

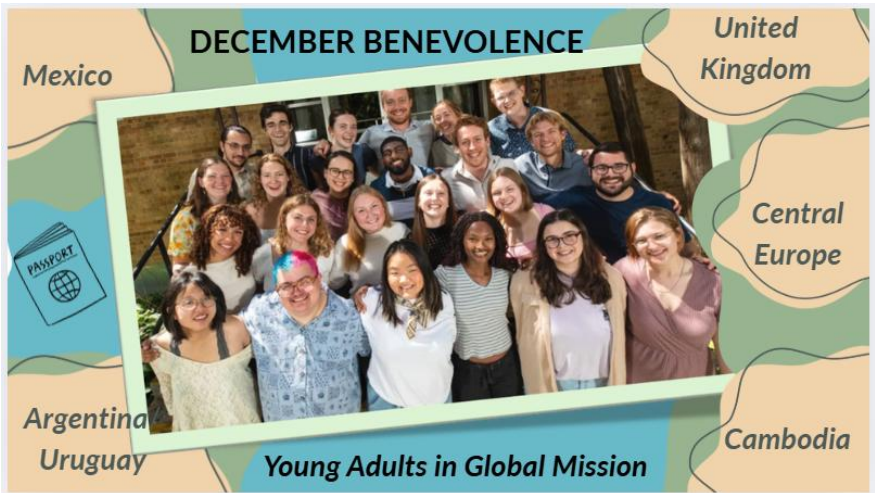
# STEEPLE ECHOES

*A Monthly Newsletter  
of*

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MT. HOREB**

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

**December 2025**



## **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/)

***CHRISTMAS AT ELC - Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 5pm***

***Chili Supper following worship***

***SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM - Sunday December 14<sup>th</sup> during Sermon time***

***CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5pm & 8 pm***

***CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP Thursday December 25<sup>th</sup> at 10 am***

***SATURDAY, December 27<sup>th</sup> No Worship Service***

***LESSONS & CAROLS Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup> 9am***

## **ELC'S STAFF**

**Accompanists:** Ruth Heinecke, Barb Underwood. Kathy O'Donnell

**Agape Preschool Director:** Amy Kellesvig

**Bell Choir Director:** Kristin Willcutt

**Custodian:** Jeremy Kahl

**Maintenance:** Karl Lasse

**Music Team Leader:** Barb and Chris Underwood

**Office Manager:** Nancy Voss

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

**Pastor:** Karen Hofstad

**Youth Director:** Brenda Martin

# Pastor's Reflections...

As we enter the month of December, we also enter a new Church year—and the season of **ADVENT**. The 4 weeks of **ADVENT** are among the busiest, most hectic weeks of the year—filled with baking, shopping, decorating, get-togethers and holiday parties, and a multitude of other activities that demand our time and attention. With all the busy-ness of the season, it's easy to forget what's really at the end of the **ADVENT** journey—the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the world.

But you know what? The weeks leading up to that first Christmas were filled with preparations and hectic busy-ness too! Mary and Joseph and their family, friends, and neighbors had to pack and prepare for their long foot-journeys to their home towns to be counted in a census. And remember, they had to carry all they needed: food, clothing, etc. Can you imagine Mary's and Joseph's stress level given the fact that Mary was 8+ months pregnant and preparing to give birth for the first time?!?

The word **ADVENT** means “to come” or “to arrive.” Whose coming or arrival are we waiting for... preparing for... and hoping for during this season? The “coming of God” in Christ Jesus, the One called Emmanuel—which means “God with us” (Matthew 1:23).

This “coming of God” is not just remembering Jesus' birth in Bethlehem some 2000+ years ago. It is also looking for and experiencing the “coming of God” here and now—often where and when we least expect to see God. And it is anticipating the “coming of God” in our Lord's future coming again, too.

In the midst of the busy-ness of this season, **ADVENT** invites us to pause... to make room in our lives for the One for whom there was not room in the inn... to pray for God to come and disrupt our busy lives!

I know it's easy to want to rush past **ADVENT** to get to the celebration of **Christmas**, but I invite you to let these weeks of **ADVENT** be for you what they are intended to be: a time of waiting... preparing... and hoping for the “coming of God.” It is a time for us to live in the hope and joy of this promise: “She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus [which means “God saves”] for he will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). For through Jesus, God's grace and mercy fall upon us... forgiveness washes over us... and new life grows within us. Through Jesus, we come to know and experience Emmanuel – “God with us.”

**ADVENT** blessings to you and yours! And a very **Merry Christmas!**

Pastor Karen

# CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

**SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15 am - 11 am:** (3 years old - 8th grade) Join us to hear Bible stories, music, play games, create crafts, and enjoy snacks. We begin in the chapel each week. All are welcome.

**NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on December 21 & Dec 28, 2025. We will resume on Jan 4th.**



**SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM - "SIGNS OF CHRISTMAS"** - Join us on **December 14th** during our 9 am worship. Our ELC children will be searching for signs everywhere, to share the Christmas story.

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

- Dec 3rd, Dec 10th - Regular class time
- Dec 17th, 7 pm - 8:00 pm - Christmas Party
- Dec 24th and Dec 31st - No Classes
- Class resumes on Jan 7th, 2026

**PARENTS NIGHT OUT at ELC: Dec 12th, 5:30 pm - 8 pm:** Our high school youth will be offering a night of games, crafts, and treats for youth ages 3 years through 5th grade at ELC of Mt Horeb.

Fundraiser for 2026 Mission Trip.

**Donation:** \$10 per child and \$5 for additional children (family rate).

**Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend. Sign up with the QR code or link -**

**[https://vbspro.events/p\\_early/25773b](https://vbspro.events/p_early/25773b)**



**MAKING KRUMKAKE - Dec 13th; 9 am - 11 am (Teddi Sadler's home)**  
- 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 14th.

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

# CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS Cont.

**MISSION TRIP 2026 - WHO'S INTERESTED?** Open to our *current 8th -12th graders*. Our trip will be **July 12 - 18th, 2026 to Kansas City, MO**. Great opportunity to experience and serve another place. Please contact Brenda (608.437.0332) to sign up, including a \$50 deposit. Balance paid by fundraising. Join us!



**BAKE SALE:** Our ELC youth will be hosting a Bake Sale on December 14th, 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 of our youth who will attend the Kansas City mission trip next summer.

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



TROLL WAY PIZZA  
ORDER HERE



**TROLL WAY PIZZA (TIME TO ORDER)** - Our youth are taking orders for our delicious "church-made" pizzas after worship services Dec 14th - Jan 11th. Orders may be placed online, using the link below or the QR Code. Pick up day will be on February 1st, in Fellowship Hall. (After worship service) One great way to stock up on pizzas before the Super Bowl. Funds raised will support our youth programming.

<https://forms.gle/u1t8fKgJR5owPuVJ9>

# AGAPE

Christmas wishes from Agape,

As the season approaches, preschool classrooms become lively with a sense of wonder and eager excitement. The students will learn about holiday traditions experienced around the world, including an extra-special baking unit. We all enjoy the wonderful scents and smells coming from the gingerbread baking and the spices in the sensory bin. Ms. Jenelle will teach a variety of seasonal and festive songs from different cultures.

All of us at ACP wish you peace, comfort, and joy as we ring in 2026.

Merry Christmas,  
Amy Kellesvig  
Director

## Upcoming dates:

Dec 22 – Jan 4	Preschool closed for Winter Break
January 6	4K classes resume, 3K classes resume
January 9	Toddler Time Resumes
January 23	No school – No 3K or 4K Classes (end of first semester)
January 28	Butter Braid Frozen Pastry Fundraiser begins

Amy Kellesvig, Director  
608-437-7100  
agapekids@mhtc.net



# TREASURER'S REPORT

BALANCE SHEET	10/31/2025	9/30/2025	12/31/2024
General Fund	2,157	14,102	35,757
Building Capital Fund	19,764	19,987	26,603
Mortgage Designated Fund	3,472	3,181	0
Other Designated Funds	77,107	78,286	78,674
Mortgage	(115,426)	(51,426)	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(12,926)</b>	<b>64,130</b>	<b>141,034</b>
CASH FLOW	October 2025	2025 YTD	
General Fund Income	18,741	254,745	
Transfers		6,000	
General Fund Expenses			
Mission and Outreach	1,934	19,889	
Personnel	19,758	183,478	
Congregational Life	1,707	18,545	
Facilities and Administration	7,187	72,333	
<b>Total General Fund Expenses</b>	<b>30,586</b>	<b>294,245</b>	
Net General Fund Gain (Loss)	(11,845)	(33,500)	
Other Income			
Building Capital Fund	927	31,553	
Designated Funds	1,997	74,669	
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>2,924</b>	<b>106,222</b>	
Other Expenses			
Building Capital Fund	1,150	38,393	
Designated Funds	67,033	190,095	
Transfer to General Fund	0	6,000	
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>68,183</b>	<b>234,488</b>	
<b>Net Gain (Loss) from Other Expenses</b>	<b>(65,259)</b>	<b>(128,266)</b>	
<b>NET GAIN (LOSS)</b>	<b>(77,104)</b>	<b>(161,766)</b>	

# TREASURER’S REPORT Cont.

General fund income in October was \$18,741, our lowest amount since at least 2019, which is as far back as my records go. Expenses were \$30,586, resulting in a general fund loss of \$12,926. At month’s end we had \$6,240 in assets against \$4,083 in liabilities for a general fund balance of \$2,157. Expenses continue to track closely with our budgeted estimates, setting aside the temporarily lower personnel expenses due to the pastoral vacancy over the summer. But giving remains well under projections, and current operations will not be sustainable over the medium term if that trend continues. Giving trends will play a large role in determining the compensation package we’ll be able to offer to a prospective senior pastor.

BUDGET TRACKING	2025 YTD	2025 vs Budget	2025 vs 2024
General Fund Income	254,745	(66,577)	(58,931)
General Fund Expenses			
Mission and Outreach	19,889	(864)	(536)
Personnel	183,478	(24,461)	(36,606)
Congregational Life	18,545	2,369	6,030
Facilities and Administration	72,333	458	2,847
Total General Fund Expenses	294,245	(22,498)	(28,266)

Remember that we now also have mortgage expenses not included in the general fund. The boiler and roofing repairs have been completed, and our final mortgage balance is \$115,426. We’ll be responsible for paying this mortgage down over a 20-year amortization (but hopefully much faster!), paying 6.99% on the outstanding balance. Turning to our other funds, we received \$927 for the building fund, and spent \$1,150 on electric repairs to the choir room lights. Benevolence for October raised \$700 for Lutheran Campus Ministry, and \$78 for Divine Savior. Other designated income included \$587 for the mortgage, \$300 for music, \$187 for youth, \$90 for RIC, \$50 for the altar guild, \$25 for Neighbors Helping Neighbors, and \$69 unspecified. Designated fund expenses included \$64,000 for roof repairs, \$2,605 for benevolence, \$296 in mortgage interest, and \$131 for music.

Respectfully submitted by Ben Brothers, November 8, 2025.



# **BENEVOLENCE**

## **An investment in Cecilia and other YAGM leaders**

A tenet of the Benevolence Program is to feature ministries that create local, regional, and global impact. Our support of the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) beautifully accomplishes all three.

Each year, YAGM sends more than 85 mission-oriented volunteers (ages 21–35) to 10 countries, including Argentina/Uruguay, Australia, Central Europe, Jerusalem and the West Bank, Madagascar, Mexico, Rwanda, Senegal, the United Kingdom. More than 800 alumni have completed this program, many of whom now serve in significant leadership roles across the church and throughout society.

ELC of Mount Horeb has a personal connection to this ministry through Cecilia Hook, who shared her YAGM experience in Senegal with us last year. As we prepare to feature YAGM as our December mission, we invited Cecilia to reflect on the lasting impact of her service. Here is her message:

As I have been trying to write my reflections on Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) now, I struggle. I struggle because words can only do so much ... if only I could pour my heart onto the page. I have been having a hard time writing about my experience since just before I left Senegal and now it is almost a year-and-a-half later. It is hard to condense such an impactful experience into something that others can fully understand. The fact is, I am still learning from, and coming to understand, my own experience. The impact does not end the day you arrive back in your sending community. I would argue it has just begun.

Young Adults in Global Mission is a program that gives Young Adults the chance to learn about the world beyond themselves – and at the same time provides the opportunity to share themselves with their host community in ways they may never have imagined. Each young adult will have their own experience and takeaways. Still, many of us have common experiences. As I see it, a year doing YAGM is a time to get to know others, learn about community, share culture, look inward at one's self, and find a deeper connection to the world and its people.

For me, living and working in Senegal showed me a new side to love, community, and what it means to find home. Working through daily language and cultural barriers reminded me how reliant we are on each other. The Senegalese values of deep hospitality and community had a long-lasting impact on me. When I think of Senegal, I think of

## BENEVOLENCE Cont.

greetings – and how in these greetings, I learned to take time for others everywhere I went. I reflect on how I was enveloped and welcomed into my host family – and beyond that, the community at large.

As I move through my life at home, I now and forever will sit with this as I consider those once foreign or on the outside of my own communities, how can I welcome as I have been welcomed. This is certainly not the only take away I have from my time in Senegal but it is one that sits heavy with me every day.

Let me close with a verse (Matthew 25:35) that continues to inspire me and speaks to YAGM's mission: "I was a stranger and you invited me in."

Support for YAGM isn't simply a donation – it's an investment. It strengthens the next generation of leaders shaped by global service, and it amplifies the reach and impact of our church around the world.

On average, it costs about \$15,000 to equip one young adult for a year of service, including training, airfare, a modest living allowance, health insurance, and simple room and board. That's roughly \$40 a day to empower young leaders through life-changing, cross-cultural ministry. As a congregation, let's see how many of those "days" we can help provide for next year's YAGM cohort.

And perhaps there's a young adult in your life who might be a great fit for this program? Applications are accepted year-round; those who apply by Feb. 1 will be considered for the service year beginning in August, with priority given to applications received before Jan. 15.

You can learn more about YAGM on the ELCA website at [elca.org/our-work/global-mission/young-adults-in-global-mission](https://elca.org/our-work/global-mission/young-adults-in-global-mission).

We'll be collecting donations for YAGM throughout December. You can contribute via:

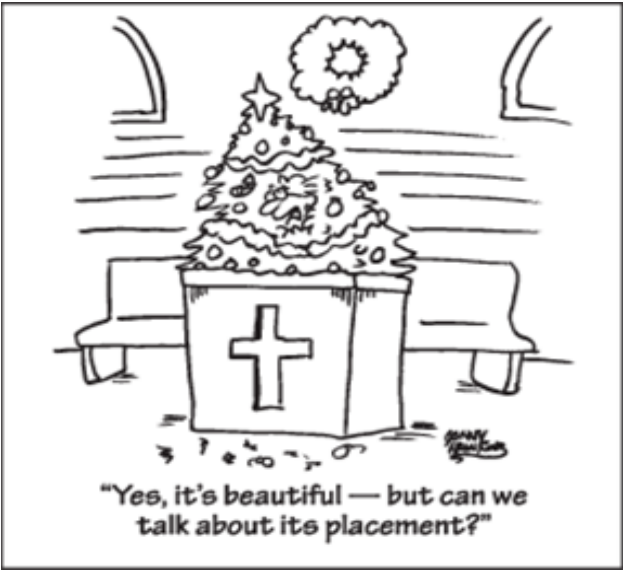
- **Mail:** Send a check to ELC and note "Benevolence" in the memo
- **Online:** Visit the ELC website and click "Give"
- **Digitally:** Digitally: Download the **VANCO MOBIL FAITH ENGAGEMENT APP**, or text "Benevolence" to 608-400-0183 with the amount you wish to give.

On behalf of Benevolence,  
Adam Mertz  
[adammertz2@gmail.com](mailto:adammertz2@gmail.com)

# 2025 BENEVOLENCE MISSIONS

January	(\$1,842) Divine Savior, our sister church in Puerto Rico
February	(\$1,400) Compassion International
March	(\$1.245) ELC youth programming
April	(\$1,089) Reconciling in Christ
May	(\$1,009) Neighbors Helping Neighbors
June	(\$769) Madison Area Jail Ministry
July	(\$634) Literacy Network
August:	(\$824) Habitat for Humanity
September:	(\$2,799) Saba, International
October:	(\$778) Lutheran Campus Ministry
November:	Accessible local health care: Our Lady of Hope and Community Connections
December:	Young Adults in Global Mission

(Additionally, 10% of all funds donated each month go to Divine Savior.)



# December 2025

# Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mt. Horeb

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 9:30-11am Baby Caps-Faith Rm 5:30-6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	3 7-8:30 pm 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation	4 9am Sewing Group	5	5:00 pm 6 Worship/Chapel COMMUNION
9 am Worship 7 COMMUNION 10:15-11am Sunday School 5pm Christmas at ELC Bell Choir Chili Supper following worship	8 6pm-Church Council Matthew Rm	9	10 9:30-11am Coffee Time FH 7-8:30 pm 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation	11 9am Sewing Group	12 5:30-8pm Parents Night Out @ ELC	13 5:00 pm Worship/Chapel 9am -Noon Indoor Farmers Market ELC 9-11 am YOUTH Making Krumkake Teddi Sadler's Home Benevolence - Young Adults in Global Mission
9 am Worship 14 Sunday School Program 10:15-11am Sunday School Bake Sale Order Troll Way Pizza's Benevolence - Young Adults in Global Mission	15	16 9:30-11am Baby Caps-Faith Rm 6 pm Sarah Circle Chris Coffin's Home	17 7-8 pm 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Christmas Party 11 am Rebecca Circle Spring Garden	18 9am Sewing Group  Steeple Echoes Submissions Due	19	20 5:00 pm Worship/Chapel COMMUNION
9 am Worship 21 COMMUNION No Sunday School	22  Agape Winter Break	23  9am Steeple Echoes Assembly Agape Winter Break	24 Christmas Eve 5 pm Worship 8 pm worship No Confirmation Church Office Closed Agape Winter Break	25 Christmas 10 am Worship No Sewing Church Office Closed Agape Winter Break	26  Church Office Closed Agape Winter Break	27 No Worship Service
9 am Worship 28 No Sunday School 9 am Lessons & Carols	29  Agape Winter Break	30  Agape Winter Break	31 No Confirmation Agape Winter Break	New Year's Day 1 No Sewing Church Office Closed Agape Winter Break	2  Church Office Closed Agape Winter Break	3 5:00 pm Worship/Chapel COMMUNION



## Mount Horeb Community Blood Drive

*An Interview with Linda Schroeder*

**Reporter:** I'm here with Linda Schroeder, a member of ELC in Mt Horeb.

Good morning, Linda! I've done some research and found out you're a very active member of ELC! And I've been told there's a very important event that you've taken charge of. Can you tell me what that is?

**Linda:** It's the Red Cross Blood Drive that is held here at ELC five times a year.

**Reporter:** That's wonderful! How did you get involved?

**Linda:** I was in a horrible accident and received life-saving blood from the Red Cross. Through that experience I met a representative, Diane Nichols, the blood drive coordinator from the Red Cross. Once I recovered, she encouraged me to stay involved. I thought working at our blood drives would be good for me.

**Reporter:** I imagine that's a big responsibility. You must have a dedicated team helping you.

**Linda:** Only a great group of volunteers. Some are the same for each event, others are coming in to help out when they're available. I also do "recruiting", advocating for donating and helping at the scheduled drives.

**Reporter:** I've been in the building at times when there is a drive-in progress. I see folks at the registration/welcome table. And more in the kitchen managing the refreshments for the donors. Are these volunteers too?

**Linda:** Yes, all volunteers!

**Reporter:** Who supplies the refreshments? Are they all purchased? I'm also aware that you serve the most awesome egg salad sandwiches. Is this a volunteer activity also?

**Linda:** Yes! Mary Meister donates the ingredients and makes and delivers the egg salad the day of the drive. Volunteers make the sandwiches and keep the donors supplied while they're recovering. The Red Cross supplies beverages, and other folks drop off "goodies" such as cookies and bars.

**Reporter:** Linda, you're certainly a gem! The effort it takes to help the blood donors cannot be measured! What a perfect way to pay forward the life-saving blood donations you received after your accident. Be proud of this work you are doing! Other volunteers are always welcome, especially those who take time to give the gift of life! Sincere thanks to you and all the volunteers!

**Upcoming Blood Drive: January 30th, 2026**

# CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

## Poinsettia Hunger Fund Gifts

ELC will be receiving memorial and honoring donations through **Thursday, December 18<sup>TH</sup>**. After purchasing poinsettias to adorn the altar, the remainder of the donations will go to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Memorials will be published in the Christmas bulletins.



Please fill in the form and leave it in the church office, in the offering plate, or mail it to ELC with your monetary donations. Make checks payable to ELC.

This gift is \_\_\_ in memory **OR** \_\_\_ in honor of:  
(Please check one of the above blanks)

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Given by \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM ON OR BEFORE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>.**

# COUNCIL

Recap of our Nov 20, 2025, Council meeting. Welcomed new members Ann Baumgartner, Kate Hook and Kim Kelliher. Their installation will be at services held December 13/14, 2025. As a liaison for the church, we determined which committee we each felt best fit our "gifts and strengths". Ann, Chris, Dianne and Kate will meet to create a new Opportunities for Service description so existing and new members can use their gifts and strengths and volunteer or join a group they feel they can contribute to.

Johnnie Denton has volunteered to be a representative, and Cecilia Hook has volunteered to be a youth representative for the Synod Assembly (gathering date still being determined). THANK YOU both!

Pastor Karen has been busy working with confirmation, met with Mt Horeb school superintendent and director of student services, participated in Synod boundary training, working with Worship and Music to plan the Thanksgiving Eve service and will use new liturgy for Advent, she's done communion service at Lincoln Court apartments with ELC members and nonmembers and visiting our at home shut-in members. PK is at church Saturday before our 5:00PM services, Sunday mornings, Tuesdays and Wednesdays you are welcome to contact her anytime.

Council approved Alpha Controls to fix the air handling unit issue (AHU) per their March 2025 bid of \$3,132.00. Issue in the AHU for the sanctuary, there is a control air leak. This will require replacing the control (require piping changes), replacing the outside air and mixed air thermostat. A mixed air thermostat will aid in protecting the coil from freezing and limit mixed temperature to no lower than 60 degrees. This work will be coordinated with Karl Lasse, ELC Maintenance Manager. THANK YOU to Diane Bartz for staying on top of these repairs and getting approval for work to be done.

Check signers will be Barb, Chris, Dianne and Kathy.

Set a tentative date for a council retreat and January council meeting for January 10, 2026, from 9:00AM to Noon.

Wishing everyone a safe, healthy Merry Christmas. My fondest memories are those created by "tradition", making Christmas cookies and Chex mix. Attending Christmas Eve candlelight service. I don't remember too many of the gifts, but I do remember the time spent together with family and cousins.

Peace be with You,  
Dianne Hirsch

<b>2025/26 ELC-MH Council</b>	<b>EMAIL</b>	<b>COUNCIL DUTY MONTH</b>	<b>TERM EXPS</b>
Matt Anderson	MattA@wisconsindistributors.com	JUN	2026
Ann Baumgartner	Ann4177@gmail.com	JAN	2027
<b>TREASURER</b> Ben Brothers	benbrothers@fastmail.com	N/A	2026
Chris Coffin	ccoffin@mhtc.net	MAR	2026
Gary Hastings	Gahastings4@gmail.com	APR	2026
<b>PRESIDENT</b> Dianne Hirsch	dehirsch60@gmail.com	DEC 25 SEPT 26	2026
Kate Hook	katehook63@gmail.com	OCT	2027
Claire Hurda	clairehurda@gmail.com	NOV	2026
Kim Kelliher	KimKelliher@yahoo.co	JUL	2027
<b>SECRETARY</b> Kathy O'Donnell	<u>odonnell@mhtc.net</u>	FEB	2026
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b> Carl Sieg	carlsieg1@gmail.com	MAY	2027
Barb Underwood-	underwod@mhtc.net	AUG	2026
<b>INTERIM PASTOR</b> Karen Hofstad	Karen.hofstad@elcmthoreb.org	N/A	N/A
<b>YOUTH DIRECTOR</b> Brenda Martin	<u>Brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org</u>	N/A	N/A
<b>OFFICE MANAGER</b> Nancy Voss	<u>elc@mhtc.net</u>	N/A	N/A



# PROPERTY

## MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

Dates: October 20 (start date) to Nov 10th – 2025

This is a quick note to let you know what I have been doing over my first few weeks.

The first week I spent a good deal of time getting acquainted with people and had an overview of the electrical system and spent time learning how to start the boilers and air handlers in the building. Our first heating issue arose with CO2 alarms in the boiler room and spent time with Andy troubleshooting that issue.

The second week I worked with Alpha systems and 1901 electrical after additional boiler issues were found. Minor maintenance was performed on floor drains, lighting in the EXIT signs, the boiler room door, and I fixed a light fixture in the stairway between sanctuary and the chapel.

Finally, last week Jeremy and I worked on getting covers on the light fixtures in the music room, added a soap dispenser in the men's bathroom, fixed downspout, and dumpster not locking. I also worked on a noisy TRANE heater in the entry way near main street. In addition to those activities I spent time with our Mount Horeb Fire Department on a safety inspection with Kimberly Sailor on Nov 6th. Kimberly from MHFD was very pleased that most safety issues from Sept 9 were resolved and I only have 2 issues to work on.

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# TECHNOLOGY

## *Join the Tech Team!*

Our Technology Ministry plays a vital role in worship each week—running sound, projection, and livestreaming, and keeping our equipment running smoothly. No prior experience is needed—training is provided, and there are both Sunday and weekday opportunities. If you'd like to serve, please contact Andy or Bruce, or leave a note in the church office.

# PRAYER list..

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** Jennifer Hubert (Mary Meister's niece), Mike (Stick) Hirsch Dianne's brother, Bryan Greve, Dani Sue Schroeder, Pauline Blum (Mary Meister's Aunt), Ruth Ann Nemet, Paul & Lois Kerscher (Amy Thompson's parents), Paul Baum, Dolores Kahl, Sara Kittleson, John Scheele & family (Char Smith's Brother in Law) , Ken Rabideau (Helen Ladwig's Brother in Law), Joyce Fargo, Alycen McKinney, Joan Schraepfer (Rita Schraepfer-Derke's Sister in Law), Lincoln Kuhn, Ginger Quaderer (Diane Mueller's cousin), 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 For:***

***Brad Grundahl***

***Cara Mavis***

***Vivian Stone***

### ***Given By:***

***Diane Bartz***

***Diane Bartz***

***Diane Bartz***

***Helen Kahl***

***Linda & Ken Kellogg***

***Kathy O'Donnell***

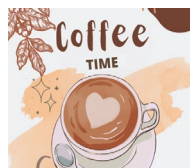
***Bob & Sharon Schiefelbein***

***Jennifer Stone***

# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

**ELC 'COFFEE TIME' 9:30 - 11 am** - Join us for Coffee Time on the **first Wednesday of each month** in Fellowship Hall. Stop by for coffee and conversation.

**Future dates:** Dec 3rd. & Jan 7<sup>th</sup>  
Come whenever you can.



**CHURCH COUNCIL** will meet on **Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm** in the Matthew room.

**ELC SEWING GROUP** - Please note that while we meet most Thursday mornings from 9:00 am to Noon, ***there will be no sewing on Christmas Day nor New Year's Day.***

**BABY CAPS** - Baby Cap makers will meet on **Tuesday Dec. 2 and 16th, 9:30-11 in the Faith Room**. Meriter hospital is grateful for the caps we turn in! If you need yarn or a pattern, contact Ruth at [ruthheinecke@gmail.com](mailto:ruthheinecke@gmail.com) or 608-444-4949.

**REBECCA CIRCLE** will meet at **11 am at Spring Garden on 12/17**. We will sign cards there and then have lunch.

**INDOOR FARMER'S MARKET** Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>  
from 8am – 1pm at ELC

**SARAH CIRCLE** will meet for an Advent evening visit at the home of hostess Chris Coffin on Tuesday, Dec 16th at 6 pm. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share and don't be afraid to stop by later than 6. You can contact Connie Curran ([curranconnie@hotmail.com](mailto:curranconnie@hotmail.com)) with any inquiries concerning details of this meeting.

**CHRISTMAS AT ELC** The annual Christmas at ELC program will be held on **Sunday, December 7 at 5:00 pm**. Vocal and instrumental music of the season will be performed by members of the ELC music program. The program will be followed by a chili supper cooked by the ELC men's group. A free will offering will be taken at this event to benefit our local Neighbors Helping Neighbors program.



# Volunteers Needed at the Clothes Closet

ELC is partnering with Neighbors Helping Neighbors of Mt. Horeb in December and January. Please consider signing up to help support this important community organization.

Folks are needed to help sort, fold, and organize donated clothing. We also need people to work during open hours at the Clothes Closet.

The specific dates and times for the open hours are 9 am- noon on Dec 27th and 950- 1145 am on Jan 10th and 24th. Time slots for sorting clothing during off hours have been set for Sunday afternoons, there are additional slots to choose your own date and time.

A link to the Sign Up to volunteer is below. Once you have signed up, additional details will be sent to you via email.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4BAEAE22A1F85-60678488-nhn>



**The Church Office will be closed on Wednesday  
December 24<sup>th</sup> through Sunday December 28<sup>th</sup>**

## *Winter Hours*

***Monday – Thursday 9am – Noon and 1-4pm***

***Fridays – 9am – Noon***



**STEEPLE ECHOES ARTICLES DUE BY Thursday,  
December 18th for the January issue of the  
newsletter.**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED on Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9am** to assemble the newsletter. ***Newcomers are welcome.*** The assembly process usually takes about 2 hours. Please, come and enjoy the fellowship!

# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SCHEDULE

	DEC 6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup>	DEC 13 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup>	DEC 20 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup>	DEC 24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>	NOV 27 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup>
ACOLYTES	<b>Sunday</b> Evelyn Eggers Ilana Hartenberger	<b>Sunday</b> Chelsea Sailor Maria Van Ooyen	<b>Sunday</b> Leah Zelle Natalie Hogseth	<b>Christmas Eve</b> 5pm Hudson & Oliver Kahl 8pm John Henry Lee Hannah Schulenberg	<b>Sunday</b> Taylor Symons Ellie Woolard
COMM ASSIST	<b>Sunday</b> Diane Bartz Linda Wahlgren Kim Kelliher	<b>No Communion</b>	<b>Sunday</b> Kim Kelliher Available Available	<b>Christmas Eve</b> 5pm 8pm  <b>Christmas Day</b> 10 am	<b>No Communion</b>
READERS	<b>Saturday</b> Available  <b>Sunday</b> Kim Kelliher	<b>Saturday</b> Ann Baumgartner  <b>Sunday</b> Diane Bartz	<b>Saturday</b> Kate Hook  <b>Sunday</b> Amy Sinner	<b>Christmas Eve</b> 5pm 8pm <b>Christmas Day</b> 10 am Diane Bartz	<b>Saturday</b> No Worship <b>Sunday</b> Kim Kelliher
USHERS	<b>Sunday</b> Jim Cook Mary Gullickson Krantz	<b>Sunday</b> Mary & Wayne Knudson	<b>Sunday</b> Dennis Lokken Irv Steinhauer	<b>Christmas Eve</b> 5pm Doug Nesheim Gerald Stamn <b>All Teams Assist</b> 8pm John & Carol Nielsen <b>All Teams Assist</b> <b>Christmas Day</b> Betsy Baguhn Jody Morey	<b>Sunday</b> John Rosenbaum Matt Anderson
ALTAR GUILD	Kerstin Edwards, Teresa Schult, Caylen Kahl				
COUNCIL DUTIES	Dianne Hirsch				



# December

## BIRTHDAYS

<b>1</b>	Addison Klaetsch	<b>15</b>	Evan Stange	<b>22</b>	Lucas High
	Todd Nesheim				
	Lindsey Steinl	<b>16</b>	Michael Eggers	<b>23</b>	Caroline Boettcher
			Jim Ekenberg		Bob Faliveno
<b>4</b>	Dan Huseth		Steven Helwig		Dawn Haag
	Kris Sveum		Weston Kahl		Lindsey LaBorde
			Josephine Sailor		Madlyn LaBorde
<b>5</b>	Steven Doty		Xander Strube		Lincoln Pokallus
	Carol Johnson				
	Susan Kaletka	<b>17</b>	Barb Iverson	<b>24</b>	Brooke Anderson
	Pete Walton		Jeffrey Kahl		Brenda Fritz
			Grace Rollins		Edna Williams
<b>7</b>	Jillian Meister		Becky Stube		
			Jeannie U'Ren	<b>25</b>	Steve Stensby
<b>10</b>	Amanda Baum		Emilie Van Galen		Holly Thompson
	Jerilyn Faltz				
	Joseph Scudder	<b>18</b>	Deb Segebrecht	<b>26</b>	Bonny Kellogg
	Aiden Scudder		Rachel Smith	<b>27</b>	Karen Bunke
	Jane Topper		Willy Watson		Jeff Paske
<b>11</b>	Staci Baum	<b>19</b>	Chris Coffin	<b>29</b>	Brian Johnson
	Dennis Dreger		Garrett Klassy		Nicholas O'Connell
	Connor Heiting		Jordan Sadowski		Samantha Olson
	Anna Landen				Amy Thompson
	Nathan Zelle	<b>20</b>	Erik Berg		
			Craig Kittleson	<b>30</b>	Brett Farnsworth
<b>13</b>	Mary Lokken				Anna Ollendick
	Nancy McKinney				Olivia Schrank
					Gary Topper
<b>14</b>	Hudson Kahl	<b>21</b>	Hunter Stamm		John Van Ooyen
			Cole Stamm		
			Adam Kosa	<b>31</b>	Gwen Olson

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



315 East Main St.  
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**STEEPLE ECHOES** is the monthly newsletter of  
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mt. Horeb for  
members & friends of the congregation.

Pastor Karen Hofstad

Ministers: All Members of the Church

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