

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/

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...

On Ash Wednesday—February 18th—we will begin a journey that leads us to the cross of Good Friday ...and then to the empty tomb of Easter. As we journey toward the cross, we are encouraged to take time to reflect more intentionally, more deeply on the grace and love of God.

The Lenten season is meant to be a time of renewed focus on our spiritual lives—with PRAYER at the center of it all. PRAYER connects us with God... and invites God into our life / our world. PRAYER nurtures our faith. PRAYER encourages growth—spiritual growth—growth in service to God and others... growth in our identity as beloved sons and daughters of God... growth in our life together as sisters and brothers in Christ. There is nothing more powerful than PRAYER.

Several years ago, I ordered a copy of Max Lucado's little book: *"Before Amen - the Power of a Simple Prayer."* I didn't intend to read it in one sitting, but I did. (To be honest, it is a book I return to regularly). I confess: PRAYER is a practice I have always struggled with. I wish I were a better pray-er... a stronger pray-er... a more faithful pray-er. I believe in the power of PRAYER, but I am hot and then cold in my own practice of PRAYER. It comforts me to know that I'm not alone in this struggle. The first disciples also struggled with PRAYER. How do I know? In Luke's Gospel, it is the one lesson the disciples specifically asked for— *"Lord, teach us to PRAY, as John taught his disciples"* (Luke 11:1).

Jesus, our Teacher and Lord, set a great example for us when it comes to PRAYER. He prayed before eating. He prayed for the sick and hurting. He prayed for his disciples and friends, *and* he prayed for his enemies, too. He prayed with thanksgiving, *and* he prayed with tears. Scripture tells us that Jesus often went off by himself to pray. Sometimes he even spent entire nights in prayer.

When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, he gave them a PRAYER—a easy, repeatable PRAYER—a PRAYER we use to this day... what we now call "The Lord's Prayer." Is that what he intended—that they (*and* we) would pray those specific words? Or was his PRAYER a guide for how to pray... and what to pray for? Either way, it's a powerful PRAYER!

PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS Cont.

PRAYER—the Lord's Prayer in particular—will be our focus and guide over the 40 days of Lent this year—especially at our Wednesday Lenten services. Each week we will see how PRAYER draws us close to the cross... and to the very heart of God. Please join me in this Lenten journey of PRAYER. I believe our Lord will, indeed, teach us PRAY; and that through PRAYER, we will be changed—both personally and as a congregation.

Pastor Karen

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT – at 11:00 am or 7:00 pm

On Ash Wednesday, we will gather in Fellowship Hall for worship. On the rest of the Wednesdays, we will gather in Fellowship Hall at 11:00am with a luncheon following worship. At 7:00pm we will gather in the Chapel for a simple service of scripture and reflection, song and intercessory prayer—for ourselves, for those in need, and for the world.

February 18th (Ash Wednesday) – *“Father... hallowed be your name...”*

February 25th – *“Give us each day our daily bread...”*

March 4th – *“Forgive our sins... as we forgive...”*

March 11th – *“Lead us not into temptation... deliver us from evil...”*

March 18th – *“The kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours...”*

March 25th – *“Amen.”*

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY – Join us for our Children & Youth Ministry meeting at ELC on Tuesday, Feb 3rd, at 7:00 PM in the Youth Room. Our ministry is committed to provide opportunities for our children to grow in faith and know they are a beloved Child of God.

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.

1st COMMUNION RETREAT - Feb 21 9:30 am - 12:00 pm- Our 5th graders and their parents are invited to our First Communion Retreat in Fellowship Hall. **Sign up: email brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org.**

PARENTS NIGHT OUT at ELC: Feb 20th, 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/2bc778>

FEBRUARY 20th
Parents Night Out
2026



'ABC' BAGS ARE UPDATED - Our ABC Bags (Activity Bags for Children), have received some love. These bags are available in the back of the worship space for children to use during worship. We have new bags, new toys, snacks, and more. Following worship, please have children place them in the **'DONE' box**. Mary & Nick Meister will keep the bags updated weekly, so each bag is ready to go for our children in worship. Thank you to Mary and Nick.

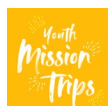
7th & 8th GRADE CONFIRMATION: 7 pm - 8:30 pm

- Feb 4 and Feb 11 - Regular class time
- Feb 18th - Ash Wednesday Worship at 7 pm (with families)

Feb 25th - Lenten Worship 7 pm, Small groups 7:30 - 8 pm

2026 MISSION GROUP MEET & EAT - Feb 20th, 4 - 5 pm -

Youth traveling to Kansas City will meet (and eat) to make plans for our summer trip in July.



MISSION TRIP 2026 - WHO'S INTERESTED? Open to our *current 8th -12th graders. We have one open spot!* Our trip will

be **July 12 - 18th, 2026 to Kansas City, MO.** Great opportunity to experience and serve. Please contact Brenda (608.437.0332) to sign up, including a \$50 deposit. Balance paid by fundraising.

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS Cont.

2026 YOUTH SUMMER SCHEDULE (SAVE DATES)

VBS/DAY CAMP WEEK AT ELC - June 22-25 (Mon - Thurs)

- VBS - (9 am- 11:30 am) 3 yr. - Kindergarten
- DAY CAMP - (1pm-5 pm) 1st - 5th grade in fall

Special day to Sugar Creek on June 25th for 1st - 5th graders.

Registration information coming soon!

GIVE/LOVE/SERVE (Local Service Days) -

June 17th, July 8th, August 12th (Morning /afternoon activities)

Middle - High school youth are invited to our local service days. Many opportunities for youth to provide service in our community. Silver Cord hours will be given to our high school students. Save the dates!

SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP - Online Registration is open for Sugar Creek Bible Camp Summer programs. They have a variety of programs listed on their website, for youth and families. **ELC of Mt Horeb will help with camp costs, by giving each camper \$300 towards their camping week.** If additional scholarships are needed, please contact Brenda. Come and see in 2026!



<https://www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org/enroll-now/>

Brenda Martin, Youth Ministries Director

brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org



TROLL WAY PIZZA PICKUP: Pick up day will be on **February 1st**, in Fellowship Hall. (After worship service) 10 am -11:30 am. We have extra pizzas available if you didn't get a chance to order. Funds raised will support our mission trip in July. Thank you to everyone who helped assemble our pizzas, and everyone who purchased pizzas. We appreciate your support of our youth ministry.

AGAPE

Hello from Agape Christian Preschool,

Wow, what a cold start to the new year... We are all hoping that February brings warmer temperatures!

Our 4K program, in collaboration with MHASD, will begin enrollment on February 2nd for children who will be 4 years old on or before September 1, 2026. Registration can be completed online via the MHASD website at [District Registration - Mount Horeb Area School District](#)

Registration for the 3K program will also start on February 2nd. Enrollment packets can be picked up at the preschool office during school hours or can be found on the preschool website at

[Agape Forms - Agape Christian Preschool](#)

Enrollment is first-come, first-served, but legacy families receive priority if they apply by April 1, 2026. A legacy family is a current or past ACP family or an active ELC church member. For enrollment questions or to schedule a classroom tour, contact me at 608-437-7100 or agapekids@mhtc.net.

The preschool is also starting a new program as of February 2, 2026. We will be offering "After School Care" for children aged 3-5 years old. We will have care available from 7:30 am - 5:30 pm, Monday - Friday, during the school year. Please reach out if you have any questions or would like additional information.

We will be selling delicious Frozen Butter Braid Pastries again this year from January 26 through February 13, 2026. If you'd like to place an order, you can do so by leaving a message on the preschool phone or sending an email. This fundraiser consistently benefits the school. We appreciate your support.

Take care,
Amy Kellesvig, ACP Director



Upcoming Dates:

January 26 - February 13:	Frozen Butter Braid Pastry Fundraiser
Monday, February 2:	3K & 4K enrollment begins for the 2026-2027 school year
Monday, February 23:	4K Monday - AM & PM classes in session
Friday, February 27:	No preschool classes (3K & 4K), make-up snow day if needed
Friday, March 4:	Butter Braid Orders Delivered

TREASURER'S REPORT

BALANCE SHEET	12/31/2025	11/30/2025	12/31/2024
General Fund	31,761	8,681	35,757
Building Capital Fund	20,564	19,366	26,603
Designated Funds	128,529	87,165	78,674
Mortgage	(72,420)	(115,426)	0
TOTAL	108,434	(214)	141,034
CASH FLOW	December 2025	2025	
General Fund Income	54,991	349,748	
General Fund Expenses			
Mission and Outreach	3,660	25,383	
Personnel	20,190	223,833	
Congregational Life	1,500	21,468	
Facilities and Administration	6,661	83,060	
Total General Fund Expenses	32,011	353,744	
Net General Fund Gain (Loss)	22,980	(3,996)	
Other Income			
Building Capital Fund	1,307	33,636	
Designated Funds	46,481	252,790	
Mortgage	43,139	(72,420)	
Total Other Income	90,927	214,006	
Other Expenses			
Building Capital Fund	109	39,675	
Designated Funds	5,117	202,936	
Total Other Expenses	5,226	242,611	
Net Gain (Loss) from Other Expenses	85,701	(28,605)	
NET GAIN (LOSS)	108,681	(32,601)	

TREASURER’S REPORT Cont.

Generous giving during the Christmas season meant that December general fund income was \$54,991. Expenses were \$32,001, resulting in a gain of \$22,980. That gives us a bit of a breathing room in the general fund as we head into the new year, with a current balance of \$31,761, reflecting \$36,788 in cash against \$5,026 in liabilities.

General fund income (minus transfers) for 2025 was \$343,748, a decrease from the \$398,770 we brought in in 2024. Expenses last year were \$353,744, which meant we ended the year with a small loss of \$3,996 (including transfers).

BUDGET TRACKING	2025	2025 vs Budget	2025 vs 2024
General Fund Income	343,748	(64,471)	(66,022)
General Fund Expenses			
Mission and Outreach	25,383	479	(722)
Personnel	223,833	(28,554)	(35,093)
Congregational Life	21,468	2,543	5,226
Facilities and Administration	83,060	(5,240)	834
Total General Fund Expenses	353,744	(30,772)	31,233

General fund income (minus transfers) for 2025 was \$343,748, a decrease from the \$398,770 we brought in in 2024. Expenses last year were \$353,744, which meant we ended the year with a small loss of \$3,996 (including transfers).

In December we received a very generous estate gift from Max Rosenbaum for \$86,277. Half of this money was used to pay down the mortgage, and the other half remains in the designated fund pending a decision on how best to use it.

Benevolence for December raised \$763 for Young Adults in Global Mission, and \$85 for Divine Savior. We also collected \$1,330 for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

Designated fund income also included \$1,089 for Neighbors Helping Neighbors, \$300 for the kitchen, \$215 for youth, and \$10 for the internship program. Expenses included \$2,042 for Neighbors Helping Neighbors, \$1,223 for Divine Savior, \$440 each in benevolence distributions to Our Lady of Hope and Community Connections Free Clinic, \$135 for RIC, \$86 for Compassion International, and \$78 for the kitchen. Interest on the outstanding boiler mortgage was \$672.

Respectfully submitted by Ben Brothers, January 13, 2026.

BENEVOLENCE

Continuing our support for Ariana and Simon

In February, we continue our benevolence calendar by raising funds to support two children through our long-standing partnership with Compassion International.

Compassion International is a Christian nonprofit organization that works to help children living in poverty through child sponsorship. Founded in 1952, it partners with local churches in developing countries to provide children with food, education, healthcare, and mentoring, while also supporting their emotional and spiritual growth.

The organization is regarded as trustworthy by charity watchdog groups because of its long history, strong accountability standards, and positive outcomes shown in independent research on child development. Compassion is also known for overall transparency, including regular publishing of audited financial reports. Most donated funds go directly to programs that serve children and communities, with a much smaller portion used for administration and fundraising to ensure the programs are effective and sustainable.

Sponsoring two children through Compassion International currently costs \$86 per month. Over the years, ELC has sponsored five different children. The two children we currently sponsor are 8-year-old Ariana from Mexico and 13-year-old Simon from Tanzania.

Ariana is not as communicative through her letters, but seems artistic and playful, and loves snacking at the center she attends. Ariana has been living with her maternal grandparents since her parents' separation. She writes about her best friend Monse, whom she met at the Compassion International Center. She recently expressed that she enjoys learning about the parables and the story of Noah's Ark.

Simon has always seemed energetic, sporty, and industrious. Currently, he is at the beginning of eighth grade, and his favorite subjects are math and reading. He often shares about school, his family, and his responsibilities on their farm. In school this past year, he's been learning new math skills, first aid, the laws of their country, and citizenship. His family situation has remained stable in the years that we have sponsored him.

BENEVOLENCE Cont.

I would ask that you prayerfully consider helping us continue to make a difference in the lives of these two young Christians by supporting February's benevolence mission. So many benefits are available to Ariana and Simon as a result of ELC's continual support.

We'll be collecting donations for Compassion International throughout February. 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:** Download the "GivePlus Church" mobile app, or text "Benevolence" to 608-400-0183 with the amount you wish to give.

On behalf of Benevolence,

Adam Mertz

adammertz2@gmail.com

2026 BENEVOLENCE MISSIONS

January: Divine Savior, our sister church in Puerto Rico

February: Compassion International

March: Pastor's discretionary fund

April: ELC youth programming

May: Reconciling in Christ (RIC)

June: Solstice House

July: Lutheran Social Services

August: Kiva

September: SABA, International

October: Neighbors Helping Neighbors

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

December: Madison Area Jail Ministry

COUNCIL

Greetings!

I hope everyone is managing to keep warm! 2026 has already been busy. Church council met for our annual retreat on January 10 and again for our regular monthly meeting on January 12. The hiring of a new pastor warrants a review of our congregation's constitution and our congregational structure. These were the main topics of both meetings.

Ben Brothers and Dawn Haag (Constitution Committee) have painstakingly gone over our constitution and made some suggestions for revisions. We reviewed these and made further suggestions. After the revisions are finished, the congregation will have opportunities to view and vote on the changes.

Council members Kate Hook, Dianne Hirsch, Ann Baumgartner and Chris Coffin have been busy reviewing our church committee structure: which committees work well; which no longer seem relevant; ideas for new committees; the need for volunteers, etc.

Thank you to both committees for their hard work!

Discussion is still in the preliminary stages. We welcome input from the congregation. If you have thoughts or ideas you'd like to see implemented, please contact any council member. See our website for contact information: www.elcmthoreb.org.

Vaya con Dios!

Kathy O'Donnell
ELC Council Secretary

Our "weekly" expenses for this church to have our doors open, heat/cool the building, have lights on, pay staff, etc. is approximately **\$7,358.00**.

I'm hopeful that we each take a prayerful moment to consider giving an extra \$10.00 a week as Treasurer, Ben Brothers suggested at our annual meeting in November to help cover expenses.

If you are unable to increase your giving, I understand. I'm hopeful you will consider a gift of your time to be a greeter, usher, give communion or be a reader during services. All areas need people.

COUNCIL Cont.

Please also sign up for the small group chats that our Transition team is offering. Your voice is important and needs to be “heard”. Your feedback will help in calling a new pastor and help shape the future of ELC. Peace be with you.

Dianne Hirsch/Council President

COUNCIL DUTIES

It is now part of the monthly Council member duties to make sure the doors are locked on Sundays. (We've left parents out in the cold after Sunday School, unable to get inside because doors were locked too early.) Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Dianne Hirsch, Council President

INREACH/OUTREACH

We will again be hosting our free will offering Lenten luncheons, **beginning on February 18th, Ash Wednesday**. Please see our luncheon menu posted on the bulletin board by the coffee station. We again ask for people to donate, as able, cookies, bars, or desserts. A sign up is provided. Thank you for helping!

PROPERTY-CUSTODIAN

Custodial work has been brutal the past month, due to the rain and snow and tracking in salt and wet footprints.

Several events required moving tables in Fellowship Hall: +Winter Market, Red Cross Bloodmobile, a Celebration of Life and a large funeral.
+Weekly resetting tables to accommodate the quilting group on Thursdays.

Table moving is also required in the classrooms, and has been done several times recently.

Extra kitchen cleaning was needed once the lefsa production events were completed.

Jeremy also is responsible for overall cleanliness of all three areas of the building. Are you aware that we have three buildings that require work? This (excludes Agape that has their own custodial person), includes emptying all trash and recycling bins, cleaning bathrooms and classrooms and managing all paper supply products for the building.

PROPERTY Cont.-CUSTODIAN

Two large tables with folding legs were donated to ELC, thanks to Karen Tetzlaff. Jeremy and his truck picked them up and delivered to ELC. One was placed in the Martin Luther room to replace the cabinet that was moved to the Chapel foyer. Thanks to Jeremy and Karl for moving the cabinet. It is a nice addition to that area.

Please remember that both Karl and Jeremy have mailboxes in the office; and if something is needed please use the MAINTENANCE/CUSTODIAL REQUEST forms that are on the bulletin board outside of Nancy's office.

Other:

Continuing frustration with the heating in the building. Karl is coordinating on resolutions.

Noticed a roof leak Dec 18. Roofer was called and arranged to come to check it out. Resolution still in flux. His men got on the roof during the Kittleson funeral!!

Discovered no hot water in the kitchen when preparing for the Kittleson luncheon. Contacted A+, but before serviceman arrived, it somehow came back on. The issue was checked by A+ but found no issues.

MAINTENANCE

The Narthex hall lights have all been converted from fluorescent to LED bulbs and the fixtures were cleaned and repaired from the water damage. All light fixtures in the music room were fixed and cleaned from water damage as well.

All outside lights have had bulbs replaced that were not working. There have been other various light fixtures cleaned and replaced in meeting rooms, stairways, hallways and the kitchen. I would like to thank John Martin for volunteering to help me with the narthex light fixtures.

All exit lights are now working and we had a follow-up walkthrough with the Mount Horeb fire department. All safety violations have been rectified. These included lighting, fire extinguishers and storage items that were too close to heating devices.

We also prepared for the cold winter months by removing water hoses from water spigots, cleaning gutters on the roof and fixing downspouts. While on the roof, I took a look at the restroom fan exhaust motor. A bad switch was diagnosed and fixed, so the fan is now working for the main restrooms in the Narthex.

Other odds and ends include some maintenance on the folding machine in the office, moving furniture and fixing chairs and doors.

TRANSITION TEAM

Congregation feedback highlights

Thank you to everyone who took time to share your reflections on the purpose of ELC Mount Horeb and what draws you to this congregation. A clear and meaningful pattern emerged across the notecards. Many shared that the heart of our congregation is to share the love and teachings of Jesus, through worship, daily actions, and how we care for one another and the wider community. There is deep value placed on living out Christ's message with kindness, grace, compassion, and hope.

A strong sense of community and belonging was named repeatedly. People shared that they stay at ELC because it feels like a spiritual family, a place where all are welcomed, accepted, and supported. This includes a clear emphasis on inclusion and safety for every person, with multiple reflections naming LGBTQ+ acceptance as an important part of our identity. Music, worship, and opportunities to learn and grow in faith were also lifted up as central to congregational life, especially in nurturing children and strengthening faith across generations.

Many responses also expressed a desire for continued growth and vitality, particularly in welcoming younger families and exploring creative ways to use our gifts, leadership, and building in service to the Mount Horeb community. At the same time, there is a deep appreciation for the congregation's history, traditions, and long-standing relationships, with many noting personal milestones that connect them to this church. This thoughtful feedback will guide ongoing conversations as we discern how God is calling ELC forward.

The transition team has started offering small group meetings. If you would like to sign-up please email them at transitionteam@elc.org Sunday, February 15, after church - This meeting will be facilitated by Pastor Karen, along with Amy and Vicky (if available), to take notes and assist.

Sunday, February 22, after church - in the choir room, Pastor Karen, Amy & Eric (Vicky too!) will meet with 10-12 choir members.

Saturday, February 28 @ 4:00 pm - Dave, Serena & Pastor Karen will meet with a small Saturday night group.

Tuesday, March 24, @ 6:30 pm at Church - Eric, Adam, and Pastor Karen will meet with a group of 8 people.

PRAYER list

PLEASE PRAY FOR Jill Knuteson, Kathy Sies, 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, 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), Norm Hefty, 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:

Sara Kittleson

Given By:

Barb & Chris Underwood
Mary & Wayne Knudson
Deb & Jay Schneider
Howard & Colleen Mize
Jon & Nancy Wolfgram
Hefty Construction
Cathy Scott
Kathleen O Engel-Hunt
James & Sharon Berkner
Gary & Connie Jo Zwettler
Phyllis Anderson
Marian Beghin
Bernadine & David Jones & Julie S
Stuart & Lynn Hodgson
Linda and Ken Kellogg
Cory & Karen Erickson
Kari Toft
James & Joyce Seamonson
Jeffrey & Colleen Thompson

MEMORIALS Cont.

Given For:

Sara Kittleson

Given By:

James & Lori Schmitt
Michael & Carolyn Mc Nall
Dorothy Rath-Mundfrom
Teresa Seamonson
Doug & Gail Dahlk
Bridgett & Tim Killinger
Irv & Judy Steinhauer
Leroy Collins
Bonny & Ron Kellogg
John & Vicky Rosenbaum
Julie Vasen
Linda Wahlgren
Carol & Richard Engstad
Betty Drape
Mary Stamm
Paul Kellesvig
Diane Bartz
Bon & Sharon Schiefelbein
Norm & Rita Hefty
Keith & Teresa Schult
Mary Grundahl
Char Smith
Diane & Steve Mueller
David Flom
Kathy Conrad
Greg & Amy Kellesvig
Kathy O'Donnell
Brenda Schmidt
Joan & Steve Stensby
Ron & Joyce Fargo
Mt. Horeb VFW
Michael & Lisa Schaefer
Rita Menamin
Diane Bartz

Joseph Searls

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: Feb 4th** Come whenever you can.



CHURCH COUNCIL will meet on **Monday, February 9 at 6 pm** in the Matthew room.

ELC SEWING GROUP We meet every **Thursday morning from 9:00 am to Noon** in Fellowship Hall.

BABY CAPS - Knitters, we will meet to make baby caps on **Tuesday Feb 3 and 17, 9:30 in the Faith Room**. I delivered 29 caps to Unity Point Meriter last month! ruthheinecke@mail.com or 608-444-4949.

REBECCA CIRCLE will meet on **February 18th at 9:30 am** at church before the Lenten service.

INDOOR FARMER'S MARKET **Saturday, February 21st from 8am – 1pm** at ELC

SARAH CIRCLE will meet on **Tuesday, February 17th, at 7 p.m.** in Fellowship Hall to tie blankets for our graduating seniors. If you have fabric at home for one of these blankets, bring back the fabric that night so we can work on assembly together. If you've completed a blanket, please bring it that evening or drop in Brenda's office before February 17th. Always welcoming new faces and those we haven't seen lately too. If you need help locating the Bible study materials you can email Connie Curran at this address: curranconnie@hotmail.com.

ANNUAL USHER'S MEETING, originally scheduled for January 24 **has been postponed**, due to extreme, adverse weather conditions (dangerously cold temperatures.). The new date, time, and location of the meeting is as follows:

Date: Saturday, February 14

Time: 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Location: Fellowship Hall

The church continues to search for a few, new congregants to serve as ushers, and this postponement has allowed us more time to spread the word!

Anyone interested in further information should notify Usher Coordinator Jim Cook (mthorebcubfan@gmail.com or 608-354-7053).

MEMBERSHIP NEWS Cont.

RECONCILING IN CHRIST Engagement Session

The RIC Committee will hold an engagement session at 4:30 pm, on February 21, 2026, prior to worship in the Chapel. We would like your input, and we look forward to a good discussion. The questions we will discuss are:

- 1) What does it mean to you to be a RIC member/congregation?
- 2) How does RIC fit in our overall ministry here at ELC?
- 3) How do we live as our RIC Commitment/Mission in the community?
- 4) How do we ensure all are welcome at ELC and how do we show it?

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Made in prayer... as prayer... for prayer, these shawls are to be passed on hand-to-hand and heart-to-heart.

If you know someone who is struggling... someone who is hurting... someone who is feeling alone or unseen, consider giving them a Prayer Shawl – made with love by members of our congregation. With this simple gift, they are reminded—in a tangible way—of our love and care for them... and of God's unconditional love and presence as well. (**Prayer Shawls are found on a rack in Fellowship Hall).

T-SHIRTS NEEDED: Each Baby Care Kit assembled for Lutheran World Relief contains four diapers. To help recycle and keep costs down, we utilize T-shirts and sew them to make diapers. If you have T-shirts adult size Large or larger, we can recycle them. Please drop them in the church office. Thank you for your contribution. Stay tuned for more information regarding other donations needed for our Baby Kits.



WINTER CANCELLATION POLICY

If the Mount Horeb School District has cancelled school,
all church activities are cancelled.

STEEPLE ECHOES ARTICLES DUE BY Thursday,
February 19th for the March issue of the newsletter.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED on Tuesday, February 24th at 9am to assemble the newsletter. ***Newcomers are welcome.*** The assembly process usually takes about 2 hours. Please, come and enjoy the fellowship!





WEEKLY EMAIL SIGN UP -Do you receive our weekly church updates and digital newsletters? At ELC of Mt Horeb, we are able to share important information to everyone quickly by email. If you aren't receiving our emails, we encourage you to sign up through our

website. Go to elcmthoreb.org and click on the Email Signup image on the top right, add your name, email and phone number, then SUBMIT. We want to include everyone.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SCHEDULE

	JAN/FEB 31 ST & 1 ST	FEB 7 ^H & 8 TH	FEB 14 TH & 15 TH	FEB 21 ST & 22 ND	FEB/MAR 28 TH & 1 ST
ACOLYTES	Sunday Parker Woolard Willie Wyse	Sunday Jackson Corrigan Evelyn Eggers	Sunday Ilana Hartenberger Chelsea Sailor	Sunday Maria Van Ooyen Leah Zelle	Sunday Natalie Hogseth Hudson Kahl
COMM ASSIST	Sunday Diane Bartz Linda Wahlgren Available	No Communion	Sunday Available Available Available	No Communion	Sunday Kim Kelliher Diane Bartz Linda Wahlgren
READERS	Saturday Ann Baumgartner Sunday Kim Kelliher	Saturday Paul Heinecke Sunday Diane Bartz	Saturday Available Sunday Gary Hamburg	Saturday Ann Baumgartner Sunday Ben Brothers	Saturday Bonny Kellogg Sunday Amy Sinner
USHERS	Sunday Betsy Baguhn Jody Morey	Sunday John Rosenbaum Matt Anderson	Sunday Jim Cook Mary Gullickson- Krantz	Sunday Mary & Wayne Knudson	Sunday TBD
ALTAR GUILD	February Deb Dangerfield, Shannon Hadac, Judy Steinhauer, Joan Stensby, Jessica Powell				
CNCL DUTIES	February Kathy O'Donnell				



FEBRUARY

Birthdays

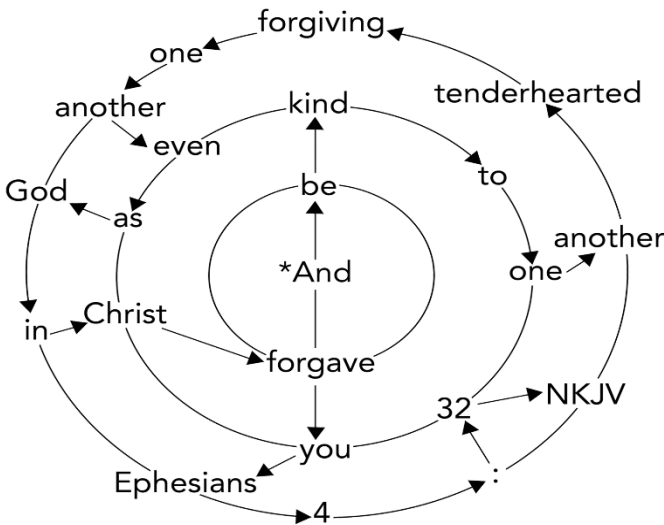
1	Nancy Balbach	9	Beth Heiting	17	Grace Casey
	George Johnson		Scott Klassy		Joyce Fargo
	Zachary Peter		Declan Otis		Kanen Getz
	Dean Stange		Kristi Schulenberg		Mara Johnson
					Siri Martin
2	Rob Farnsworth	10	Adrienne Hogseth		Steve Mueller
	Mary Kaboth		Margie Kahl		Marc Powell
			Adam Sailor		Joan Stensby
3	Jim Uptegraw				
				18	Cheryl Schlicht
		11	Lauren Albrecht		
4	Ben Brothers		Eva Larson	19	Jan Lukken
	Reece Watson		Colton Martin		Madison Lukken
			Sarah Strube		
5	Owen Aeschlimann			20	Jim Cook
	Doug Nesheim	12	Kayla Bredeson		Mary Krantz
	Stephanie Rollins		Paige Densmore		Molly Mason
	Sophia Sadler		Meghan Mason		
			Jonah Siebold	21	Anthony Truman
6	Scott Hall				Craig Vesely
	Ryan Soyring				
	Mark Sutter	13	Addison Anderson	23	Paul Yapp
			Quentin Rosborough	24	Elise Buol
7	Sawyer Kahl		Dan Sherven		Sean LaBorde
	Mark Peter				Gerald Stamn
		14	Ashley Thompson		Jenifer Stone
			Porter Hodgson	25	Mary Hastings
8	Charlie Miller				
	Scott Underwood	16	Taylor Freitag	26	Bernette Allemann
	Carter Vesely		Kayson Haag-Little		
	Cathy Woller			27	Jennifer Ekenberg
				28	Amanda Balbach
					Donald Field
				29	Craig Mortvedt
					Hannah Stapelmann
If we've missed you or a member of your family, or if we've listed your birthday incorrectly, please contact the church office.					

Puzzle!

This Bible verse teaches an important lesson about how we should treat others — and why.



Start with the asterisk in the center circle and follow the arrows. Write the words in order on the blanks below.



"And _____ ,
 _____ , _____
 _____ , _____
 _____ ."
 _____ , _____

Answer: "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you." Ephesians 4:32, NKJV