

# 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.*

March 2026



## **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/)

## **LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

<b>WEDNESDAYS through March 25<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>11:00 am worship (FH)</b> <b>Luncheon following worship</b> <b>7:00 pm worship (Chapel)</b>
<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY April 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>11:00 am worship (FH)</b> <b>7:00 pm worship (Sanctuary)</b>
<b>GOOD FRIDAY April 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>1:00 pm ecumenical worship</b> <b>(Sanctuary)</b>
<b>SATURDAY April 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>No Worship Service</b>
<b>EASTER SUNDAY April 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:00 am Sunrise Service</b> <b>Youth Easter Breakfast</b> <b>9:00 am Easter Festival</b>

## **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...

What comes to mind when you hear the word “**stewardship**”? Money? Church budgets? Paying the bills?

- How about: Giving back to God? Our response to God’s grace, goodness, and generosity?
- How about: The life of discipleship? The church in mission? Love of God *and* love of neighbor?

**Stewardship** isn’t just about money—BUT how we manage and share our financial resources *is* an important part of this practice of faith. It is, perhaps, the most challenging part for many (if not most) of us. There is good reason that Jesus spoke about money more than any other single topic—*except* the kingdom of God. He understood how easily money (our possessions) can become a god / idol in our lives. Jesus said, “*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*” [Luke 12:34].

**Stewardship** = our faith + the way we live our lives. How we live with and manage what God has entrusted to us—our time, our talents, and our treasures—is a matter of FAITH. It *flows out of* our relationship with God... and it *impacts* (positively or negatively) our relationship with God.

**The practice of stewardship** begins with hearing the good news of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit works through God’s Word to change our hearts and turn our focus outward—away from ourselves, out toward the needs of others. **The practice of stewardship** continues by living out our response to the good news of Jesus in our daily lives. Simply put: **Stewardship** is “*everything we do after we say ‘I believe...’*”

Our understanding of Christian **stewardship** is grounded in Genesis. In the very beginning, God created the world and all that is in it. God created humankind in God’s own image and set us as “*stewards*” of God’s good creation. What does it mean to be a *steward*? It means to manage and care for what belongs to someone else. We do not own the earth and all that is in it—God does. God has entrusted us with the care and management of all that God has given us—the earth, its bountiful riches, and our relationships with God and each other. That’s **stewardship**.

## PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS Cont.

When I think about **stewardship**, I picture the cross. It is about God's relationship with me and my relationship with God (the vertical line), and it is about my relationship with others (the horizontal line). It is about 3 directions: DOWN... IN... and OUT. Let me explain...

In the person of Jesus Christ, **God came DOWN** to us in love—to bring us salvation... to bring us new life. And God continues to come DOWN to us in love in the sacrament of Holy Baptism—where God claims us as beloved children of God and heirs of God's promises... and in the sacrament of Holy Communion—where God meets us, personally, and makes us as one in Christ, connecting us to God and to each other. Our understanding of **stewardship** begins with God coming DOWN to us in love.

Knowing all that God has done for us... all that God has given us, we next **look IN**. How has God blessed us? What has God entrusted to our management and care—our time, our talents, our money / financial resources, our life? How are we sharing and using these gifts in gratitude to God?

When we realize that all we have comes from God and belongs to God, how can we keep it to ourselves? **Stewardship** is about recognizing and sharing our resources and gifts—they aren't ours to keep... they are given to share with others. *"Like stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received"* (1 Peter 4:10).

And that leads us to **looking OUT**. When Jesus was asked which was the greatest commandment, he answered, *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'"* (Matthew 22:37-39). **Stewardship** is the way we live out our lives of faith. **Stewardship** is how we use all that God has entrusted to us: our time, our talents, our money, our possessions, our gifts ... our very lives—to further God's work in this work... to share our gratitude for God's love and generosity... to love God and to love our neighbors.

Yes, **stewardship** involves the way we manage and share our money / financial resources. This is an important part of Christian **stewardship**, BUT it's only one part. **Stewardship** also involves the way we talk about and live out our faith and trust in Jesus, our Savior and Lord. It involves how we devote our time and energy to God and God's work. It involves the way we care for the earth and its bountiful resources. It involves our gifts and talents—how we nurture them and share them. **Stewardship** is about how generous we are with ALL that God has entrusted to our care.

## PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS Cont.

Dear friends, this interim time is an important time for you, as a congregation – a time for looking back *and* looking forward ... a time for honest assessment and evaluation *and* hopeful visioning and goal-setting... a time for prayer and discernment – What is God calling you to do... and to be... in this place and time (both as individuals and as a congregation)? I urge you to prayerfully consider how you can use and share what God has given you to support the ministry of ELC – now and into the future? Yes, your financial gifts are, of course, always needed; BUT your time and talents—your participation in our ministry together—are also needed... and very much appreciated!

In Christ, *Pastor Karen*

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

On the Wednesdays of Lent, join us for a simple service of scripture and reflection, song and intercessory prayer—for ourselves, those in need and for the world.

We gather in Fellowship Hall at 11:00 am with a lunch following worship (***Please use the Main Street entrance or the Agape entrance***) at 7:00 pm we gather in the chapel.

**March 4<sup>th</sup>** – “*Forgive our sins... as we forgive...*”

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

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

**March 25<sup>th</sup>** – “*Amen.*”

# 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.

**Save the date for our children to sing in worship - April 26th at 9 am**

**PARENTS NIGHT OUT at ELC: March 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/da6db3>**



**YOUTH BAKING CINNAMON ROLLS** - Middle and High school youth are welcome to join us on **March 21st, 9:30 am - 12 pm (ELC Kitchen)** to make delicious cinnamon rolls, that will be frozen and then baked fresh for our Easter Breakfast on April 5th.

**6th GRADE PRE-CONFIRMATION** - Our students will gather on Wednesdays, **April 15th - May 13th, 3:45 - 4:45 PM** (5 sessions) in the Matthew Room. Email [brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org](mailto:brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org) to register.

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

- March 4, 11, 18, 25
  - Lenten Worship 7 pm, Meet in small groups 7:30 - 8 pm
- April 1 - No Confirmation (Spring break)

**2026 MISSION GROUP MEET & EAT - Mar 20th, 4 - 5 pm** - Youth traveling to Kansas City will meet (and eat) to make plans for our summer trip in July.



**EASTER BREAKFAST - April 5th, 7 am - 9 am**  
Come and enjoy our Easter Breakfast in Fellowship Hall, featuring homemade cinnamon rolls, egg bakes, fruit, juice/coffee. Free will donations will support our youth mission trip to Kansas City, MO in July.

# CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS Cont.

## 2026 YOUTH SUMMER SCHEDULE

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

*Registration websites have more information -*

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

**REGISTER:** <https://vbspro.events/p/vbselcmthoreb>



**DAY CAMP** - (1pm-5 pm) 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade in fall

Special day to Sugar Creek on June 25th for

1st - 5th graders. (Special trip paid by ELC)

**REGISTER:** <https://vbspro.events/p/elcmhdaycamp>

### 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! More information to come.

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

# AGAPE

Greetings from Agape Christian Preschool,

As we look forward to warmer, spring-like weather, March brings a variety of engaging activities for the students. We will commemorate Dr. Seuss's Birthday, observe St. Patrick's Day, and welcome the arrival of spring. This month will offer many rewarding and uplifting experiences for our students and staff.

3K Enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year is underway. Registration forms are available on our website [www.agapechristianpreschool.com](http://www.agapechristianpreschool.com) or can be picked up in the Agape office during preschool hours or by appointment. The collaborative 4K program with the MHASD is still accepting enrollment for the upcoming school year. 4K registration should be completed online through the school district website, found at [www.mounthorebschools.org](http://www.mounthorebschools.org) under the 4K section. If you have any family or friends looking for more information about our 3k and 4K programs, please have them reach out to me anytime.

Butter Braid Frozen Pastries will be delivered on Wednesday, March 4, at 11:00 am. Please pick up your order that day or arrange an alternative pickup time. Funds raised from this sale will help enhance the classroom and playground. Thank you for your support!

Blessings and appreciation,  
Amy Kellesvig, Director  
Agape Christian Preschool  
MHASD 4K Community Site



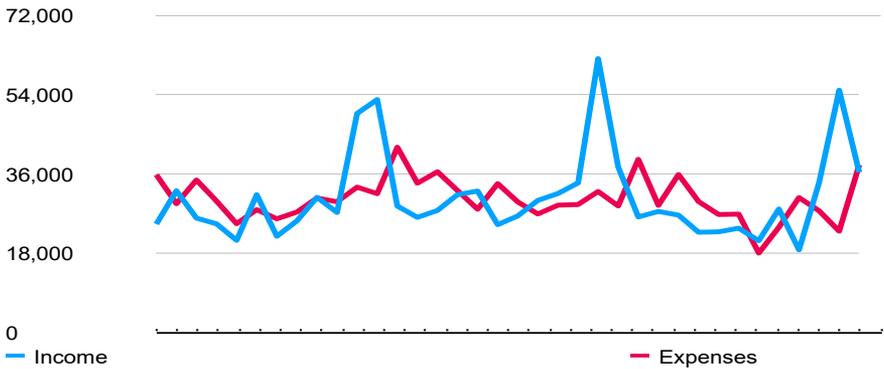
# TREASURER'S REPORT

BALANCE SHEET		1/31/2026	12/31/2025	12/31/2024
General Fund		30,121	31,761	35,757
Building Capital Fund		26,317	20,564	26,603
Designated Funds		132,967	128,529	78,674
Mortgage		(72,294)	(72,420)	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>117,111</b>	<b>108,434</b>	<b>141,034</b>
CASH FLOW		January 2026	2025	
General Fund Income		36,346	349,748	
General Fund Expenses				
Mission and Outreach		1,834	25,383	
Personnel		23,740	223,833	
Congregational Life		2,449	21,468	
Facilities and Administration		9,963	83,060	
<b>Total General Fund Expenses</b>		<b>37,986</b>	<b>353,744</b>	
Net General Fund Gain (Loss)		(1,640)	(3,996)	
Other Income				
Building Capital Fund		5,752	33,636	
Designated Funds		6,297	252,790	
Mortgage		126	(72,420)	
<b>Total Other Income</b>		<b>12,175</b>	<b>214,006</b>	
Other Expenses				
Building Capital Fund		0	39,675	
Designated Funds		1,859	202,936	
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>		<b>1,859</b>	<b>242,611</b>	
Net Gain (Loss) from Other Expenses		10,316	(28,605)	
<b>NET GAIN (LOSS)</b>		<b>8,676</b>	<b>(32,601)</b>	

# TREASURER'S REPORT Cont.

BUDGET TRACKING	2026	2026 vs Budget	2026 vs 2025
General Fund Income	36,346	3,525	(1,177)
General Fund Expenses			
Mission and Outreach	1,834	(241)	0
Personnel	23,740	1,686	3,537
Congregational Life	2,449	799	1,191
Facilities and Administration	9,963	2,771	4,658
Total General Fund Expenses	37,986	5,015	9,386

General Fund Income and Expense, Last 36 Months



General fund giving of \$36,346 was offset by expenses of \$37,986, resulting in a deficit of \$1,640. At the end of the month, the general fund had \$35,778 in assets against \$4,825 in outstanding liabilities, for a balance of \$30,121. Facility expenses were higher than forecast due to the winter weather, and the higher personnel expense represents an end-of-year salary adjustment for the senior pastor that reconciles Portico's benefit deductions with our contracted compensation package.

We received \$5,752 in income for the building fund, including a generous \$5,000 contribution. There were no building-fund expenses in January. Benevolence in January raised \$2,168 for Divine Savior. Other income included \$3,237 for youth, \$634 for the mortgage fund, \$150 for the kitchen, and \$108 in interest. Designated fund expenses included \$884 for the mortgage, of which \$758 was interest expense and \$126 a return of principal; \$736 for ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission, \$86 for Compassion International, and \$125 for music.

Respectfully submitted by Ben Brothers, February 7, 2026.

# BENEVOLENCE

## A quiet hand when it's needed most

Most months, our Benevolence Program looks beyond our walls. In March, we're turning our focus inward — to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund — but not for the sake of a line item in a budget.

For the sake of people.

Pause for a moment and imagine where someone is in life when they walk into a church — perhaps one they've never attended — and ask for \$20 for gas. Or help with their prescriptions. Or an unexpected repair bill. That step alone often carries more weight than the dollar amount. It usually means options have run thin. Pride has been swallowed. And hope is being tested.

We are deeply grateful for Neighbors Helping Neighbors and our ongoing commitment to support their vital work. NHN provides structured, sustained assistance with food, clothing and utilities, and we will continue to refer people there whenever appropriate.

But sometimes a need is immediate. A tank is empty today. A family has just experienced a fire. A mobile phone that is a family's lifeline breaks. In those moments, Pastor Karen's discretionary fund allows her — drawing on years of pastoral experience — to respond quickly, compassionately and without bureaucracy.

In Pastor Karen's short time at ELC, she has quietly helped with gas, food, rent, and utilities. It has provided dignity in small but meaningful ways. This isn't a new scenario; people often came to Pastor John for help as well, and he was able to tap into this fund to lend a hand.

Your March Benevolence gift equips our pastor to meet people in vulnerable moments with grace, discretion and love. Sometimes ministry looks like \$20 and a listening ear.

We'll be collecting donations for a fund that will help Pastor Karen meet those needs throughout March. 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

# BENEVOLENCE Cont.

## 2026 BENEVOLENCE MISSIONS

**January:** Divine Savior, our sister church in Puerto Rico \$4035

**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



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>9 am Worship 1 Communion 10:15-11am Sunday School</p> <p><i>Brenda Vacation 1<sup>st</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup></i></p>	2	<p>9:30 Text Study 3 Matthew</p> <p>9:30-11am Baby Caps-Faith Rm</p> <p>5:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>9:30am Transition 4 Sm. Group FH &amp; Coffee Time</p> <p>11am Agape Butterbraid p-up 11 am Lenten Worship Lunch following worship FH</p> <p>7 pm Lenten Worship 7pm Confirmation Sm. groups 7:30-8pm</p>	5 9am Sewing Group	6 9:30 -11 am Agape Toddler Time FH	7 5:00 pm Worship/Chapel
<p>9 am Worship 8 10:15-11am Sunday School</p> <p>Benevolence Pastor's Discretionary Fund</p>	9 6pm-Church Council Matthew Rm	10 9:30 Text Study Matthew	11 11 am Lenten Worship Lunch following worship FH	12 9am Sewing Group	13 No Toddler Time	14 5:00 pm Worship/Chapel Communion
<p>9 am Worship 15 Communion 10:15-11am Sunday School</p> <p>Following Worship Transition Sm. Group FH</p> <p>5-7pm ELC Spiritual Growth &amp; Fellowship Bunco + Tacos = FUN!</p>	16	17 9:30 Text Study Matthew	18 9:30 am Rebecca Circle ELC 11 am Lenten Worship Lunch following worship FH	19 9am Sewing Group	20 9:30 -11 am Agape Toddler Time FH	21 5:00 pm Worship/Chapel
<p>9 am Worship 22 10:15-11am Sunday School</p>	23	24 9:30 Text Study Matthew	25 11 am Lenten Worship Lunch following worship FH	26 9am Sewing Group	27 No Toddler Time	28 5:00 pm Worship/Chapel
<p>9 am Worship 29 10:15-11am Sunday School</p> <p>10:15 am Transition Team Mtg. Matthew</p> <p>Palm Sunday</p>	30	31 9:30 Text Study Matthew				

# EASTER MEMORIALS

ELC welcomes your memorial and honoring donations through **Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>** for the dual purpose of purchasing flowers to adorn the altar for the Easter Sunday services and also to help feed the hungry in parts of the world where the need is greatest. After purchasing the lilies to decorate the altar on Easter, ELC sends all contributions to ELCA World Hunger Appeal. The amount of each memorial is your personal decision.

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

---

---

---

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

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

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



***Please return this form on or before  
Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025***

# COUNCIL

Greetings!

Spring is coming, we have more light and Easter is on its way!

The church council has been busy with everything from the LEAD conference for clergy and lay leaders to thinking about plumbing and dishwashers! Seven of us recently spent a Saturday at Messiah Lutheran Church for the LEAD Conference. We began with a church service, followed by a presentation called Funding Forward by Grace Pomroy of Luther Seminary. We learned how to think of new ways to get revenue for the church as many churches are not meeting expenses, including ours. Some congregations are renting space to others in the community; some are merging or sharing resources with other congregations. Congregations are looking “outside the box” to find creative ways to serve their communities and bring income into the church. This got us all thinking! How can ELC best work together with other churches, community members and organizations? We welcome your thoughts and ideas on how we can best meet our bottom line.

Other ministries/ committees that have met recently include: revising the constitution, Mutual Ministries, Spiritual Growth and Fellowship, and committee restructuring as well as the transition team. Thanks to all who are hard at work to get our committees meeting and functioning! It definitely “takes a village” to have a healthy church with active leadership and congregants.

A date to put on your calendar is Sunday March 15, from 5-7pm for a game night and potluck supper. Come have fun and a good meal with friends and family!

Peace and blessings to you all,

Chris Coffin

# IN HOME COMMUNION MINISTRY

Bringing communion to people who can't easily attend worship services is a very meaningful and important ministry we have at ELC. At this time, we have ten people who are visiting members in their homes to share communion and connecting with them in this special way. A new part of this ministry is to offer to leave prepared communion elements so when they watch our service online they can join in communion when our congregation is communing. The home communion wine/juice and hosts have been consecrated (blessed) by Pastor Karen. If you or someone you know needs home communion visits OR if you would like the prepared communion elements to commune with the streamed service please contact Barb Underwood at 608-437-1956 or by email at [underwod@mhtc.net](mailto:underwod@mhtc.net). In addition, if you are interested in joining the Home Communion Ministry please contact Barb by phone or email.

---

## INREACH/OUTREACH

We will again be hosting our free will offering Lenten luncheons, 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!

---

## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF IMPORTANT BABY KIT NEWS

Over the years, Rebecca Circle and recently the youth and Sarah Circle members have assembled hundreds of Baby Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Thank you to everyone who has shopped and donated articles of clothing, soap, diapers, etc. We want to share new requirements for the LWR baby kits. Lutheran World Relief is making sure that they are sending quality kits. Please read the following information before shopping or thrifting.

**All items MUST be NEW or HANDMADE.** The ONLY exception is donated and/or thrifted items that are in "pristine" or "like-new" condition. However, **socks, towels and soap MUST be brand-new.** When Customs officials find stained, unhemmed, or worn items, they penalize LWR and won't release the shipment to be distributed until a hefty fine is paid. Ultimately this can jeopardize the status of the entire shipment.

# LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF Cont.

*Here is the entire list of needed items for Baby Kits:*

- \*TWO lightweight cotton t-shirts (no Onesies ®).*
- \*TWO long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet).*
- \*TWO receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, between 32" and 52"*
- \*FOUR cloth diapers, flat fold preferred.*
- \*ONE jacket, sweater, or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby hat.*
- \*TWO pairs of socks, must be new.*
- \*ONE hand towel, dark color recommended, must be new.*
- \*TWO or three bath-size bars of gentle soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., in original wrapping.*
- \*TWO diaper pins or large safety pin*

**Other reminders:** <https://lwr.org/kits/baby-care-kits/instructions>

- Please include sizes from 6 and 24 months.*
- Sweaters may be knitted or crocheted*
- Diapers can be made from flannel or recycling t-shirts. (We appreciate Ann Baumgartner who makes diapers from L and XL, T-shirts)*
- Blankets may be knitted/crocheted, or flannel*
- Gowns or shirt/pant sets can be substituted for sleepers.*
- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages, your group's name, decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.*

In conclusion, we are considering and thinking about ways to move forward and continue this valuable project. Anyone want to organize an ELC BABY SHOWER? If you wish to sponsor a whole kit + shipping cost, consider making a donation of \$45 and we'll do the shopping for you.

Blessings,  
Helen Kahl and Brenda Martin

# PROPERTY

## Custodial

A supplies inventory and reorder spreadsheet has been created for use. So far Jeremy has managed to stay ahead of the snow and salt inside and outside.

A new cleaning schedule is created to better serve the important areas of the 3 buildings.

## Maintenance

Karl and Jeremy have completed the transition of fluorescent lights to LED in the fellowship hall. Not only is there better lighting, but less \$\$ to have them on.

Karl continues to look around the buildings for needed work. He's currently "patching" the wooden doors that have suffered from lots of years. He's using wood filler and stain to make them look nice again. He started in the Agape hall and will continue as his "free" time allows.

Also, on the to-do list is painting all of the doorways. As this requires a special paint it will be done during the summer time when Agape isn't in session.

An issue related to the recent dishwasher's Heat Pump (it controls the input of hot water for washing and sanitizing) will be resolved by the time the Echoes goes to print. Because of the rust that comes into the unit from the galvanized pipes isn't filtered out by the screens and ends up in the unit, a filtering unit is being installed between the input water and the input into the Heat Pump. Karl is working with A+ Plumbing to complete the install. This area is not accessible without removing the panel that now allows the use of the garbage disposal switch, Karl will install an open/close access panel.

A few heating issues with the boilers and Air Handling Unit were identified and resolved. Karl was asked to clean out the kitchen ceiling fan and discovered it was inoperable. It has been disabled and insulation put in to eliminate the cold air coming in from the opening to the roof. Further investigation regarding options such as installing a new fan will be discussed with Karl and Jamey (the roof guy) once the weather allows them on the roof.

## Other

A recent discussion with Amy Kellesvig revealed floor issues in the hallway related to the condition of the tiles. Karl will measure the area and determine if the 6' stack of like tiles in the mechanical room will be sufficient to replace them. If there is enough supply, a tiler will need to be hired for the job. Once the information is gathered and labor cost solicited, this will be requested in next year's budget.

# SPIRITUAL GROWTH & FELLOWSHIP

## Bunco + Tacos = Fun!



Spiritual Growth & Fellowship is planning a gathering just for fun. We're going to play a game (or two) of Bunco. If you're not familiar with Bunco, it's a dice game that is appropriate for all ages, easy to learn, and great for groups. Afterwards, we will have a potluck. Please bring your favorite southwestern-type of food. All are welcome-  
Sunday March 15th from 5 to 7 pm.

---

## TRANSITION TEAM SMALL GROUP CONVERSATIONS

The transition team is offering small group meetings. If you would like to sign-up you can find the sign-up sheets in the Narthex or please email them at [transitionteam@elc.org](mailto:transitionteam@elc.org)

**Wed., March 4 (9:30am - before 11:00am Lenten worship) -**

Sign-up... meet in Fellowship Hall

\*Dave, Serena

**Sun., March 15 (after worship) - Sign-up... meet in Matthew**

\*Adam, Vicky, Eric

**Wed., March 18 (5:30pm - with pizza) - Sign-up... meet in Fellowship Hall**

**Tues., March 24 (6:00pm) - Sign-up... meet in Matthew**

\*Diane

# PRAYER list

**PLEASE PRAY FOR**-Char Smith, Jill Knuteson, Kathy Sies, Steve Mueller, Jennifer Hubert (Mary Meister's niece), Dani Sue Schroeder, Pauline Blum (Mary Meister's Aunt), Ruth Ann Nemet, Paul & Lois Kerscher (Amy Thompson's parents), Paul Baum, 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:***

*Delores Kahl*

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

*Betsy Baguhn*

*Ann & Dave Baumgartner*

*Deb & Jay Schneider*

*Melanie & Jeffrey Lee*

*Linda & Jimmy Garrett*

*Sharon Collins*

*Diane Bartz*

*Darlene Johnson*

*David & Faye Lorenz*

*The Family of Delores Kahl*

*Jeff & Kate Hook*

# MEMBERSHIP NEWS



**SPRING FORWARD!!** Remember Daylight Saving Time begins **Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>**.

**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. **FOCUS FOR MARCH 4<sup>th</sup>**: Join in small group conversation & discussion regarding our transition time.



**CHURCH COUNCIL** will meet on **Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> 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, March 3 and 17, 9:30am** in the Faith room. I delivered 29 caps to Unity Point Meriter last month! [ruthheinecke@mail.com](mailto:ruthheinecke@mail.com) or 608-444-4949.

**REBECCA CIRCLE** will meet at 9:30 am on March 18<sup>th</sup> at church before the Lenten service.

**SARAH CIRCLE Tuesday, March 17 at 7 pm** in Fellowship Hall. We will start the Spring Bible study from "Gather" magazine (March, April, May Issue). We will also work on tying a few more blankets for graduating seniors. 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.

## **MT HOREB SENIOR CENTER-Caregiver Dementia Support Group**

**The first Thursday of each month from 1-2:30pm.** The group creates a safe space for discussion, education, support and sharing of ideas and resources. Contact the Senior Center with questions 608-437-6902.

## **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).

# MEMBERSHIP NEWS Cont.

**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.

**BETTER TOGETHER** ELC's bereavement support group, *Better Together*, is meeting for lunch at the **Paoli Schoolhouse on March 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am.** *Those in need of a ride should meet at the ELC parking lot at 11:00 am.* If you need pick-up from your home or other living facility don't hesitate to contact one of us for assistance.

All who seek the comfort of others who understand your new journey in life are welcome to attend.

Cheryl Wille=Schlesser Kathy O'Donnell  
608-219-4464 608-843-5480

## WINTER CANCELLATION POLICY

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



*Nancy will be on vacation from March 20<sup>th</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup>  
Calls & Emails will be monitored.*



**STEEPLE ECHOES ARTICLES DUE BY Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> for the April issue of the newsletter.**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** on Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.



**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.



## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SCHEDULE

	FEB/MAR 28 <sup>th</sup> & 1 <sup>st</sup>	MAR 4 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>h</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	MAR 11 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>h</sup>	MAR 18 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup>	MAR 25 <sup>th</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup>
ACOLYTES	<b>Sunday</b> Natalie Hogseth Hudson Kahl	<b>Sunday</b> Oliver Kahl John Henry Lee	<b>Sunday</b> Hannah Schulenberg Taylor Symons	<b>Sunday</b> Ellie Woolard Sarah Zelle	<b>Sunday</b> Leah & Logan Aeschlimann
COMM ASSIST	<b>Sunday</b> Kim Kelliher Diane Bartz Linda Wahlgren	<b>No Communion</b>	<b>Sunday</b> Kim Kelliher <b>Available</b> <b>Available</b>	<b>No Communion</b>	<b>No Communion</b>
READERS	<b>Saturday</b> Bonny Kellogg <b>Sunday</b> Amy Sinner	<b>Saturday</b> <b>Available</b> <b>Sunday</b> Diane Bartz	<b>Saturday</b> <b>Available</b> <b>Sunday</b> Kim Kelliher	<b>Saturday</b> Ann Baumgartner <b>Sunday</b> <b>Available</b>	<b>Saturday</b> Bonny Kellogg <b>Sunday</b> Gary Hamburg
USHERS	<b>Sunday</b> Betsy Baguhn Jody Morey	<b>Sunday</b> John Rosenbaum Matt Anderson	<b>Sunday</b> Jim Cook Mary Gullickson- Krantz	<b>Sunday</b> Mary & Wayne Knudson	<b>Sunday</b> Jim Cook Mary Gullickson- Krantz
ALTAR GUILD	<b>February</b> Deb Dangerfield, Shannon Hadac, Judy Steinhauer, Joan Stensby, Jessica Powell <b>March</b> Polly Field, Dawn Haag, Mary Knudson, Di'Anne Stamm				
CNCL DUTIES	<b>February</b> Kathy O'Donnell <b>March</b> Chris Coffin				

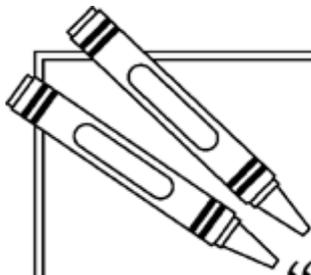


# MARCH

## Birthdays

<b>1</b>	Abby Steinhauer	<b>9</b>	Jim Hadac	<b>21</b>	Disa Erickson
			Danny Muehlenkamp		Michael Friske
<b>2</b>	Chad Boettcher				Catherine Ivey
	Isabella Cross	<b>10</b>	Jennifer Larson		
	Jordan Freitag		Donna Skogen	<b>22</b>	Jacey Morin
	Bridgett Killinger				Brooks Kosa
	Berkley Segebrecht	<b>11</b>	Rebecca Kahl		
	Sarah Zelle			<b>24</b>	Gail Huseth
		<b>12</b>	Amy Kellesvig		
<b>3</b>	Kiarra Eith		Ingrid Parks	<b>25</b>	Porter Kreul
	Christopher Balbach				Tucker Collins
	Amy High	<b>13</b>	Karen McKay		
	Rita Schraepfer-Derke		Ava Magnuson	<b>26</b>	Cheryl Mortvedt
	DiAnne Stamm		Sharman Moen		Kayla Mullendore
<b>4</b>	Lauren Eggers		Kady Zupan-Walsh		
	Zachary Eggers			<b>28</b>	Diane Farnsworth
	Everly Pierick	<b>14</b>	Bill Faltz		Bradley Miller
	Danielle Schulz		Daryl Rothamer		Wendy Rasmussen
			Steven Stack		Brayden Reeson
<b>5</b>	Camille Samuelson				Ella Reeson
		<b>15</b>	Nicole Brown		
<b>6</b>	Kolleen Nesheim		Quinn Killinger	<b>29</b>	Melissa Boettcher
	Sabrina Sieg				Nathan Mullendore
	Owen Stamm	<b>16</b>	Ethan Fendrick		
	Bill Walsh		Ken Schulenberg	<b>30</b>	Nyaah Schloesser
	Sydney Wyss				Isaac Schloesser
		<b>17</b>	Paul Hogseth		
<b>7</b>	Ellie Hadac		Charlie Laabs	<b>31</b>	Al Bartz
	Cody Hanson				Duane Christoph
	Betty Martinson	<b>18</b>	Ashley Hall		Paul Kellesvig
	Rylie O'Connell				Nathan Seibel
	Garrett Spellman	<b>19</b>	Scarlett Cannon		
<b>8</b>	DeLayne Krentz	<b>20</b>	Ian Farrell		
	Emily Watson		Cyndy Hamburg		

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



# Just for KIDS

Old Testament Prophets

## “Who Am I?”

Some Old Testament books are named after prophets. Discover the names of the prophets below. Use the clues to write the names on the lines. Arrange the circled letters on the bottom blanks to describe what a prophet is.

1. I was called to preach to the people of Ninevah, but I ran from God instead. *My book is number 32 in the Bible.*

I am \_\_\_\_\_ ○ \_\_\_\_\_ .

2. I spoke God's message when the temple was being built. *My book is number 37.*

I am \_\_\_\_\_ ○ \_\_\_\_\_ .

3. Israel's unfaithfulness to God is compared to my unfaithful wife. *My book is number 28.*

I am \_\_\_\_\_ ○ \_\_\_\_\_ .

4. My book predicts punishment for wickedness and promises comfort. *It is book 23.*

I am \_\_\_\_\_ ○ \_\_\_\_\_ .

5. I had dreams and visions. *My book is 27.*

I am \_\_\_\_\_ ○ \_\_\_\_\_ .

6. I was often in danger because of my predictions. I angered officials. *My book is 24.*

I am \_\_\_\_\_ ○ \_\_\_\_\_ .

7. I was a shepherd from Judah who called people to turn to God and leave their selfish lives. *My book is 30.*

I am \_\_\_\_\_ ○ \_\_\_\_\_ .

8. *My book is 26 and contains descriptions of strange visions.*

I am \_\_\_\_\_ ○ \_\_\_\_\_ .

Prophets are \_\_\_\_\_ .

Answers: Jonah; Haggai; Hosea; Isaiah; Daniel; Jeremiah; Amos; Ezekiel. Messengers.



315 East Main St.  
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit 31  
Mt. Horeb, WI

**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

Phone: (608) 437-5012 FAX: (608) 437-4431

Web: [www.elcmthoreb.org](http://www.elcmthoreb.org) E-mail: [elc@mhtc.net](mailto:elc@mhtc.net)