thompson
	Connor Heiting	20 Erik Berg	30 Brett Farnsworth
	Anna Landen	Craig Kittleson	Anna Ollendick
	Nathan Zelle	21 Hunter Stamm	Olivia Schrank
		Cole Stamm	Gary Topper
<b>13</b> Lokken	Mary	Olivia Turk	31 Gwen Olson
	Nancy McKinney		

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

## WORSHIP ASSISTANCE

	DEC 2 & 3	DEC 9 & 10	DEC 16 & 17	DEC 24 & 25	DEC 31
<b>READERS</b>	Ann Baumgartner Helen Kahl	Ann Baumgartner Amy Sinner	Available Diane Bartz	5pm Available 8pm Dawn Haag Christmas Barb Underwood	Available
<b>ACOLYTES</b>	Josie Sailor Adelie Zwolanek	Carter Vesely Mason Dudley	Caleb Gaulke Lucas High	5pm Hudson Kahl Oliver Kahl 8pm Chase Collins Sam Grundahl	Alexander Olson Connor Heiting
<b>USHERS</b>	Dennis Lokken Irv Steinhauer	Doug Nesheim Gerald Stamm	Carol & John Nielsen	5pm Betsy Baguhn John Rosenbaum Jim	Jim & Shannon Hadac

				& Shannon Hadac 8pm Available	
<b>COMM ASSIST</b>	Helen Kahl Vicky Rosenbaum	NC	Available	NC	NC
<b>COUNCIL DUTIES</b>	Sean LaBorde	Jan Eckenberg	John Coffin	Barb Underwood	
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Jean Bower, Mary Lokken, Teresa Schult, Diane Twiton				