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

Office Manager: Nancy Voss

Organist/Senior Choir Director: Diane Dangerfield

Youth Director: Brenda Martin

A Note from

PASTOR JOHN

The Name of Jesus

"After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb." - Luke 2:20

The Christmas story ends with the shepherds 'glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.' – Luke 2:19b. And for many of us, that's where we leave it in our memories for another year.

But of course, Jesus' story continues. January first is the eighth day of Christmas (the 12 days begin at Christmas and lead up to Epiphany on January $6^{\rm th}$). On the eighth day it was tradition for a faithful Jewish family to present a male child for circumcision, and an official declaration of this child's name.

In Matthew 1, in a dream an angel told Joseph about this child, and instructed him: "you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." - Matthew 1:21

In the eyes of the world that day, this was probably a small, seemingly insignificant event, but it was the announcement of Jesus' presence. We begin the year by celebrating this good news.

All names are powerful, but Jesus' name is the most powerful of all. Being able to call someone by name means you know something important about that person, and being called by name means you are known. On this day we celebrate the privilege and the power of calling God by name, as well as how deeply we know God and are known by God, through Jesus.

We also celebrate that we are known by name to the God who loves us. Take this powerful announcement into the new year with you, and be aware of the everyday events which show the continued presence of Jesus in our world today.

God's Peace,

Pasto Sh Time

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15 am - 11 am - We will resume on Jan 5th.

Youth, 3 years old - 8th grade, are invited to participate each week. Join us to experience the Bible stories through various engaging activities. We will begin weekly in the chapel.

7th & 8th GRADE CONFIRMATION 7 pm - 8:30 pm

- No Confirmation Jan 1st (class resumes Jan 8th)
- Jan 8th Class resumes (Ten Commandments)
- Jan 15th Bowling night at Norsk
- Jan 22nd & Jan 27th Class time



FAMILY BOWLING NIGHT - We will have a bowling night on **January 15th**, **7 pm** - **8:30 pm** at Norsk Bowl. Everyone is invited. Please bring \$5 per person. Pizza will be provided.

FUSE TRIVIA NIGHT - 8th - 12th graders are welcome to join us on **Jan 26**, **7 pm** in the youth room. We will be having a Trivia night to learn more about various neighbor's faiths. Invite your friends!

LOOKING AHEAD:

PARENTS NIGHT OUT/GAMES & CRAFTS AT ELC -

February 7th, 5:30 pm -8:00 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).

Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend. Sign up with the link/QR code.

https://forms.gle/F7jkC8WZegNY6Aqe9

February
Parent's Night Out/
Kids Night Out
Register here

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS Cont.

EARLY RELEASE CHILDCARE - February 10th, 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm We

are offering a new opportunity for children to hang out at ELC during the school's Early Release Day (Children 3 yrs - 8th graders) We will have various opportunities: games, homework help, quiet areas and snacks.



Early Release Childcare

High school students can help and earn silver cord hours.

Sign up with the link/QR code

https://forms.gle/f7hawVFHW5EdB4d2A

TROLL WAY PIZZA -UPDATE - Sadly, we have to cancel our Troll Way Pizza Fundraiser this year. The company that provides our supplies is no longer in business. We have many great memories of working together on this project each year. Stay tuned for new future opportunities for our youth. Thank you for all the support.



COLLECTING PLASTIC BAGS - We are collecting recycled plastic bags for our Family Night Service project in February. The bags will be used to make the 'Plarns', sleeping mats for the homeless. Please drop off in the tote in the Narthex.

THANK YOU - As we say hello to a new year, I want to thank everyone who has helped, supported, and participated in our youth programs this past year, including our many fundraisers. We look forward to 2025.

Blessings,

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

BALANCE SHEET	11/30/24	10/31/24	12/31/23
General Fund	5,573	652	9,486
Building Capital Fund	17,568	21,568	10,271
Designated Funds	76,378	73,731	109,292
TOTAL	99,519	95,951	129,049

CASH FLOW	November 2024	YTD 2024
General Fund Income	33,934	347,609
General Fund Expenses		
Mission and Outreach	1,834	22,259
Personnel	19,118	239,202
Congregational Life	1,671	14,186
Facilities and Administration	6,389	75,875
Total General Fund Expenses	29,012	351,522
Net General Fund Gain (Loss)	4,922	(3,913)
Other Income		
Building Capital Fund	1,650	42,664
Benevolence	1,849	12,032
Designated Funds	884	13,148
Total Other Income	4,383	67,844
Other Expenses		
Building Capital Fund	5,845	35,562
Benevolence	86	10,968
Designated Funds	0	47,126
Total Other Expenses	5,931	93,656
Net Gain (Loss) from Other Expenses	(1,548)	(25,812)
NET GAIN (LOSS)	3,374	(29,725)

TREASURER'S REPORT Cont.

We've seen an uptick in giving over the last several months, and that trend continued in November. Income of \$33,934 left us with a general fund balance of \$5,573, up \$4,922 from last month.

Fundraising for our large capital projects continues. We've received gifts or commitments for \$50,228, leaving us over two-thirds of the way to our goal of \$75,000.

We spent some of those funds -\$5,845- last month to repair the boiler. A new roof for approximately \$48,200, and water mitigation in the basement for approximately \$12,300 are the other two outstanding projects, and the council has approved spending some of Rose Klir's estate gift to fix the 4th A/C unit in the fellowship hall. The estimated cost for that repair is \$4,750.

Designated fund income last month included \$450 for benevolence, \$387 for youth, and \$46 unspecified.

Respectfully submitted by Ben Brothers, December 6, 2024

BENEVOLENCE

The importance of connections across the hemisphere

You might've had the opportunity this summer to hear from the 30 of us parents and teenagers who ventured to New Orleans for the ELCA Youth Gathering, a spectacle of sight and sound that takes place every three years – barring a pandemic, that is. It's a pilgrimage of sorts, and a chance for Lutherans young and middle-aged from around the country to meet and worship with each other.

Within 30 minutes of arriving near the NBA arena where the Youth Gathering was held, we saw and met people from states as far-flung as North Carolina and Oregon, and as familiar as Minnesota and Iowa. Then there was the group from South Dakota that included the pastor of a church where our own Micah Sieg had served his internship!

The entire trip underscored the value of, and power in, faith-based connections.

While we don't often get to physically interact with the members of Divine Savior Lutheran Church in Catano, Puerto Rico, thanks to the Benevolence Program, they are always on our minds, and we share a special affinity with them. Many members of ELC have been able to visit this vibrant congregation across the bay from San Juan, and have been awed by the hospitality they received and the appreciation they show for our financial support.

Our connection transcends the differences in our daily existence. We have forged a strong bond that benefits both congregations.

Divine Savior traditionally leads off our Benevolence lineup every calendar year, and once again we'll raise funds for them this January. Several years ago, we decided to double down on that commitment by not only raising funds during a dedicated month but also allocating 10% of proceeds in the other months toward our partner congregation. Over time, that has translated on average to more than \$2,000 per year to support Divine Savior's community-minded ministry.

Here's what you can do to support Divine Savior throughout January:

Pray: Support the work of our partner church by keeping their congregation and the community of Catano in your prayers.

BENEVOLENCE Cont.

Give: You can give 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.

Thank you for your support of Benevolence!

Adam Mertz

adammertz2@gmail.com

BENEVOLENCE 2024 Missions

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

February: Compassion International - \$1258 **March**: ELC youth programming - \$859

April: Reconciliation in Christ (RIC) - \$1167 **May**: Neighbors Helping Neighbors - \$864

June: Solace Hospice, a new service for people of lesser means - \$749

July: Lutheran Disaster Response - \$1114

August: Felicia's Closet, helping domestic abuse victims rebound - \$774

September: Saba, International - \$792 **October**: Madison Area Jail Ministry \$713

November: Accessible local health care: Our Lady of Hope and

Community Connections \$1064

December: Young Adults in Global Mission \$764

COUNCIL

As we begin a new year I would like to offer a word of thanks to all the people who make ELC such a great worship community. From the employees to the volunteers, we have a large number who work tirelessly to keep the worship a truly remarkable experience, the building in great shape, and the communications current and informative.



As a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation do we strive to make our church as welcoming as possible? Is each and every one of us talking to those around us, and especially are we talking to

those we do not recognize or know? In the past I introduced myself to a father and daughter who I thought were visiting, only to find out they have attended, and are and have been members for years. We simply attend worship at different times and days. Was I embarrassed, yes, but hopefully this encounter helped us both to know the importance of talking to each other and growing as a community of faith working together to grow God's grace and forgiveness.

And finally, the importance of ELC remaining vital and, an important part of the Mt Horeb community, is that we are financially sound. For those who didn't receive or read Pastor John's note in the last Steeple Echoes, I would like to reiterate and copy those words of wisdom.

"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 is 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?

Let each of us review our giving and see if we can all do a little more, as we are able, to increase our sharing of what God has freely given us.

Thank you,

Mark Mostrom Council President



PLEASE PRAY FOR Bryan Greve, Dani Sue Schroeder, Siobhan Mertz, Greg Mueller (Steve's Brother), Jon Larson, Pauline Blum (Mary Meister's Aunt), Vern Schuetz (dear friend of Steve & Diane Mueller), Ruth Ann Nemet, Margaret Twiton, Paul & Lois Kerscher (Amy Thompson's parents), Paul Baum, 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), Steve Mueller, Joyce Fargo, Alycen McKinney, Cara Mavis, Joan Schraepfer (Rita Schraepfer-Derke's Sister in Law), Norm Hefty, Lincoln Kuhn, Ginger Quaderer (Diane Mueller's cousin), Delores Bryant, Makenzee Smith, Brock Howe, Jeannie U'Ren, Mike Olson, Carol Johnson

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

MEMORIALS

Given in honor of:

Given By:

Grace Aavang

Larry & Kay Dangerfield Don Gordon Linda Stoenner Ingrid Thompson

Betsy, Michael, Deb & Diane

Katy Gordon & Family Gary & Jane Topper Delma Larson Sharon Collins

Dave & Kerstin Edwards Ann & Dave Baumgartner Sara & Randy Schultz

Mary Stamm Leroy Collins Diane Bartz

Steve & Diane Mueller Linda Wahlgren Catharine Garfoot

Steve Hall

David & Faye Lorenz
Mark & Becky Mostrom

Diane Bartz

Amy Hall Sue Koller

Bruce Mullendore

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

ADULT BIBLE STUDY resumes after Sunday worship in January. Watch the bulletin for the next topics.



1st & 3rd Thursdays, 7:00 a.m. at Sjolind's Chocolate House, 219 E Main

BABY CAP MAKERS will meet at 9:30 am on the 7th and 21st of January in the Faith Room. ruthheinecke@gmail.com.

CHURCH COUNCIL will meet on **Monday**, **January 13th at 7pm** in the Matthew room.

SARAH CIRCLE will meet on **Tuesday**, **January 21st**, **at 7 pm** in Fellowship Hall to tie blankets for our graduating seniors. If you have fabric at home for one of these blankets, please bring the completed project to Brenda's office, or bring back the fabric that night so we can work on assembly together."

REBECCA CIRCLE will meet at **10 am on Wednesday, January 15**th at Homestead. We will be doing Chapter 10 in *Bad Girls of the Bible*. Rita H. will bring treats and Rita S-D will bring beverages.

ELC SEWING GROUP

The Sewing Group set a goal of sending 175 Quilts to Lutheran World Relief in September 2025. Since October 1, we have made 50 quilts for Lutheran World Relief. We also sent 19 quilts to North Carolina with Pete Walton.

Contributions of flat sheets and blankets (full size or larger) and large pieces of fabric keep us moving along at a fast pace. THANK YOU for all the donations. You make us more productive.

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.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS Cont.

ANNUAL USHER'S MEETING The annual meeting of Usher Teams will be held on Saturday, January 11, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Members of all usher teams are highly encouraged to attend, as we will be reviewing the schedule for the 2025 calendar year. Congregants who are interested in serving as ushers, or who would just like to learn what's happening on that front, are also encouraged to attend! To learn more about ushering, feel free to contact Jim Cook (608-960-3314 or mthorebcubfan@gmail.com)

BOOK CLUB

Have you noticed that things are starting to look a little different in the church library? The RIC committee applied and was awarded a generous grant from the Mt Horeb Community Foundation. This grant will pay for new books. Work has already begun to update the library.

Outdated titles have been removed to make way for new materials. Stocking of new books has already started and will continue throughout the coming months.

With this in mind, we're hoping to start a new book club. Please consider joining us. The first meeting will be on Sunday January 19th after the worship service. We'll talk about when and how often to meet and books to discuss.

2025 SYNOD PILGRIMIGE to The Dwelling in Winston-Salem, NC

The SCSW is planning a synod pilgrimage to *The Dwelling* in North Carolina from June 22 – June 28, 2025

The Dwelling is a unique ministry that serves all people with an extensive outreach to the 'unhoused' community in Winston-Salem. During this weeklong pilgrimage, the synod group is invited to get involved in the life of this community as it worships, serves, and builds relationships. There will be opportunities to learn from the people there, and work alongside them in service projects to repair and restore the neighborhood where they live.

This trip is designed for youth and adults, families, and congregational groups. Visit the synod website at: https://scsw-elca.org/2025pilgrimage/ for more information.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS Cont.

American Red Cross





CHANCE TO WIN

Mount Horeb Community Blood Drive

Evangelical Lutheran Church 315 E. Main

Friday, January 31, 2025 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

For an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter Sponsor Code: MtHorebWl

Only the front door will be open

You can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood by using RapidPass! Visit RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass for more information.

Create a flurry of hope! Come give blood Jan. 27 to Feb. 28 for a \$15 e gift card roblood.org/flurry

1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

SAVE THE DATE: LEAD 2025!

The 2025 LEAD Conference will be on **Saturday**, **February 22** at The Grove (North Heights Lutheran Church).

LEAD is a day of learning for rostered and lay leaders, featuring a keynote speaker, workshops, lunch, and time for fellowship and networking. The conference is open to anyone with a heart for Jesus and a passion for learning! *Registration opens on January 2!*



Monday -Thursday 9am to Noon and 1pm to 4pm Friday 9am to Noon

STEEPLE ECHOES ARTICLES DUE BY Thursday, January 23rd for the February issue.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED on Tuesday, January 28th at 9am to assemble the February newsletter. *Newcomers are welcome*. The assembly process usually takes about 2 hours. Please, come and enjoy the fellowship!

ELC DIRECTORIES are now available and ready to be picked up in the church narthex!

We have one box of labeled directories for those who had their photo taken or submitted a photo. Please take the directory with your name on it.

The second box is for those who did not have your picture taken or submitted and still want a directory "please take one from the unlabeled box". PLEASE take only one directory per family unit.

Thank You.

2025 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE FOR PICK-UP IN THE NARTHEX!

CHURCH E-MAIL LIST

If you would like to be added to our email list and receive weekly updates and other special announcements, please sent us your email address to elc@mhtc.net You can you unsubscribe at any time.

PLEASE BRING YOUR USED INK CARTRIDGES TO THE CHURCH OFFICE! Betsy Baguhn does a fabulous job of turning them in for ELC credit. This is a great way to help offset the cost of printing our bulletin and newsletter.







FROM WORD TO WORLD

Words are important! God spoke and created all things. What does the psalmist declare about creation?

Directions: Using the word clues, unscramble the letters to complete Psalm 102:25, NIV.

A preposition	NI	
An article	НТЕ	
Genesis means this	NINBGEIGN	
A second-person pronoun	OUY	
Past tense of to lay	IDAL	
An article	HET	}
A plural noun meaning base	SODTAINFONU	
A preposition showing possession	FO	
An article	TEH	
A concrete noun meaning world	HRTEA	
_	Psalm 102:	25. NIV
		,

JANUARY Birthdays

1	Pat Boettcher	12	Mae Jean Zelle	23	Alexa Vesely
	Jayne Martinson	13	Devin Kahl	24	Samantha Bower
	Debby Schneider		Kim Kelliher		Morgan Monroe
3	Jim Iverson		Breanna Nesheim		
	James Morey	14	Steve Hall	25	Sarah Brothers
	Michael Powell		Pamela Larson		Robin Paske
4	Sandra Cannon		Kathy O'Donnell		Aaron Schmidt
	Zach Klassy	15	Skylaar Killinger	26	Larry Jenkins
5	Amanda Field		Christine Rinabarger		LeAnn Klaetsch
	Ross Nesheim	16	Helen Kahl		Stacy Kreul
	Matthew Nielsen		Renee Littel	27	Tim Anderson
	Colin Schulz		Bob Schiefelbein		Megan Ferrell
	Amber Schulz	17	Nancy Breed		Gabriel Guenther
6	Kaylie Appleby		John Rosenbaum		Hadley Kahl
	Gordy Kahl	18	Jaclyn Errthum		Graham Schloesser
	Ethan Wittman		Erik Iverson	28	
7	Grace Hanson		Ashley Segebrecht		Michael Miller
	Andrew Knudson		Kevin Thorsen		Owen Rothamer
	Kristina Nielsen	19	Ingrid Malin	29	Valerie Fischer
	Alycen McKinney		Cord Spellman		Rodney Fisher
8	Daniel Edwards				Logan Heiting
	Ken Schulenberg	20	Beverly Jewell	30	Kristine Aeschlimann
9	Leah Gaulke		Evelyn Rameker		
	Stacy LaBorde		Karen Stamn	31	Theresa Bender
10	Lydia Martin				Deb Dangerfield
	Amy Mertz	21	Paul Heinecke		Jenafer Festge
	Mack Racklin		Ethan Sutter		Tim Killinger
	Ethan Stange		Kristin Willcutt		Jeff Rasmussen
11	Matt Anderson		Franklin Willcutt		Kimberly Sailor
	Patricia Ellestad				Sara Thompson
	Lisbeth Gibney	22	Diane Mueller		
			Sonja Rosborough		
			Karen Tetzlaff		

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

	JAN 4 TH & 5 TH	JAN 11 TH & 12 TH	JAN 18 TH & 19 TH	JAN 25 TH & 26 TH			
ACO	Ellie Woolard	Eva Larson	Zoe Stack	Natalie Hogseth			
ACOLYTES Ellie Woolard Lucas High		Jacey Morin	Evelyn Wyse	Hannah Schulenberg			
	Sunday	No Communion	Sunday	No Communion			
COMM ASSIST	Diane Bartz Linda Wahlgren Kim Kelliher		Kim Kelliher Paula Van Ooyen <mark>Available</mark>				
	Saturday	Saturday	Saturday	Saturday			
READERS	<u>Available</u>	Ann Baumgartner	<u>Available</u>	<u>Available</u>			
ŒRS	Sunday	Sunday	Sunday	Sunday			
	Ben Brothers	Diane Bartz	Amy Sinner	Jim Cook			
	Sunday	Sunday	Sunday	Sunday			
USHERS	Jim & Shannon Hadac	Jim Cook John Rosenbaum	Wayne & Mary Knudson	Dennis Lokken Irv Steinhauer			
ALTAR GUILD	January-Cathie Field, Sara Hellenbrand, Laura Miller, Sharon Schiefelbein, Amy Kellesvig						
COUNCIL	January-Mark Mostrom						