

# STEEPLE ECHOES

MAY 2024

A Monthly Newsletter  
of Evangelical Lutheran Church  
of Mount Horeb

## MAY BENEVOLENCE 2024

*Neighbors Helping Neighbors*



### SPRING CLEANING TIME

*If you have extra grocery bags, NHN will gladly  
take any paper or plastic bags!*

*You can drop off during open hours or leave in the  
bin outside the NHN main entrance.*



EVANGELICAL  
**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 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

## The New Beginning

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;<sup>5</sup> and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord;<sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.<sup>7</sup> To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. – 1 Corinthians 12:4-7*

The month of May brings the third great festival of the church year: Pentecost. The Spirit's descent on those gathered that day marked a new beginning for spread of the good news of God's love in Jesus. But this is not just a historical event. It is the same Spirit that was in that place is still with us today.

Each and every one of you has some gift of that Spirit for the good of all. I grow very tired of people thinking and talking about everything that we lack. We look back at what was, or we look at what others might be doing, when God says look at the great things I am doing in you and with you! Every single thing needed for the life of the church, every gift required, every joy to be shared, and the strength to face any and all challenges, are all provided by God's Spirit. God has never run short in supplying the needs of God's people.

All that is lacking is for us to open our hearts to feel what Jesus would have us feel, to open our eyes to see where the Spirit is leading, to open our hands in service, our voices in praise, and enjoy the sharing of all these gifts with glad and generous hearts.

The Spirit can be at work to spur new creativity, community, outreach, and compassion. This Pentecost can be a new beginning for us!  
Come Holy Spirit!

God's Peace,



# Pastoral Intern – What is Love?

ZACH SMIRRIIS

*“I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”*

*~~ John 15:17 ~~*

**‘What is love? // Baby, don't hurt me // Don't hurt me no more // Baby, don't hurt me // Don't hurt me no more // What is love?’**

The one-hit wonder by Haddaway immediately got stuck in my head after reading this scripture from John. We're well past Easter at this point, but it strikes me that the effects of Good Friday are still some of the most hotly debated topics in human history. Jesus' call to love one another as God loves us seems simple on the surface. But what is love? What does it mean to love one another when our world is so full of pain?

Haddaway says that love is pain. I can't disagree with him that we hurt one another as part of our human experience. After all, the disciples' first response to their new commandment is to abandon Christ on the cross, betraying him to the powers of humanity. And yet, does Jesus' love change? Do the disciples turn to hatred after the resurrection? I don't think so.

Love is healing. Over the last several weeks we have seen Jesus return to the disciples after Easter, calming their pain and frustration. He guides them, teaching them the scriptures and showing them what their priorities should be. It isn't an easy process, but this band of hurt people are breaking the chain of hurt.

Love is love. Sometimes we don't need to think out all the possible scenarios. Sometimes we can simply let God be God, and love one another. We can just listen to the music and join Christ in loving the world. Amen.

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

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

# CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

**SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15 - 11 am** (3 years old - 8th grade)

May 19th - Last Day of Sunday School Sunday

**6th GRADE PRE-CONFIRMATION** - Wednesdays,

May 1, May 8, & May 15, 3:45 - 4:45 PM

**7th & 8th GRADE CONFIRMATION-**

May 1 at 7:00 pm - Class time

May 8th 7:00 pm - Class time

May 15th 6:30 pm - End of Year Picnic Night

**GRADUATION PHOTOS NEEDED - High School Seniors & College**

**Graduates, we want to celebrate you!** Please email a photo and a brief description of your plans for after graduation. These can be emailed to me at: [brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org](mailto:brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org) by **May 4th**. Slideshow will be shared on May 12th during the Senior Blanket Ceremony.

**FUSE PICNIC (Youth Gathering Edition) -May**

**19th at 11:30 am** - Youth and leaders, attending the Gathering, are invited to a cookout at ELC.

More details will be shared about our trip as well. Getting closer!



**2024 ELCA Youth Gathering**  
including **MYLE the table**  
Young Adult Gathering

**NEEDS FOR VBS/DAY CAMP** - In order to have a successful VBS/CAMP

week, we are in need of adult teachers & youth helpers for June 24th - 27th. Contact Brenda, if you are interested in helping.

**DAY CAMP/VBS WEEK AT ELC - June 24-27**

- VBS (9 am- 11:30 am) 3 yr. - Kindergarten

- DAY CAMP -New time (1pm-5 pm) 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade

REGISTER: <https://forms.gle/h6gPK4PEoK68UDWF6>

ELC  
VBS/DAY CAMP  
REGISTRATION



**CONFIRMATION CAMP - July 28 - Aug 2, 7th & 8th**

graders will attend Confirmation Camp at Sugar Creek Bible Camp.

**Register online:** <http://wp.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org/>

ELC is paying \$100 towards the registration fee for campers

**Use the GHRID: ELCMTH to register.**

# CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS cont.

**GIVE/LOVE/SERVE (Local Service Days) - June 12th, July 10th, and Aug 6th** Middle - High school youth are invited to our local service days, held throughout the summer. Many opportunities for youth to provide service in our community, new places and other past favorites. Silver Cord hours will be given to our high school students.

<https://forms.gle/DuANahSt4Nc3eiC19>

GIVE/LOVE/SERVE  
REGISTRATION  
(Service Days)



## **EXPLORER DAY AT SUGAR CREEK - July 31st, 9 am - 3 pm**

(Children entering 1st - 5th grade in fall 2024)

Come for an exciting one-day adventure at Sugar Creek. Share in opportunities at camp - games, nature, crafts, Bible Study, singing and more!

**Register online:** <http://wp.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org/>

**USE GHRID:** ELCMTH to register. Registration fee: \$25, payable to ELC.

**REGISTER FOR SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP** - Time to register for camp! Information about all 20+ Summer Programs and the link to enroll can be found at

[www.SugarCreekBibleCamp.org/summer-camp](http://www.SugarCreekBibleCamp.org/summer-camp)

ELC of Mt Horeb will help with camp costs, giving each camper \$100 towards their camping week. Call Sugar Creek to let them know you are registering with ELC or ask Brenda for a transfer code, which is needed for the discount. If additional scholarships are needed, please contact Brenda or Pastor John.



## **YOUTH FUNDRAISING:**

**BRATS IN THE LOT (Youth Fundraiser)** - May 11th, 10 am - 2 pm at Millers. Start the summer off with us at Millers to enjoy some brats. Pick up some delicious Bake Sale treats, as well. Thank you for your support of our youth to attend the Youth Gathering in New Orleans, 2024!

## **BABY KIT DONATIONS NEEDED:**

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. 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 on August 6th, during our Service Days. There is a bin in Narthex for your donations.

# **CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS cont.**

## **BABY KIT DONATIONS NEEDED:**

*MAY - Cotton, lightweight T-shirts*

*JUNE - Baby Caps & Bath-size bars of gentle soap (individually wrapped)*

*JULY - Hand towels (dark colors)*

*Each Baby Care Kit assembled for Lutheran World Relief contains four diapers. We are able to make some of those diapers from T-shirts. If you have T-shirts adult size Large or larger, we would appreciate receiving them to make diapers. You may drop them in the church office. If you have questions, please contact Ann Baumgartner at [abaumgartner1@charter.net](mailto:abaumgartner1@charter.net) or 608-576-8214. Thank you for your contribution.*

*Blessings & Peace,*

*Brenda Martin, Youth Ministries Director*

[brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org](mailto:brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org)

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## **AGAPE**

Springtime greetings from Agape,

Wow, this year had flown by! May is our last month of school for the 3K program and the 4K classes wrap up on June 5. The students will learn about flowers, kites, frogs, and weather this month. We are anticipating the arrival of the caterpillars. Everyone has so much fun watching them transform into beautiful butterflies. The day we release the butterflies into their new Mt Horeb habitat is always a highlight of the school year! Classes are beginning to fill up for the 2024-2025 school year for our 3-year-old program. Enrollment forms may be found on the preschool website [www.agapechristianpreschool.com](http://www.agapechristianpreschool.com) or picked up from the preschool office Tuesday - Friday 8:00 am - 3:30 pm.

As we wrap up another school year, I would like to thank our wonderful and supportive teaching staff; Cathy Fountas, Megan Kelly, Jenelle Ollendick, Wendy Rasmussen, Katy Seibel and Anita Symons, and Board of Directors; Jessi Garfoot-Sullivan, Brittany Kahl, Kim Lins, Leah Roethle, Lindsey Schulenberg, Becky Strube, Elizabeth Thronson and Anne Woolard. You are all appreciated!

Blessings,

Amy Kellesvig, Director

Agape Christian Preschool

# **AGAPE cont.**

## **Upcoming Dates:**

Friday, May 17 – Last Day Toddler Time

Monday May 20 – 3K End of year celebration with families

4:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Wednesday, May 22 – Last Day Red Class & Orange Class (t/w students)

Friday, May 24 – Last Day Yellow Class & Orange Class (r/f students)

Monday, June 3 – 4K End of year celebration with families

4:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Wednesday, June 5 – Last Day 4K classes

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## **COUNCIL NEWS**

### **NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY**

#### **For all those signed up for Church Directory Pictures –**

Pictures will be taken in the education wing of our church. Please enter, for your picture, in the lower level doors (Agape entrance near elevator) and proceed to the second floor.

In this process of developing our church directory, we are also assisting the church office in updating our church records. If you haven't provided your current information during this process please email the following data to Nancy at [elc@mhtc.net](mailto:elc@mhtc.net):

**Members Name** (to include your family members living at home or in college)

**Address**

**Phone number(s)**

**Email address (es)**

It is vital we keep these membership records current.

Thank you to all who have signed up for pictures or provided pictures for the directory.

If you still want your picture taken for the church directory please contact:

Dianne Hirsch at 608-852-3421 or

Kathy O'Donnell at 608-437-4209

***There are still time slots available to have your picture taken! - Thank You.***



## **COUNCIL NEWS *cont.***

There are various articles in Steeple Echoes this month regarding activities the Council has been and continues to work on, including the survey results, signing up for pictures, fundraising for our youth for the summer, hosting listening sessions, Bible study opportunities, facility needs, etc.

Rather than repeat and emphasize needs, important though they are, I want to just take a moment and acknowledge all we can appreciate here at ELC. There's a human tendency to only think negatively about what needs to be improved. Having spent the winter in the south and having visited a couple of other churches, it made me realize just how much we should be grateful for. I've listed a few things below and I'm sure you can add many more.

- Our amazing programs that reach out to others both in Mt. Horeb and around the world. Whether it's reaching out to those who need a hand in the church community, morning devotions online or donating to our benevolence of the month. We are focused not only on our concerns, but those of the world around us.
- Music that is second to none with talent that is shared by several to enrich our worship.
- Sermons that are long remembered after leaving the church and often impact my thoughts throughout the week.
- A religious education program that is so much more than just "Sunday" school.
- A vibrant preschool in our midst.
- Volunteers and office staff that keep us organized and operating.
- A beautiful facility with people who mostly step up when needed.
- A forward-looking organization that imagines what can be instead of what used to be.
- Recognition that the church cannot be a stagnant body, but rather a growing force reaching out to make our community and world a better place by showing love to all.

What are you thankful for and what do you most appreciate about ELC? Ask yourself that question without letting the needs push the positives aside. We are blessed and fortunate and must continue our quest to meet important needs both within and outside the church walls. Please remember the positive aspects of ELC we can appreciate and keep them in the forefront as we work to solve problems and needs.

Sincerely,  
Vicky Rosenbaum  
Council Representative

# COUNCIL NEWS cont.

The church council has approved, on a recommendation from the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) committee, to begin displaying two flags welcoming all people to our church. There will be two on the front lawn and two on the back. Our church was built “To the Glory of God” and as we continually say:

## 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.

Anyone who would like to respond to this, please feel free to email us at:

[elc@mhtc.net](mailto:elc@mhtc.net)

Also, the church council has decided to hold **monthly listening sessions**. Anyone who would have interest in talking to council members is invited to come have coffee and express your concerns or hopes for our work to the “Glory of God” This listening session is not limited to any one subject.

The first listening session will be held on May 5<sup>th</sup> following the 9:00am service in the fellowship hall.

Thank you for all you do to support the work of our Church family.

ELC Church Council  
Mark Mostrom  
Council President



# **COUNCIL NEWS cont.**

## **ELC SURVEY SUMMARY**

This document is meant to be an overall summary of the survey that was conducted towards the end of last year and resulted in 51 responses. This summary is organized into three main areas;

1. Highlights of positive feedback
2. Highlights on constructive feedback
3. Areas of focus for our church

The last section was a product of extensive discussion with the church council to focus on what is most important at this time to take action on.

### **Highlights of Positive Feedback**

Below are actual comments that we would like to share relative to our church and what is going well.

- “Music is wonderful and feeds my soul”
- “I enjoy Pastor Johns sermons and Zach’s as well”
- “Feeling a sense of community”
- “Openness and inclusivity”
- “The Signup Genius is very easy to use”

There was a tremendous amount of positive feedback with the majority of it centered around our pastors, our music and the sense of community.

### **Highlights of Constructive Feedback**

Below are actual comments that we would like to share relative to feedback on areas of improvement.

- “Finding ways to have more people actively involved”
- “I would like to return to two service schedules on Sunday”
- “Remove the Pride Flag. We are a place of worship not politics”
- “I would recommend removing the pride flag and replacing with the RIC flag”
- “Start having greeters again”
- “Improve use of social media and website to share everything that is going on”

# **COUNCIL NEWS cont.**

## **ELC SURVEY SUMMARY**

There were other comments provided as well that have been discussed with the church council.

### **Areas of Focus**

Based on discussion with the church council and a review of all of the survey responses, we have identified the following topics for next steps.

- **Contemporary and Traditional worship**

This topic was mentioned numerous times in our survey responses. While the council would appreciate this change, at this point in time we do not have enough attendance to warrant the move back to two services. It was agreed that we would monitor attendance on a regular basis and continue to discuss if/when a change would be made.

- **Pride Flag**

This was a topic that many of our members had strong opinions on. Based on this feedback and extensive discussion with the church council and a recommendation from the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) committee, we will be displaying two flags welcoming all people to our church. There will be two on the front lawn and two on the back.

- **Welcome and Greeting**

This is an area where we do want to make improvements. Specific items that we will address include improved efforts to do the following:

- Welcome existing and new members prior to service
- Create time on a regular basis to welcome each other within service by handshake or a wave.
- Review merit of having small ground dinners with members

- **Website / Social Media**

This is an area where we do want to make improvements. Specific items that we will address include improved efforts to do the following:

- Review an update to our website.
- Identify ways to improve access/use of our existing platforms like Youtube and Facebook for viewing our service.

***Please note that the comprehensive summary of all responses to the survey is available to any members who would like a copy.***

# WORSHIP & MUSIC

The ELC choir will be wrapping up its 2023-24 season with a worship service filled with music on **Sunday, May 19 at 9am**. This Worship Through Music service will feature the choir's favorite choral anthems from this season, along with favorite congregational hymns.



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## TREASURER'S REPORT

Giving in March was under budget, while expenses were normal. Facilities costs were lower than February, in part due to the better weather. Personnel costs were higher, because intern housing was once again paid in the general fund. This cost, which belongs to the general fund, had been shifted temporarily to the designated fund to reduce pressure on the general fund, but the designated internship fund has been depleted (its balance is -\$7,240).

The general fund deficit for March was \$7,748. To add some context, average weekend attendance (not counting Easter) is about 130, which means that an extra \$15 per person would have covered the shortfall. At the end of March, we had \$11,016 in assets against \$1,293 in outstanding liabilities, for a general fund balance of \$9,793. This is much improved from the negative balances we were looking at late last year, but our margin of safety is still rather low.

# TREASURER'S REPORT cont.

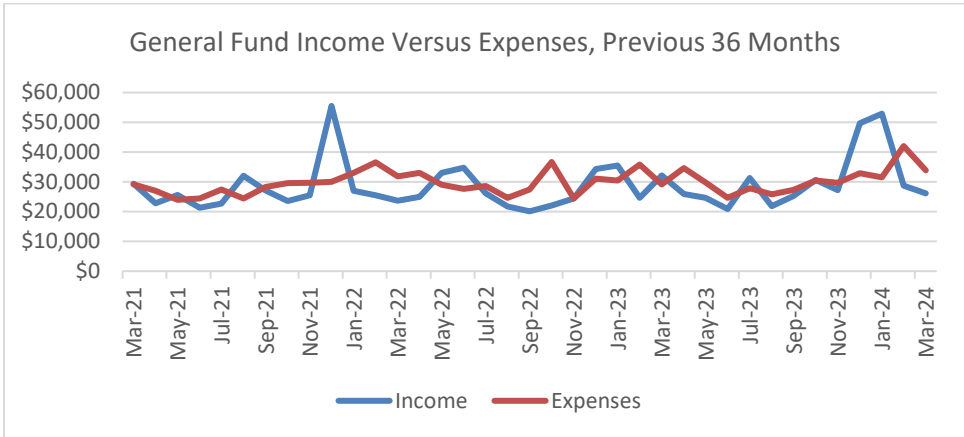
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>	3/31/24	2/29/24	12/31/23
General Fund	\$ 9,793	\$ 17,541	\$ 9,486
Building Capital Fund	\$ 22,575	\$ 21,913	\$ 10,271
Designated Funds	\$ 113,281	\$ 111,627	\$ 109,292
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 145,649</b>	<b>\$ 151,081</b>	<b>\$ 129,049</b>

<b>CASH FLOW</b>	March 2024	YTD 2024
General Fund Income	\$ 26,114	\$ 107,672
General Fund Expenses		
Personnel	\$ 24,406	\$ 68,693
Mission and Outreach	\$ 1,917	\$ 5,752
Congregational Life	\$ 1,481	\$ 4,353
Facilities and Administration	\$ 6,058	\$ 28,568
Total General Fund Expenses	\$ 33,862	\$ 107,366
<b>Net General Fund Gain (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ (7,748)</b>	<b>\$ 306</b>
Other Income		
Benevolence	\$ 859	\$ 4,191
Building Capital Fund	\$ 662	\$ 12,304
Designated Funds	\$ 997	\$ 9,014
Total Other Income	\$ 2,518	\$ 25,509
Other Expenses		
Benevolence	\$ 86	\$ 1,733
Building Capital Expenses	\$ -	\$ -
Designated Fund Expenses	\$ 149	\$ 7,482
Total Other Expenses	\$ 235	\$ 9,215
Net Gain (Loss) from Other Expenses	\$ 2,282	\$ 16,293
<b>NET GAIN (LOSS)</b>	<b>\$ (5,466)</b>	<b>\$ 16,599</b>

March expenses from the designated funds include \$102 for technology, and \$47 for the kitchen. Designated-fund income included \$787 for youth, \$50 for music, \$40 for the internship, \$30 for Neighbors Helping Neighbors, and \$89 unspecified.

# TREASURER'S REPORT cont.

BUDGET TRACKING	2024 YTD	2024 Versus Budget	2024 Versus 2023
General Fund Income	\$ 107,672	\$ 18,451	\$ 15,367
General Fund Expenses			
Personnel	\$ 68,693	\$ (902)	\$ 10,852
Mission and Outreach	\$ 5,752	\$ (458)	\$ -
Congregational Life	\$ 4,353	\$ (452)	\$ 2,178
Facilities and Administration	\$ 28,568	\$ 4,041	\$ 1,555
Total General Fund Expenses	\$ 107,366	\$ 2,229	\$ 14,585
Building Capital Fund Income	\$ 12,304	\$ 9,313	\$ 6,806
Building Capital Expenses	\$ -	\$ (3,000)	\$ (3,490)
Budgeted Income	\$ 119,976	\$ 27,764	\$ 22,173
Budgeted Expenses	\$ 107,366	\$ (771)	\$ 11,095



# BENEVOLENCE

## NHN: A people-powered resource for our neighbors in need

Did you know that nearly one-third of people who live in and around Mount Horeb struggle each month to make ends meet?

These households are made up of people who work one and sometimes multiple jobs, but don't earn enough to live comfortably. They are people with disabilities, senior citizens on a fixed income, or those who have fallen on hard times due to temporary job loss or illness. They balance a multitude of stressful expenses – feeding their families, paying bills, finding and maintaining affordable housing, and keeping up with the rising cost of goods and services.

Fortunately, we live in an incredibly generous community that has embraced Neighbors Helping Neighbors' vision of providing a resource hub that offers free food, clothing and additional relief services, helping people move from a mode of survival to a place where they can thrive.

NHN survives on people power – and throughout the month of May, we are featuring many ways for the people of ELC to lend a hand to their neighbors through this wonderful, volunteer-led nonprofit organization.

Here are some facts about NHN and ways that you can contribute.

**Open hours:** Do you know someone who would benefit from visiting NHN? Anyone who lives in the Mount Horeb Area School District and the surrounding rural area is eligible to visit its facility at 102 E. Lincoln St. just south of downtown, which is available at these times:

- **Food Closet:** Thursday from 6-7:30 p.m., Friday from 9-10:30 a.m. (Seniors preferred) or 3-4:30 p.m., and Saturday from 10-11:30 a.m.
- **Clothes Closet:** Thursday: 6-7:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10-11:30 a.m.

**Volunteering:** NHN offers more than 200 volunteer opportunities each month for people of all skill sets and physical abilities. These are short shifts and training is available for more advanced jobs. You can work as often or as little as you'd like; each month, you are invited by email to sign up for whichever opportunities match your availability. To learn more, and to register as a volunteer, visit [mthorebneighbors.org/get-involved](http://mthorebneighbors.org/get-involved), email [info@mthorebneighbors.org](mailto:info@mthorebneighbors.org) or call 608-437-6114. Huge thanks to Amy Sinner for organizing volunteer NHN opportunities during January, which is ELC's month to provide coverage at the Clothes Closet.



## **BENEVOLENCE cont.**

**Material donations:** NHN opened its doors during the pandemic and for several years was the beneficiary of government programs that supported food pantries, but now must rely more heavily on purchasing food from key partner Second Harvest Food Bank and food reclamation offers from partners Miller & Sons and Kwik Trip.

NHN also accepts donations directly from community members. Here are some items of particular interest and information on where you can deliver them:

- **Food items** can be brought to church and placed in our bin in the narthex, or delivered directly to NHN during open hours. Right now, NHN is in particular need of: white sugar, canned tuna or chicken, canned pasta meals (Spaghetti-O's), canned soup, canned pineapple, ketchup, mayonnaise, flour, corned beef hash, bottled fruit juice (any flavor), salad dressing, boxed dry potatoes, Hamburger Helper, pickles.
- **Clothing** should be taken directly to NHN during open hours. The most pressing item is new men's underwear, and NHN also accepts clean, gently used, spring and summer clothing and footwear for people of all ages. Please do not bring out-of-season items, due to a lack of floor space in the facility.
- **Personal essentials** can be delivered to our bin at church, to NHN during open hours, or to two drop-off locations during business hours: the Chamber of Commerce Welcome Center at 300 E. Main St. and Vike-Steinich Chiropractic at 320 W. Main St. Items in high demand include: toilet paper, cleaning products, shampoo, conditioner, liquid hand soap, dish soap, deodorant, toothpaste, diapers size 4-5-6, pull-ups size 4T-5T, tampons/pads, disposable razors, facial tissues, paper towels, paper plates, laundry detergent, dental floss, mouthwash, Q-tips.

**Financial donations:** Throughout May, we are accepting donations to assist NHN in its many missions. You can contribute 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.

## **BENEVOLENCE cont.**

If you would like to make a recurring donation to NHN, visit their website at [mthorebneighbors.org/donate](http://mthorebneighbors.org/donate).

Thank you for your support of Benevolence!

Adam Mertz

[adammertz2@gmail.com](mailto:adammertz2@gmail.com)

## **BENEVOLENCE 2024 Missions**

**January:** Divine Savior, our sister church in Puerto Rico - \$2074

**February:** Compassion International - \$1132

**March:** ELC youth programming - \$773

**April:** Reconciliation in Christ (RIC)

**May:** Neighbors Helping Neighbors

**June:** Solace Hospice, a new service for people of lesser means

**July:** ELCA international charity TBD, based on need

**August:** Felicia's Closet, helping domestic abuse victims rebound

**September:** Saba, International

**October:** Madison Area Jail Ministry

**November:** Accessible local health care: Our Lady of Hope and  
Community Connections

**December:** Young Adults in Global Mission

# PROPERTY

## June Projects are revealed!

Significant work will be done over the first 3 weeks in June.

Here is the timeline of events:

### **Monday June 3**

Snorkel Lift will be delivered to ELC to be used for the inside work  
Bins of LED lights will be delivered to replace all of the interior lights (Sanctuary)

### **Monday-Wednesday, June 3 – 5**

lighting replaced

### **Thursday-Wednesday, June 6 – 12**

repair upper connected pillar area, paint pillars and inside non-wood surfaces

*\*\*\*The Sanctuary will be off-limits until all the work is completed.*

*\*\*\*Please avoid the sanctuary while this work is being done.*

**The Sunday service on June 9 will be held in Fellowship Hall.**

Not done yet!

### **Monday-Wednesday June 17 - 19**

Sidewalk from the front doors to the street will be taken out and new concrete laid. The walk will be off-limits until late Wednesday.

### **Thursday June 20**

Sidewalk from the south Chapel entry will be taken out and new concrete laid. This walk will be usable in time for the Saturday evening service.

Reminders will be in the bulletins the week ahead in case you didn't catch the information in the Echoes.

Questions or concerns can be directed to the office for answers.

# PRAYER list

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** Ruth Ann Nemet, Max Rosenbaum, Susan Koller, Warren Wilson, Tony (Farmer) Endres, Margaret Twiton, Paul & Lois Kerscher (Amy Thompson's parents), Paul Baum, Ingrid Hoerz, Dolores Kahl, Sara Kittleson, Terri Naylor (Dennis & Mary Lokken's daughter), John Scheele & family (Char Smith's Brother in Law) Linda Stoenner, Ken Rabideau (Helen Ladwig's Brother in Law), Nick O'Connell, Steve Mueller, Joyce Fargo, Alycen McKinney, Cara Mavis, Joan Schraepfer ( Rita Schraepfer-Derke's Sister in Law), Todd Collins, Norm Hefty, Lincoln Kuhn, Mary Jane Ellis (friend of Bonny Kellogg), Bonnie Bender, Ginger Quaderer (Diane Mueller's cousin), Delores Bryant, Makenzee Smith, 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:**

*Dawn Kellesvig*

**Given By:**

*Brian Johnson*

*Bernadine & David Jones  
& Julie Schultz*



*We would like to welcome our new members into our church family. Johnnie Denton and the Reynold's family; Zach, Stacy, Grady, Ella & Carter. Thank you to the Willcutt's for sponsoring the Reynold's family.*

# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

**CHURCH COUNCIL** will meet on **Monday May 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm** in the Matthew Room.

**BABY CAPS MAKERS** will meet one final time this spring on **Tuesday, May 7, 9:30 am** in the Luke Room. Ruth will make a final delivery to Unity Point Meriter in mid-May, so please bring along any completed caps or place them in the basket in the Faith Room. If you are interested in knitting (easy) or sewing (even easier!) eyeglass cases for the hospital, contact [ruthheinecke@gmail.com](mailto:ruthheinecke@gmail.com) for instructions.



*Pictured knitters: Cindy Schwierske, Kelly Schlicht, Cheryl & Cassidy Schlicht, Carol Nielsen, Ruth Heinecke, Cathie Field and Barb Underwood.*

**SARAH CIRCLE** will meet **Tuesday, May 21st, 7 pm** in the Matthew Room. We will do the April Bible study from "Gather" magazine since a stormy night kept us from meeting in April. This study is "Scripture and Nature: Teachers of Faith, Session 4 - Food" - starts on page 32 of the March/April Issue. Contact Connie Curran ([curranconnie@hotmail.com](mailto: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.

**REBECCA CIRCLE** will meet for lunch at North and South Restaurant in Verona on **Wednesday, May 15, at 11:15 am**. Meet to carpool at church at 11:00 am.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS cont.

**ELC SEWING GROUP** We meet every **Thursday morning from 9:00 am to Noon** in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to see how those beautiful quilts are made, please stop by. We'll be happy to show you how it's done. We also invite anyone interested in joining our group for the fun of fellowship and working on this stewardship project. All equipment and supplies are provided so come as you are. **May 30<sup>TH</sup> - Sewing Group will carpool from the church parking lot for our outing to the Fireside Theater at 9:30 a.m. No sewing that day.**

**MEN'S BREAKFAST/BIBLE STUDY 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at 7 am on at Sjolinds.** Contact Pastor John with questions.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY** Join Intern Zach as we explore the Gospels! We will meet in the fellowship hall every Sunday after service starting through May 12th.

### **FARMER'S MARKET**

The Mount Horeb Farmers Market returns to the front lawn of the Evangelical Lutheran Church for summer 2024! All markets run 3:00pm - 6:30pm on Thursdays. **The first market is Thursday May 2nd!**

**BETTER TOGETHER** Have you experienced the loss of a life partner and wish to connect with others who understand your situation? We have formed a new group "Better Together" and welcome you to join us. Our next gathering is scheduled for **Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup>** at Biaggi's in Middleton. We'll meet in the church parking lot at 11 am and carpool. Make a reservation by calling Kathy O'Donnell at (608)437-4209. This is intended to be a supportive group, allowing us to be "**Better Together**".

### **JOIN US TO HONOR OUR SEASONED SAINTS**

For over 20 years ELC has honored the ladies in the congregation who are reaching the age of 80 years during that year. Our Seasoned Saints have been role models for younger women at church. They have held offices on Church Council, taught Sunday School, served many, many meals, assisted with church services, sung in choir, served on various committees, and on and on.

It is a privilege to honor these ladies on **Saturday morning, May 11, at 9:30** with a light breakfast in Fellowship Hall. Please join us by calling the church office today to make your reservation, 608-437-5012.

# MEMBERSHIP NEWS cont.



MONDAY-THURSDAY  
9 AM - NOON & 1 PM-4 PM  
FRIDAY 9 AM - NOON  
SUMMER HOURS BEGIN MAY 28TH  
MONDAY-FRIDAY 9AM-NOON

The Church Office will be closed Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>  
in observance of Memorial Day

STEEPLE ECHOES ARTICLES DUE BY  
Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> for the June/July issue.



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

## COMMUNITY SUPPER

ELC will be assisting with the June  
Mount Horeb community supper.

Mount Horeb Community Center  
June 18: 5:15 - 6:15  
107 North Grove Street Mount  
Horeb

**We need several volunteers.!!!**  
**Contact the church office if interest**

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS  
FREE MEAL—BRING YOUR FAMILY,  
FRIENDS, AND NEIGHBORS!

EVERY  
THIRD  
OF THE  
TUESDAY  
MONTH

MOUNT HOREB  
COMMUNITY CENTER

5:30 TO  
6:30 PM



107 N. GROVE ST  
UPPER LEVEL

3RD TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

AREA CHURCHES AND OTHER LOCAL  
ORGANIZATIONS ARE INVITED TO  
SPONSOR A MEAL

MHCOMMUNITYSUPPER@GMAIL.COM

# MAY Birthdays

<b>1</b>	Joshua Kahl	<b>11</b>	Logan Hinsenkamp	<b>22</b>	Grace Hamburg
	Cody Sveum		John Malin	<b>23</b>	Sarah Baum
	Savanna Thorsen		John Nielsen		Jessica Lorenz
<b>2</b>	Tyler Crubaugh		Kathy Sies		Kelley O'Connell
	Taylor Kitsemble	<b>12</b>	John Coffin	<b>24</b>	Sandra Cushman
	John Topper		Colin Schulenberg		Nolan Krentz
<b>3</b>	Darrick Kreul		Laurie Vogt		Carol Nielsen
	Amy Sinner	<b>13</b>	Grace Brager	<b>25</b>	Kerstin Edwards
<b>4</b>	Sandy Hook		Kenneth Hoerz		Claire Hamburg
<b>5</b>	Caylen Kahl		Jeremy Olson		Mike Heiting
	Domonic Krueger		Lily Rollins		Janice Olday
<b>6</b>	Joel Kahl		Sedona Vondra		Chelsea Sailor
	David Vogt	<b>14</b>	Sarah Schloesser		Charles Willcutt
	Del Warner	<b>15</b>	Maggie Calhoun	<b>26</b>	Nathan Albrecht
	Leah Zelle		George Klaetsch		Jackson Rameker
	Maren Zupan-Walsh		Eric Schloesser	<b>27</b>	Glenn Hook
<b>7</b>	Martha Faust		Henry Willcutt		Grant Schult
	Norm Hefty	<b>16</b>	Marilyn Festge		Mark Sherven
<b>8</b>	Viviana Helwig		Evelyn Oimoen		Parker Woolard
	Roselee Losenegger		Kim Steinhauer	<b>28</b>	Athena Eggers
	Melissa Rameker		Warren Wilson		Daniel Lins
	Steve Steinl	<b>17</b>	Laura Smith		Amanda Lutz
<b>9</b>	Jason Fendrick	<b>18</b>	Wes Parks	<b>29</b>	Emmitt Kahl
	Emily Wallace		Kelly Steinl		Ken Landen
	Ava Zupan-Walsh	<b>19</b>	Morgan Kitsemble	<b>30</b>	Cathie Anderson
<b>10</b>	Sandy Fischer	<b>20</b>	Kris Muelhenkamp		Gary Festge
	Suzi Grundahl		Kaleb Stapelmann		Brenda Monroe
	Jennifer Mullendore	<b>21</b>	Sam Kellesvig	<b>31</b>	Dan Gibney

**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

Thanks for all that you do in support of worship!

	MAY 4 & 5	MAY 11 & 12	MAY 18 & 19	MAY 25 & 26
<b>ACOLYTES</b>	<i>Sunday</i> Carter Vesely Caleb Gaulke	<i>Sunday</i> Mason Dudley Lucas High	<i>Sunday</i> Eva Larson Zoe Stack	<i>Sunday</i> Jacey Morin Evelyn Wyse
<b>COMM ASSIST</b>	<i>Sunday</i> <b>available</b>	NC	<i>Sunday</i> Kim Kelliher Cheryl Wille-Schlesser	NC
<b>GREETERS</b>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
<b>READERS</b>	<i>Saturday</i> Kate Hook <i>Sunday</i> Ben Brothers	<i>Saturday</i> Paul Heinecke <i>Sunday</i> Diane Bartz	<i>Saturday</i> Ann Baumgartner <i>Sunday</i> Amy Sinner	<i>Saturday</i> <b>NO SERVICE</b>  <i>Sunday</i> Barb Underwood
<b>USHERS</b>	<i>Sunday</i> John & Carol Nielsen	<i>Sunday</i> Betsy Baguhn Jody Morey	<i>Sunday</i> Jim & Shannon Hadac	<i>Sunday</i> Jim Cook John Rosenbaum
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	<i>May</i> - Cathie Field, Sara Hellenbrand, Laura Miller, Sharon Schiefelbein, Amy Kellesvig			
<b>COUNCIL DUTIES</b>	<i>May</i> - Vicky Rosenbaum			

**SIGN UP LINKS:** You'll find the links on the ELC website-Worship Assistants Schedule.

## COMMUNION ASSIST

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F084EAAA829A5F85-44914064-communion>

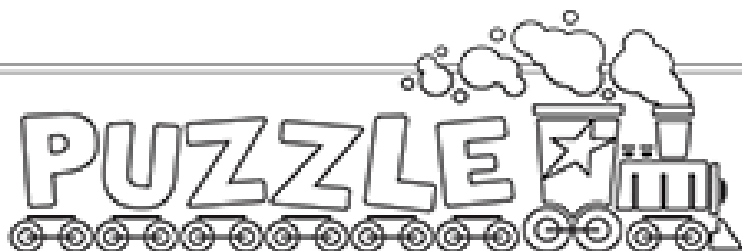
## GREETER

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4BAEAE22A1F85-48399108-greeter>

## READER:

[ELC of Mt. Horeb Scripture Readers: April through June Scripture Reading Dates \(signupgenius.com\)](#)

# PUZZLE



## UNFADING BEAUTY

Peter says beauty shouldn't come from outward adornment.  
How does a godly woman adorn herself on the inside?

Directions: From each list, write the word that doesn't belong.  
Then insert the circled letters in order below to complete 1 Peter 3:4, NIV

flower, stem, bee, leaf

—○—

pink, red, yellow, blue

—○—

mother, sister, brother, aunt

—○—

purple, dress, skirt, blouse

—○—

necklace, ring, bracelet, braid

—○—

diamond, emerald, heart, ruby

—○—

orange, cherry, potato, kiwi

—○—

my, our, she, your

—○—

faith, family, love, hope

—○—

sunny, rainy, snowy, temperature

—○—

cookie, cake, pie, sandwich

—○—

silver, white, gold, bronze

—○—

"Rather, it should be that of your inner self,  
the unfading beauty of a g \_\_\_\_\_  
and qu \_\_\_\_\_ p \_\_\_\_\_, which is  
of great worth in God's sight." 1 Peter 3:4, NIV

g, q, h, t, e, m, b, i, t, e, a, d, s, i, n, g, s, a, n, d, q, u, i, t, e, s, p, i, e, t, y, s, e, e, k, i, n, g, s, a, n, d, o, u, t, w, a, r, d, a, d, o, r, n, m, e, n, t, s, i, n, s, t, e, a, d, o, f, t, h, e, u, n, f, a, d, i, n, g, b, e, a, u, t, y, o, f, a, g, o, o, d, c, o, n, s, c, i, e, n, c, e, a, n, d, q, u, i, e, t, s, p, i, e, t, y, w, h, i, c, h, i, s, o, f, g, r, e, a, t, w, o, r, t, h, i, n, G, o, d, 's, s, i, g, h, t, ., 1, P, e, t, e, r, 3, :, 4, N, I, V