

## **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/)

## **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 move from spring to summer, we, in the church, move into the season of PENTECOST—the longest season of the church year! The first half of the church year focuses on the life of Christ and his saving work for us. In the second half, following the day of PENTECOST (May 24<sup>th</sup> this year), the scripture readings focus on Jesus' teachings *and* on the Spirit's work among us.

*"I will not leave you orphaned,"* Jesus promised his disciples (and us!) even before he died. *"The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you"* (John 14:25-26). *"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth,"* Jesus promised just before he ascended into heaven (Acts 1:8-9).

And Jesus kept his promises! On the day of PENTECOST, the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus' followers in a powerful way, and *"the church"* came into being—NOT *"the church"* as a building or a place of worship... BUT *"the church"* as a body of believers filled with and empowered by the Holy Spirit. The Book of Acts is the story of their adventures (if you haven't read it lately, I highly encourage you to do so). It is titled "The Acts of the Apostles" in our Bibles, but I really think it should be titled "The Acts of the Holy Spirit" because ***it is the Holy Spirit*** who moves the apostles to do the things they do in Jesus' name... ***it is the Holy Spirit*** who works through them to accomplish amazing things! That small group of men and women quickly became a force-to-be-reckoned-with. ***By the power of the Holy Spirit***, they became fearless leaders... boldly sharing the good news of Jesus—healing the sick, forgiving sinners, baptizing converts (Jews and Gentiles alike), and even going to jail and enduring persecution for the sake of the gospel. ***By the power of the Holy Spirit***, Jesus' followers turned the world upside down!

Although the day of PENTECOST (as described in Acts 2) is a one-time event in the history of the church, God continues to pour out the Holy Spirit upon God's people—empowering... disrupting... and transforming lives. Do YOU believe that?!

--Do YOU believe in a God who can set hearts on fire... who can breathe hope, courage, and new life into you?

## PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS Cont.

--**Do YOU believe in a God** who can empower you to do what you never thought you could do on your own?

--**Do YOU believe in a God** who has the power to transform YOU... and the church... and the whole world?

--More importantly - **Do YOU expect God to do this?**

I do! And I hope and pray that YOU do, too; because that is exactly what the Holy Spirit promises to do... and that is what we *need* the Holy Spirit to do—for us and through us!

The work and ministry we are called to, as “the church” is NOT easy. It is difficult and often disruptive, and yes, even dangerous in this world of ours – precisely because we are called to speak and live the truth of God’s mercy, grace, and love for “the world” ... even as we call out the lies, sins, and evils of the world around us. That’s why Jesus doesn’t send us out alone. He gives us the Holy Spirit to accompany us—to spur us and equip us... the strengthen us and provoke us... to comfort and encourage us—so we can keep doing what we know we are called to do.

Brothers and sister in Christ, we have an important story to tell... God’s love and mercy to share. That’s why at PENTECOST (and throughout the year) we pray for the Holy Spirit to come:

**Come, Holy Spirit, come...** *make your presence and power known... breathe new life into us... give us wisdom and discernment in this time of transition...*

**Come, Holy Spirit, come...** *fan the flame of our faith ... transform us from within...*

**Come, Holy Spirit, come...** *calm our fears and doubts... spur us to ministry and mission in Jesus' name...*

**Come, Holy Spirit, come...** *make us bold in our witness... courageous and daring in the ministries you call us to be part of...*

**Come, Holy Spirit, come...** *lead us out into the world to witness and serve in your name...*

Join me in praying for the Holy Spirit to work in and through each and every one of us to bring the change... and passion ... and boldness... and growth we wish for – for ourselves... and for ELC. **Come, Holy Spirit, come!**

May this be OUR prayer—at PENTECOST... and always!

*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.

**May 17 - Last Day of Sunday School Activities (hoping outside)**

**6th GRADE PRE-CONFIRMATION** - Our students will gather on Wednesdays, May 6 and May 13th, 3:45 - 4:45 PM

## 7th & 8th GRADE CONFIRMATION

- May 6- Class time 7 pm - 8:30 pm
- May 13- Last day for school year, ice cream sundaes 7 pm - 8 pm

**GRADUATION PHOTOS NEEDED** - High School Seniors & College Graduates, we want to celebrate you! Please email a photo and a brief description of your plans for after graduation. These can be emailed to me at: [brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org](mailto:brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org) by **May 1st**. Slideshow will be shared on **May 10th** during the Senior Blanket Ceremony.

## 2026 YOUTH SUMMER SCHEDULE

*Vacation Bible School (VBS) / Day Camp is an action-packed week full of faith, fun, and friendship! Kids dive into exciting Bible stories, play energetic games, create awesome crafts, and enjoy tasty snacks along the way. It's a joyful place where new friendships are formed and everyone learns just how much God loves them.*

## 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>

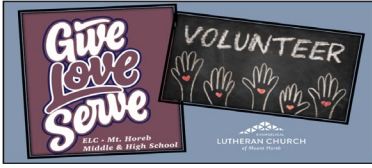


**DAY CAMP** - (1pm-5 pm) 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade in fall  
Special day to Sugar Creek on June 25th for  
1st - 5th graders. (Special trip paid by ELC)

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

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Youth and adults who would be able to assist with VBS or Day Camp, please sign up/register with the links or QR code that matches the program. (same as the registration link for the youth)

# CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS Cont.



**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. Please sign up for the days and times your children are able to help.

<https://forms.gle/tKJDiQnWBUsi2AKv7> Invite your friends!

**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/>

**CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY** - Our ministry will meet on May 5th, 7 pm - 8 pm in our Youth room. Anyone interested in helping guide the faith development of our youth, is invited to attend.

**BAKED ITEMS NEEDED:** Our youth will be hosting a bake sale along with our Brats in the Lot on May 30th. If someone is available to bake some goodies, please let Brenda know. Thank you.

**BRATS IN THE LOT (Youth Mission Trip-Kansas City) - May 30th, 10 am - 2 pm** at Millers - Mt Horeb. Start the summer off with us at Millers to enjoy some brats. Pick up some delicious Bake Sale treats, as well. Thank you for your support of our youth who will help the community of Kansas City, MO in July.

**Brenda Martin, Youth Ministries Director**

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

# BABY KIT UPDATE

As we reported in March, the requirements for baby kits have changed and we want you to understand before you shop, especially as you thrift shop. These new requirements are from Lutheran World Relief, due to previous penalties placed on the shipments by receiving countries.

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.

We have recently taken an inventory of our donated items and established a goal of 60 kits for this year. The following is a list of needed items in order to make that goal:

- 51 lightweight cotton t-shirts (each kit requires 2)**
- 71 long or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (each kit requires 2)**
- 6 receiving blankets, (each kit requires 2)**
- 32 jacket, sweater, or sweatshirt with a hood**
- 53 hand towels, dark color recommended, must be NEW.**

Thank you, Ann Baumgartner, for making hundreds of diapers from t-shirts.

Thank you for your donations of soap, socks, hats. We have what we need of these for the 60-kit goal, but will store for another year if you already have purchased; just keep in mind the new requirements.

The cost to ship a baby kit is \$4. If you wish to donate to shipping or for the cost of baby kit items, please send a check to church with a note of explanation.

**Blessings,**

**Helen Kahl, Rebecca Circle and Brenda Martin, ELC Youth Director**

# AGAPE

Springtime greetings from Agape,

Another school year has zipped by, and we are close to the end. 3K classes wrap up on May 29, while 4K classes conclude on June 9. Throughout this month, students are exploring topics like flowers, frogs, weather, and butterflies. They've had fun observing caterpillars develop and will soon release butterflies into the Mt Horeb habitat—an annual highlight. Classes are beginning to fill up for the 3K program for the 2026-2027 school year. Enrollment forms may be found on the preschool website [www.agapechristianpreschool.com](http://www.agapechristianpreschool.com). You may also pick up forms from the preschool office, Tuesday - Friday, 8:00 am – 3:30 pm, or call/email to make other arrangements.

The ACP staff and board will host the “Brats in the Lot” Fundraiser at Miller & Son’s Supermarket in Mt. Horeb on Saturday, May 16. Join us between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm for a tasty lunch and to support the preschool. Coincidentally, ACP is also celebrating its 36th anniversary that day!

As we wrap up another school year, I would like to thank our wonderful and supportive teaching staff: Cathy Fountas, Jenelle Ollendick, Katy Seibel, and Anita Symons, as well as our Board of Directors: Becky Bickford, Megan Kelly, Kim Lins, Leah Roethle, Elizabeth Thronson, Anne Woolard, and ELC council liaison Kate Hook. You are all appreciated, and I cannot thank you enough!

Blessings,  
Amy Kellesvig, Director

## Upcoming Dates:

Friday, May 15 – Last Day of Toddler Time

Saturday, May 16 – Brats in the Lot @ Miller & Sons 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Tuesday, May 26 – 3K End of year celebration with families 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Friday, May 29 – Last Day 3K

Monday, June 8 – 4K End of year celebration with families 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Tuesday, June 9 – Last Day 4K classes



# TREASURER'S REPORT

BALANCE SHEET	3/31/2026	2/28/2026	12/31/2025
General Fund	12,321	13,178	31,761
Building Capital Fund	23,799	24,054	20,564
Designated Funds	130,975	129,438	128,529
Mortgage	(70,971)	(71,480)	(72,288)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>96,124</b>	<b>95,190</b>	<b>108,566</b>

INCOME STATEMENT	March 2026	2026 YTD
General Fund Income	28,843	85,754
General Fund Expenses		
Mission and Outreach	1,834	5,724
Personnel	18,917	64,635
Congregational Life	2,145	7,039
Facilities and Administration	6,805	27,778
Total General Fund Expenses	29,701	105,176
Net General Fund Gain (Loss)	(858)	(19,422)
Other Income		
Building Capital Fund	1,245	7,867
Designated Funds	3,851	14,350
Mortgage	509	1,317
Total Other Income	5,605	23,534
Other Expenses		
Building Capital Fund	1,500	4,632
Designated Funds	2,314	11,904
Total Other Expenses	3,814	16,536
Net Gain (Loss) from Other Expenses	1,791	6,998
<b>NET GAIN (LOSS)</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>(12,424)</b>

# TREASURER'S REPORT Cont.

BUDGET TRACKING	2026	2026 vs Budget	2026 vs 2025
General Fund Income	85,754	(12,961)	(5,462)
General Fund Expenses			
Mission and Outreach	5,724	(484)	222
Personnel	64,635	(1,524)	(2,215)
Congregational Life	7,039	(561)	2,138
Facilities and Administration	27,778	6,203	2,324
Total General Fund Expenses	105,176	3,634	2,469

General fund giving improved to \$28,843 in March, up from \$20,564 in February. Expenses were \$29,701, resulting in a much smaller deficit of \$858. At the end of the month, the general fund had \$20,303 in assets against \$8,982 in outstanding liabilities, for a balance of \$12,321.

We received \$1,245 in income for the building fund, and spent \$1,500 to 1901 for relay wiring that should improve the lifespan of our boiler. Benevolence in January raised \$1,533 for the pastor's discretionary fund, and \$170 for Divine Savior. Other income included \$1,659 for the mortgage fund, \$202 for youth, \$172 for the kitchen, and \$115 unspecified. Designated fund expenses included \$884 for the mortgage, of which \$375 was interest expense and \$509 a return of principal; and \$1,344 for the kitchen. Benevolence distributions include \$86 for Compassion International.

Respectfully submitted by Ben Brothers, April 1, 2026.

# BENEVOLENCE

## What does it really mean to be an RIC congregation?

In 2021, our congregation made a clear and meaningful decision. By a vote of 89–6, we became a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation. That vote affirmed something important about who we believe we are called to be: A church that welcomes, includes and values all people.

Over the past several months, our Transition Team has been listening to the congregation — through surveys, small-group conversations and informal discussions. One theme came through clearly: ELC is a church where people care deeply about one another. A place where many have experienced a genuine sense of welcome and belonging.

At the same time, those conversations also surfaced an important question: What does it really mean to be an RIC congregation in our day-to-day life together?

Members of our RIC committee have been exploring that same question. This past fall, they hosted engagement sessions focused on how RIC connects to our ministry, our community, and the way we welcome and support people.

Taken together, what we heard — through both the Transition Team and the RIC conversations — is something both encouraging and honest. We can better define that spirit of welcoming by remembering what we committed to when we became a RIC congregation. That includes:

- Clearly stating a welcome to people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions, and naming our commitment to racial equity.
- Being open to calling LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC leaders.
- Making our space available for LGBTQIA+ weddings and blessings.
- Supporting the broader RIC movement through ongoing partnership.

These are not abstract ideas. They are ways of expressing who we are, and how we live.

As part of our Benevolence focus in May, our RIC ministry will be sharing more about how we can continue to grow into our commitment together. This isn't about changing who we are. It's about more clearly living into what we've already said yes to.

# BENEVOLENCE Cont.

You can contribute financially to our RIC efforts throughout the month of May by:

- **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](mailto:adammertz2@gmail.com)

## 2026 BENEVOLENCE MISSIONS

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

**February:** Compassion International \$1178

**March:** Pastor’s discretionary fund \$1703

**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

Jesus calls us to welcome the stranger. On the front cover of our Sunday bulletin and our Steeple Echos newsletter, the ELC welcome statement and RIC logo speak to visitors and members alike. When we voted to become a RIC congregation, we made a commitment to clearly state a welcome to people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions and a commitment to anti-racism.

In early 2026 we began reading the welcome statement at the beginning of the Sunday service. During that time, some questions arose. Examples of some questions are:

Why do we need to read the RIC welcome statement every Sunday?

Why can't we simply say, "We Welcome Everyone"? As a RIC committee, we chose to read the welcome statement every Sunday because not every person attends every Sunday, people who worship online may not attend every week, and people may be attending worship in person or online for the very first time. If someone comes into our church or listens to a service online and is part of a marginalized group and hears the welcome statement, we are speaking to them! We realize that frequent attendees have heard the welcome statement multiple times, however, we are stating it for the ones who may be hearing it for the first time or just might hear it in a different way.

It is easy to say, "We Welcome Everyone." This is true. By explicitly stating that we welcome all people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions and a commitment to racial equity we are speaking to everyone including those on the margins. Oftentimes churches say they welcome everyone but they don't really want people from the margins to attend. At ELC we are stating that people from the mainstream and the margins all have a place and belong.

The welcome statement at ELC is our leaning into the acceptance of groups of people that are on the outside looking in and from the inside looking out.

# UPDATE ON OUR CONSTITUTION

Our updated ELC Constitution was emailed to Synod for their review and approval on April 15, 2026! We will schedule a congregational meeting once we have made any adjustments and received Synod and Council approval.



# PROPERTY

## CUSTODIAL

It was another busy month for Jeremy.

Many activities required moving chairs and tables: Lenten services and luncheons, clearing FH for Toddler Time, rearranging the tables for quilting. Extra work needed: filling paper products in the bathrooms, and getting ready for the upcoming Holy Week activities.

Numerous vacuuming and mopping activities required as Mother Nature was not very cooperative!

Again, if anyone sees something that needs attention, there's a request form on the board outside Nancy's office. The request can be put in the custodial mailbox in the office.

## MAINTENANCE

Maintenance update from Karl:

I have been busy cleaning, dusting and painting. Any door trim that needed painting was done, including all of the Agape doors, bathroom doors and doors in and out of Fellowship Hall.

Air Handlers (blowers) for the Sanctuary and Chapel have had filters replaced, bearings greased and belts tightened. We also added 'how to' documentation on these air handlers and I will also be adding maintenance tags to each so we can date the maintenance. That way it will show when it was last done.

Many of the doors in the Agape area were in desperate need of repair. Almost every door had veneer peeling and many many scratches and old tape. I removed the old tape, patched doors with wood filler and stained the wood filler and scratches to match. Many of those doors had rust on the bottom of the door frame, so I sanded the rust and repainted all of those door frames.

It was brought to my attention that the switch on the organ in the Chapel was not working reliably. After contacting Johannus (the organ manufacturer) we were told they would not sell us the part, but they could send a repairman from Chicago to fix it (not under warranty). So, I removed the switch and repaired the switch myself. I found what appears to be a replacement switch for less than 10 dollars.

Many of the windows on the inside were in need of a good cleaning so I washed the windows. The kitchen windows were the most neglected.

## PROPERTY Cont.

I found that the large central vent and fan in the kitchen needs a new backdraft damper. The current one inoperable and was letting a large amount of cold air into our kitchen area. I cut a piece of 18x18" Styrofoam to fix in the place to prevent the cold area from coming back in the kitchen. After some research I have found a replacement that can be retrofitted since I believe this to be original. The repair won't be done until summer when it can be scheduled with Jamey, our roof guy.



I received a request from Amy that the water was too hot for some of the small children when they were washing their hands. After looking into an option of turning down the water flow at some of the faucets I found that the water heater in the basement was set to 130 degrees Fahrenheit. I turned it down to 120 and after checking with Amy, she said it is much better.

All 24 light fixtures in the Fellowship Hall were converted from fluorescent to LED T8 bulbs. Jeremy assisted with the attachment of the fixtures once the bulbs were changed. This should save energy over the long run. Some of the newer ballasts that were removed have been saved so when ballasts in the other rooms fail, we have backups.

Paul from Alpha Heating spent a few days getting the outside air handlers working again. They had not been working in many years according to him. This allows the right amount of fresh air to enter the building, which is all outside temperature dependent. This project was approved in the 2025-2026 budget. Finally got scheduled and completed.

Other various tasks include dusting, light bulb replacement, mounting fire extinguishers, lubing window slides and checking filters in radiators and cleaning carpets with the Bissell carpet cleaner.

### OTHER

There were two roof leaks reported: March 6 Diane Dangerfield heard dripping in the area of the sound booth during a rainstorm. She put a bucket where it was dripping and the electronics were covered with a plastic cover. When I checked the next day, the bucket was dry.

## **PROPERTY Cont.**

I contacted Jamey Schmitz and he investigated and found a hole near the shingles on the roof. This was not part of, nor related to the roof replacement. However, please note his look at the shingles would probably last only a few more years. Note that my recommendation is to replace the shingles with metal.

Then again on Maundy Thursday Diane Dangerfield (resident leak detector) saw a leak in the choir room. She put a bucket to catch the drips. When I looked it seemed it was coming from the sky light. Again, the next day the bucket was dry. Reported to Jamey who will investigate when the weather is better.

I'd like to revisit the "Trusted Partners" that have been used by me. I'm aware that there have been questions about the usage of contractors on the list. In the past I used it to call on professionals for things I could not take care of myself. Particularly electrical and plumbing. If the activity was going beyond a service call, estimates were requested. If large, Council would be asked for expenditure approval. Please be aware that the only time in the past year that was used was for the A+ installation of the filter for the dishwasher heat pump that was needed to filter out the rust coming in from the cold-water pipes.

The property will continue to be maintained.

---

## **TRANSITION TEAM**

### **T-Team Update/Summary**

The transition team has been busy compiling data into a succinct format that focuses on common themes that you as members relayed to us over the past few months via note cards, surveys, and small group meetings. We've also been looking at trends in the church using past annual meeting information. Below are some of the findings that were presented at the services on April 18 and 19.

#### **Who we are**

- Relationship-driven, welcoming church
- Exceptional music and engaged worship
- Deeply care for one another (Agape, Benevolence)
- Commitment to inclusivity
- Authentic, real people in community with each other

These are all positive things of which we should be very proud. Then there are those things you thoughtfully relayed to us that we need to face realistically. These have been grouped into the following statements.

# **TRANSITION TEAM Cont.**

## **Facing our Realities**

- Declining energy and engagement, including youth and families
- Addressing financial sustainability
- Overreliance on a shrinking core of highly engaged members
- Gap between “welcoming” and feeling included
- Desire for a stronger, clearer vision for the future
- Need more coordinated, intentional outreach from everyone

These are not only our realities, but those of many churches. It's easy to blame sports clubs, demanding jobs, etc. But this is the reality and our goal is to find ways to flourish in today's world.

## **Your Ideas and Opportunities**

- Establish a “Caring team” for proactive outreach
- Strengthen communal events focus – potluck dinners, afterschool programming, intergenerational, partner churches
- Engage online audiences as contributing members
- Amplify communications internally and externally
- Better integrate varying styles into liturgy and music

We received so many great suggestions and the above ideas are just a sampling of topics that were mentioned regularly.

## **Your wishes for our next pastor**

- Bridge-builder who cares for and relates to all generations of the congregation
- Comfortable leading change and addressing difficult realities
- Engaging, energetic, real-world communicator
- Community-embedded leader
- Strong management and administrative skills

## **Things you can do now**

- We can give thanks for our interim pastor.
- Attend church consistently.
- Provide financial support.
- Volunteer for ministry teams.
- Ask questions and provide feedback to your T-team members.
- Reach out to newcomers, disconnected members, and each other.

# TRANSITION TEAM Cont.

The many individual ideas you have relayed to this committee are all recognized and appreciated. This compilation is a summary that encompasses those ideas. The transition team is working closely with our Church Council to bring us forward in this search for a new permanent pastor. In the meantime, we want to emphasize **your** importance in this process including staying engaged, being flexible and providing healthy communication. We thank you for your input thus far and look forward to what comes next.

We are all this Church. See you there! You may contact us at [transitionteam@elcmthoreb.org](mailto:transitionteam@elcmthoreb.org).

Sincerely,

Your T-Team

Eric Albrecht, Diane Bartz, Dave Baumgartner, Amy Kellesvig, Adam Mertz, Elizabeth Troge, Vicky Rosenbaum, Serena Vondra



**PLEASE PRAY FOR PLEASE PRAY FOR** Butch Wille (Diane Dreger's Brother), Mark Mostrom, Elizabeth & baby Jack Troge, Jan Lukken, Char Smith, Linda Palzkill (Dennis & Sylvia Lokken's sister) Cailyn Knuth (Jen Mullendore's niece) Steve Mueller, Jill Knuteson, Kathy Sies, 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 & Staci Baum, John Scheele & family (Char Smith's Brother in Law), Joyce Fargo, Alycen McKinney, 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:*

*Theresa Johnson  
Ann Anderson  
Carry Dresen*

### *Given By:*

*Linda Wahlgren  
Diane Bartz  
Diane Bartz*

# **Mount Horeb American Legion Auxiliary Unit 113**

In honor of the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America, we—the **Mount Horeb American Legion Auxiliary Unit 113**— are proud to launch a community donation drive to support local veterans in need. Our goal is to **collect 250 essential items to donate to the Madison VA Homeless Program & Veteran’s with Newly Secured Housing**. With the support of our community, we hope to help meet the everyday needs of those who have served our country.

**Donation Drop-Off Dates:** Monday, May 25 through Thursday, July 4, 2026 Please see the list below for needed items, along with designated drop-off locations. Your generosity and support can make a meaningful difference in the lives of our veterans.

***Thank you for helping us give back to those who have given so much.***

## **Drop-Off Locations May 25 through July 4, 2026**

- Mount Horeb Family Pharmacy
- ***Mount Horeb Evangelical Lutheran Church***
- St Ignatius Catholic Church of Saint Michael the Archangel Parish
- Holy Redeemer Catholic Church
- Mount Horeb Public Library

***Thank you for helping support our veterans in need. Your generosity makes a meaningful difference in our community.***

# Veteran's Donation Needs List

## Clothes

- Winter hats

## Hygiene Items *(travel sizes preferred)*

- Deodorant
- Hand sanitizer
- Lip balm
- Toothpaste *(no toothbrushes needed)*
- Facial tissue
- Nail care *(clippers, files)*
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Adult diapers

## Miscellaneous Items

- Hand warmers

## For HUD-VASH

### *(Veterans who have Newly Secured Housing)*

- Bedding / blankets / pillows
- Air mattresses with pumps
- Laundry supplies *(detergent, laundry baskets)*
- Kitchen cleaning supplies *(dish soap, sponges)*
- Brooms and dustpans
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Shower curtains and rings
- All-purpose cleaning supplies
- Trash bags
- Dishwasher pods/detergent
- Phone chargers *(wall plugs or portable battery packs)*
- Wall and pocket calendars
- Watches *(with date and day of the week)*

# HONORING OUR VETERANS



*During the month of May we want to recognize our current active veterans and those of ELC who have honorably served our county.*

***THANK YOU for your service to our great nation and the sacrifices and commitment you make/made.***

The following are active duty military serving our country at this time:

***Kamryn Huseth  
Jack Lunaas***

***Andy Kellesvig  
Craig Mortvedt***

***Brynn Lunaas  
Grant Schult***

The following are veterans from our congregation who have served our country:

***Allan Bartz  
David Edwards  
Jeff Hook  
Larry Kaletka  
Scott Klassey  
James Larson  
Robert Schiefelbein  
Marc Stamm  
Irvin Steinhauer  
Delbert Warner***

***David Baumgartner  
David Flom  
John Huseth  
Paul Kellesvig  
Wayne Knudson  
Brandon Lutz  
Jacob Slaney  
Kaleb Stapelmann  
Jim Uptegraw  
Jacob Warner***

***Daniel Edwards  
Chris Hook  
Richard S Johnson  
Kendall Kittleson  
Ken Landen  
Jim Mavis  
Gerald Stamm  
Steve Stensby  
John Van Ooyen***

***Our Veterans will be honored in our church services on  
5-30-2026 (Saturday) and 5-31-2026 (Sunday).***

# *Worship With the Choir*

*Sunday, May 17th at 9am*

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF  
MOUNT HOREB



MOUNT HOREB

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

# 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 on **May 6th**.

**CHURCH COUNCIL** will meet on **Monday, May 11th at 6 pm** in the Matthew room.

**ELC SEWING GROUP** meets Thursday morning from 9am to Noon. **Special need:** We use light colored threads for sewing the inner layer so that the thread doesn't show through. If you have partial spools left over from a project and you have no further need, we would gladly accept donations. All pale colors are useful to us.

**BABY CAP MAKERS** will meet **Tuesday, May 5 and 19th, 9:30am** either outside on the east benches or the Faith Room. We'll take a break for the summer and resume our meetings in late August.  
[ruthheinecke@gmail.com](mailto:ruthheinecke@gmail.com) or 608-444-4949.

**MOUNT HOREB FARMER'S MARKET** Thursdays starting May 7th, 3-6:30 pm on the ELC front lawn.

**REBECCA CIRCLE** will meet in the church parking lot at **11:15 on May 19<sup>th</sup>** to travel to North/South in Verona for lunch.

**SARAH CIRCLE** will meet on **Tues, May 19th at 7 pm** in the Matthew Room. We will do the Bible Study from the March/April/May issue of "Gather" magazine. We are on session 3 of this study. 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](mailto:curranconnie@hotmail.com)

## JOIN US TO HONOR OUR SEASONED SAINTS

For about 25 years ELC has honored the ladies in the congregation who are reaching the age of 80 years during that year. Our Seasoned Saints have been role models for younger women at church. They have held offices on Church Council, taught Sunday School, served many, many meals, assisted with church services, sung in choir, served on various committees, and on and on. It is a privilege to honor these ladies on Saturday morning, May 2, at 9:30 with a light breakfast in Fellowship Hall. Please join us by calling the church office today to make your reservation, 608-437-5012.

**T-SHIRTS NEEDED:** We are recycling t-shirts, **adult size Large or larger**, and sewing them into diapers for our Baby Kits. Please drop them in the bin in the Narthex. Thank you for donating.

# MEMBERSHIP NEWS Cont.

## CALLING FOR HELP FROM ALL BAKERS!

Our donuts cost approximately \$200.00 a month. This past week's donations came to \$10.00. We need to curb our spending.

We need a batch or two of cookies or breads, label the contents on a freezer zip lock bag with the date and put them in the church freezer. Some treats can be gluten free; I suggest NO NUTS to avoid allergies.

**Beginning May 24<sup>th</sup>** until Sunday School starts in the Fall, let's do treats the old-fashioned way and provide them for coffee time before and after church. This is an important fellowship time, and we want to continue the tradition without the high cost. (Council will reassess this process late Summer and hopefully we can continue this new tradition!)

Council will care for plating the goodies on Sunday morning. Those that do not bake but want to participate, please purchase baked goods and put them in a freezer zip lock bag, mark what they are with the date and put them in the freezer.

The donation container will remain out for donations to help offset the cost of the coffee and rental of the urns. **THANK YOU for your help!** Any questions, contact Dianne Hirsch, Council President, [dehirsch60@gmail.com](mailto:dehirsch60@gmail.com)



## Blood Drive Results *Next drives: 6/19, 8/28, 11/27*

Donors Check in	67
Total Blood Products	68
Red blood units	52
Power red units	16
First time donor	1

Allow me to personally thank you for your service. Your blood drive means more life, more love, more memories for the most vulnerable patients in our community—those suffering unexpected trauma and chronic illness every day. It was a pleasure to partner with you and we're so happy to have you in our American Red Cross family.

Since donation is the only source of lifesaving blood for patients, we hope you'll enjoy the pride of your efforts and join us again. The need for blood is ongoing and we can't sustain patients in need without partners like you.

Thank you for all that you put into making your blood drive a success!

**Diane Nichols - American Red Cross Blood Services**



Nancy will be on vacation  
Thursday, May 7th through Friday, May 15th  
e-mails & phones will be monitored

*Church Office CLOSED Memorial Day-Monday May 25th  
Summer Hours Begin Tuesday, May 26th.  
9-Noon \*Monday-Friday*

**STEEPLE ECHOES ARTICLES DUE BY Noon on Thursday, May 21st**  
for the June issue of the newsletter.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** on Tuesday, May 26th at 9am to assemble the newsletter. *Newcomers are welcome.* The assembly process usually takes about 2 hours. Please, come and enjoy the fellowship!



### **CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES - Time to reorder for 2027**

We have 104 leftover packets from last year and currently have 116 families who are on the list for envelopes which leaves us 12 packets short. Are there 12 families that don't need contribution envelopes (you donate online or do a transfer funds directly to the church) that is willing to give up your yearly envelopes?

We'd re-label the 2026 left overs for 2027? Most cost effect approach for this coming year. (In the past an order of 200 envelopes is \$570.00). Please let Nancy Voss know if you're willing to give up receiving contribution envelopes.

Thanks, Dianne Hirsch, Council President



**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.

**VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO SEND EMAILS** - We are very thankful for Athena Eggers dedication of helping to send out our weekly church emails on Fridays. We are looking for someone to give Athena a break beginning in September and for most of the next school year. It is a great way to know what is going on at ELC. Contact Nancy or Brenda, if you are interested.



# REMEMBERING OUR HEAVENLY FATHER

Father's Day is a time to thank our father and father-figures who work hard to keep our families safe and loved. Let us also remember God, our heavenly Father, who gives life to us all.

Use the grid to fill out the blanks below. To find the letter for each number, look down the column to the dot, and the go to the left to the letter. Write the letter on the appropriate blank.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
A						.														
B									.											
C											.									
D							.													
E																		.		
F								.												
G										.										
H	.																			
I												.								
J													.							
K																				
L														.						
M																				
N																		.		
O															.				.	
P																				
Q																				
R					.															
S																				.
T			.																	
U				.																
V	.																			
W																.				

16 1 6 3 10 5 17 6 3 14 15 2 17 3 1 17 8 6 3

1 17 5 1 6 20 14 6 2 13 20 1 17 7 15 18 4 20

3 1 6 3 16 17 20 1 15 4 14 7 9 17

11 1 13 14 17 7 11 1 13 14 7 5 17 18 15 8 10 15 7

1 John 3:1, NIV

# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SCHEDULE

	MAY 2ND & 3RD	MAY 9TH & 10TH	MAY 16TH & 17TH	MAY 23RD & 24TH	MAY 30TH & 31ST
ACOLYTES	<b>Sunday</b> Chelsea Sailor Evelynn Eggers	<b>Sunday</b> Leah Zelle Natalie Hogseth	<b>Sunday</b> Hudson Kahl Oliver Kahl	<b>Sunday</b> John Henry Lee Hannah Schulenberg	<b>Sunday</b> Taylor Symons Ellie Woolard
COMM ASSIST	<b>Sunday</b> Kim Kelliher Diane Bartz Linda Wahlgren	<b>No Communion</b>	<b>Sunday</b> <b>Available</b> <b>Available</b> <b>Available</b>	<b>No Communion</b>	<b>No Communion</b>
READERS	<b>Saturday</b> Ann Baumgartner  <b>Sunday</b> Chris Laabs	<b>Saturday</b> <b>Available</b>  <b>Sunday</b> Diane Bartz	<b>Saturday</b> Paul Heinecke  <b>Sunday</b> Jim Cook	<b>Saturday</b> <b>No Service</b>  <b>Sunday</b> Debby Schneider	<b>Saturday</b> Ann Baumgartner  <b>Sunday</b> Ben Brothers
USHERS	<b>Sunday</b> John Rosenbaum Matt Anderson	<b>Sunday</b> Mary & Wayne Knudson	<b>Sunday</b> Doug Nesheim Gerald Stamm	<b>Sunday</b> John & Carol Nielsen	<b>Sunday</b> Betsy Baguhn Jody Morey
ALTAR GUILD	<b>May</b> -Cathie Field, Sara Hellenbrand, Laura Miller, Sharon Schiefelbein, Amy Kellesvig				
CNCL DUTIES	<b>May</b> -Carl Sieg				



**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.

# MAY Birthdays

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

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