

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.

JUNE 2026

SOLSTICE HOUSE
peer respite

JUNE BENEVOLENCE
2026

reimagining
mental health
together.

SOAR
supporting opportunities
for advocacy
& resilience

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; you are seen. Your story and your life are valuable.

In Christ's love, we welcome, support, and love all children of God.



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...

“Am I a LIVING Christian message?” Do you ever ask yourself this question? I do—almost every day. I know how important (and impactful)—positively or negatively—our words *and* actions are in our Christian witness. I know, too, that our actions often speak even louder than our words. And *if* our actions—our ways of being in this world — don’t match up with our words—what we profess to believe—it is likely our actions—our ways of being—that will be remembered.

“Do to others as you would have them do to you,” Jesus says in Luke 6:31. It is commonly referred to as the Golden Rule—the rule to live by. But do we?

“In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.” Jesus tells us in Matthew 7:12. And in John, he says it this way: *“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another”* (John 13:34-35).

Simply put: We love because God in Christ first loved us... and we are to love others as we are loved. Sounds simple enough, right? But it is so very difficult to live out... day by day.

If you wonder how well you’re living out this core “command” (NOT “suggestion”) of Jesus (or the Golden Rule), take some time at the end of any given day— especially your not-so-good days—and think about how you responded to and/or treated each person you encountered: those you worked with... those you passed on the road... the people you saw at the store... each person you talked with on the phone or emailed or texted... those you read about in the paper or on social media... those you saw on the news... and, of course, those closest to you who you live with. [Pay attention to your thoughts and feelings as well, for our *actions* flow out of these...]

How did you do in living out Jesus’ command / the Golden Rule?

--Did you judge anyone negatively or harshly?

--Did you ignore or avoid anyone?

--Did you feel “better than” or superior to anyone?

--Did you feel envy or anger toward anyone... or wish anyone ill?

There are some who say that it is in our nature to do good to others... But, in truth, most people only help or do “good” to others when it is convenient... when it’s a friend or family member... when they are in a good mood... when they can expect something in return...

There is a song we used to sing at Bible camp that has always stuck with me: Mrs. Philips’ Prayer.

It was early one morning in a small western town, the church was near empty, but it didn’t get us down. We asked Mr. Philips to lead us in prayer, the words that she said hit me dead in my chair. She said...

Chorus: Our life is a Bible for some folks to see; I wonder just what they are reading in me. Are they reading God’s mercy and love in my life? Are they reading pain, jealousy, envy, and strife? I wonder just what they are reading in me.

Well, I never quite looked at my life in that way. Our life tells a story every day. When we’re living in darkness, it shows on our face. We call ourselves Christians and bring Jesus disgrace. Because... [Chorus]

But when we’re living in the light, we shine like a neon sign—they see the truth in us... they know we’re not lying. When we’re living with the joy that’s been placed in our souls, we have a piece of life that will never grow old. Because... [Chorus]

Our lives—how we live them, day in and day out... on our good days and our not-so-good days—may be the only Bible some people will ever “read.” What are they “reading” in us?

Our response to God’s love and grace should be to extend it others... every day—and not just to those we like or agree with. It really does come down to the Golden Rule: “*Do to others as you would have them do to you.*” We are to treat others—EVERY person we see / encounter—like we would like to be treated; even more, we are to treat others as God has treated us.

May we strive to love as God loves us... to offer grace like the grace God extends to us – every day.

May we strive to LIVE the Christian message—the gospel of love for ALL. As Jesus said, “*By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*”

In Christian love, Pastor Karen

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

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/vbselecmthoreb>



DAY CAMP - (1pm-5 pm) 1st - 5th 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)

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!



THANK YOU - Thank you to everyone who supported our Brats in the Lot at Millers in May. We appreciate everyone's continued support of our youth, who will travel on the mission trip to Kansas City, MO in July.



**GIVE/LOVE/SERVE
(Local Service Days) -
June 17th, July 8th, August 12th
(Morning /afternoon activities)**

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

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS Cont.

GIVE/LOVE/SERVE Cont.

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. More information on the site about our specific activities.

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

Brenda Martin, Youth Ministries Director

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

OUR GRADUATING STUDENTS

MT HOREB HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS: Congratulations to the following seniors, who are graduating this year. Wishing you many blessings ahead.

High School Seniors:

Hayden Anderson - Hayden plans to attend University of St. Thomas in Minnesota to study business and play football.

Bella Cross - Bella will be attending Edgewood University in the fall for nursing school.

Brecken Dudley - Brecken plans to attend UW-La Crosse in the fall to study business.

Kyle Frischmann - Kyle is attending UW Madison to major in environmental engineering.

Max Grundahl - Max is attending Iowa State in the fall to study mechanical engineering.

Maddie Hadac - Maddie plans to attend Edgewood University and major in Political Science (pre-law track).

Kaylen Hastings - Kaylen will be attending UW-Stevens Point and majoring in biochemistry.

Noah High - Noah will be attending UW-Whitewater in the fall.

Mason Hurda - Mason plans to attend Iowa State University for Mechanical Engineering in the fall.

Weston Kahl - Weston will be going into a trades internship.

Leah Kellesvig - Leah is attending UW Milwaukee in the fall, planning to study environmental science.

Alex Mortvedt - Alex will be attending Fort Lewis College in Durango CO for Sports Physiology. He will also be racing with their cycling team.

Kamron Nesheim - Kam will be attending Edgewood College and majoring in Business and Sports Administration.

Jackson Rameker - Jackson will be attending UW La Crosse. He'll be majoring in Clinical Laboratory Science, participating in track, and will continue with his music.

Sophia Sadler - Sophie plans to go to University of Washington Seattle to major in Education and History. She will minor in American Sign Language, Disability Studies, and Dance.

Ethan Sutter - He will be going on to further his education.

Brittany Walton - She plans to attend UW Steven's Point and study Interior Architectural Design.

OUR GRADUATING STUDENTS Cont.

COLLEGE GRADUATES: Congratulations to the following college graduates. Wishing you many blessings in your future endeavors.

Nathan Albrecht - Bachelor of Design in Architecture, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

Delaney Mertz - Bachelor of Landscape Architecture, Food systems and sustainability, University of Georgia.

Xander Strube - Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film and Video Production, UW Milwaukee.

Rheanna Thompson - Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.



Agape
Christian Preschool

Greetings from Agape!

As the June issue reaches you, our school year will be wrapping up. We had a wonderful school year filled with many days of fun, excitement, and adventure!

The 3K end-of-year family celebration took place on Tuesday, May 26, and the 4K celebration will be held on Monday, June 8. As we celebrate with students and families, we will also enjoy ice cream together. Each student will receive a Scholastic book to read over the summer.

On May 16, the teaching team hosted Brats in the Lot at Miller & Sons Supermarket and raised more than \$1,500 for the preschool. Thank you to everyone who stopped by to support us!

We will again offer summer camp opportunities this summer on the following dates:

Wednesday, July 15 - Summer Fun

Tuesday, August 4, Wednesday, August 5 & Thursday, August 6 -
Preschool Readiness Camps

Please reach out if you are interested in enrolling a child for one or more of the camps.

Thank you to everyone who supports the ACP ministry—whether by serving on the board, teaching, bookkeeping, giving financially, or sharing the word about Agape Christian Preschool. Your support makes a difference, and we could not do this without you.

Wishing everyone a wonderful summer,

Amy Kellesvig -Agape Director

TREASURER'S REPORT

BALANCE SHEET			
	4/30/2026	3/31/2026	12/31/2025
General Fund	729	12,321	31,761
Building Capital Fund	24,783	23,799	20,564
Designated Funds	134,415	130,975	128,529
Mortgage	(70,499)	(70,971)	(72,288)
TOTAL	89,428	96,124	108,566
INCOME STATEMENT		April 2026	2026 YTD
General Fund Income		25,285	111,038
General Fund Expenses			
Mission and Outreach		1,692	7,434
Personnel		24,073	88,709
Congregational Life		2,135	9,173
Facilities and Administration		8,977	36,755
Total General Fund Expenses		36,877	142,071
Net General Fund Gain (Loss)		(11,592)	(31,033)
Other Income			
Building Capital Fund		984	8,851
Designated Funds		4,446	17,263
Mortgage		472	1,789
Total Other Income		5,902	27,903
Other Expenses			
Building Capital Fund		0	4,632
Designated Funds		1,006	11,377
Total Other Expenses		1,006	16,009
Net Gain (Loss) from Other Expenses		4,896	11,894
NET GAIN (LOSS)		(6,696)	(19,139)

TREASURER'S REPORT Cont.

At the end of April, the general fund balance had dropped to only \$729. Income of \$25,285 was set against expenses of \$36,877, resulting in a loss of \$11,592. At the beginning of May we transferred \$10,000 from the designated fund reserves, to maintain a cushion against ongoing expenses. That transfer is not reflected in the April balance sheet or income statement presented here.

Four months into the year, income continues to run under expectations, and under the commitments we made when approving the budget at the annual meeting last year. Please prayerfully consider what you can do to help out. As we enter the summer months, I want to call attention to two different aspects of giving: both the amount and the timing are important. Paychecks and utilities need to be paid in the summer as well. Setting up recurring donations via our online giving portal is a great way to ensure regular cash flow during a busy time of year.

BUDGET TRACKING	2026	2026 vs Budget	2026 vs 2025
General Fund Income	111,038	(21,564)	(6,808)
General Fund Expenses			
Mission and Outreach	7,434	(867)	(1,351)
Personnel	88,709	496	1,657
Congregational Life	9,173	(227)	1,906
Facilities and Administration	36,755	8,822	1,324
Total General Fund Expenses	142,071	8,224	3,536

On a more positive note, we continue to make progress paying down our mortgage, whose balance is now down to \$70,499. We received \$1,709 in donations to the mortgage fund from which we make our monthly payments; and we received \$984 for the building fund.

Benevolence in April raised \$709 for RIC, and \$79 for Divine Savior. We also received \$852 for Neighbors Helping Neighbors, \$938 for youth, and \$50 for landscaping. Designated fund expenses were \$884 for the mortgage, \$86 for Compassion International, and \$35 for music.

Respectfully submitted by Ben Brothers, May 7, 2026.

BENEVOLENCE

Meet Solstice House: Compassionate peer support in times of crisis

When someone is experiencing emotional distress or a mental health crisis, the choices can often feel painfully limited: Struggle alone, wait until things spiral further, or enter an institutional setting that may feel overwhelming or impersonal.

That's why our June Benevolence mission, Solstice House of Madison, offers something both simple and deeply meaningful — a safe place to be heard, supported and cared for.

Operated through SOAR Case Management Services, Solstice House is a peer-run respite home that provides short-term, voluntary support for adults experiencing emotional or mental health challenges. Unlike a hospital or clinical facility, Solstice House is intentionally home-like, peaceful and centered on human connection. Guests can stay for several days in a supportive environment where they are treated not as problems to solve, but as people worthy of dignity, understanding and compassion.

One of the most unique aspects of Solstice House is its peer-support model. Staff members are people with lived experience navigating mental health struggles, crisis, recovery or substance use challenges. That shared understanding creates a different kind of care — one rooted not in authority or diagnosis, but in empathy, listening and trust.

Solstice House also operates a 24/7 “warmline,” offering compassionate peer support for individuals who may be feeling isolated, overwhelmed, anxious or simply in need of someone to talk to. In a time when loneliness and emotional distress affect so many people in our communities, that kind of accessible, nonjudgmental support can make an enormous difference.

As a congregation, we are called to create spaces of refuge, hope and belonging. Solstice House embodies those values in powerful ways by offering sanctuary, understanding and care to neighbors during some of life's most difficult moments.

This June, we invite you to support Solstice House through our Benevolence mission and help extend compassion, dignity and hope to members of our broader community.

BENEVOLENCE Cont.

To learn more, visit soarmadison.org.

The website features many in-kind donations needed by Solstice House visitors, including household items, games, books, toiletries and art supplies.

You can contribute financially by:

- **Mail:** Send a check to ELC and note “Benevolence” in the memo.
- **Online:** Visit the ELC website and click “Give”.
- **Digitally:** Download the “GivePlus Church” mobile app, or text “Benevolence” to 608-400-0183 with the amount you wish to give.

On behalf of Benevolence,

Adam Mertz

adammerz2@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 \$787.99

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

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

COUNCIL

With the school year coming to a close and the summer season kicking off, I wanted to update on the recent happenings with your church council in May.

Members of the Transition Team joined the May council meeting and provided an update and discussion on the Transitions Teams progress. As you heard in their update to the congregation earlier in May, they have been doing great work in gathering information and perspective from the members of our congregation. The work they are doing will prove invaluable as the ELC moves into our next chapter. We appreciate all they are doing!

As the revisions to the church constitution wraps up, a date for a Special Congregational meeting to approve the Constitution was set for Sunday August 23rd after the service. The Call Committee will also be approved at this time.

Recently a small group met with the ELC's insurance provider (Church Mutual) to review current policies, coverages, and pricing. The ELC's coverages extend to Agape as well and have specific requirements per the Mt Horeb School District. A few changes were recommended to the policy coverages that we will be getting pricing for and bringing to council for discussion and approval. Insurance pricing continues to increase as the latest annual premiums exceed \$18,000 annually.

Speaking of \$\$\$, hopefully you saw the "asks" in the bulletins, newsletter, Treasurer's Report, and/or the announcements in church from the Budget & Finance committee regarding the cash flow challenges we are facing. Actual giving has not kept up with budgeted giving to cover our actual expenses..... which presents a cash flow issue. As we approach the summer months and attendance historically drops by ~35-40%, that has a direct effect on giving as well as "timing of giving". Much of the historical giving is received in the non-summer months, however, our expenses are for the most part consistent seasonally. Please consider reoccurring automatic giving.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please mark your calendars. Council has set a date for **Sunday, August 23, 2026**, following worship to approve the revised Constitution and approve the Call Committee.

We NEED two volunteers for the “alternate” position of the Call Committee. Please consider this vital role. If able to volunteer, please contact dehirsch60@gmail.com. Current volunteers are Jeff Hook, Adam Mertz, Sarah Sieg, Vicky Rosenbaum, Amy Kellesvig, Serena Vondra, Gary Hastings, Chris Coffin and Cheryl Schlessner. We predict the Call Committee to start meeting early September.

We'll make 10 – 12 copies of the Constitution. We'll put 2 or 3 copies of the Constitution in a binder in the Narthex for members to look through (NOT take home). We'll schedule a Saturday evening and a couple Sunday morning after service “forums” to go over the changes. We'll use the screens to avoid making a bunch of copies. (Trying to keep our expenses down.) We'll get you the dates of the forums once we have them figured out. This notice is to keep you informed of our progress, more information to follow! Thank You.

SYNOD ASSEMBLY ATTENDEE REFLECTIONS

Johnnie Denton

About 350 people filed through the doors of Woodman's Conference Center in Janesville on the afternoon of May 15th. There Pastor Karen and others working hard at the registration tables gave us each a folder and a nametag designated “voting member” or “visitor.” Once checked in, we entered the huge conference room where we voting members would be taking care of the annual business of our synod, which is comprised of 133 congregations! As pastors and lay persons filled the room with smiles, handshakes, and hugs, the place began to resemble a gigantic family reunion. Although a relatively new Lutheran, I thought, “This is my Lutheran family!” (I was a lifelong Methodist before moving to Mt. Horeb.) Thank you for allowing me to represent our church, along with Pastor Karen, Barb Diane Bartz, Jim Mavis, and Cecelia Hook!

Here are a few of my favorite things about the assembly.

the theme: in a word, “forward,” along with the scripture, Joshua 1:9 “Have I not commanded you to be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

SYNOD ASSEMBLY ATTENDEE REFLECTIONS

the fellowship: Putting upwards of 350 clergy, lay persons, synod council members, visitors, musicians, audio-visual technicians, and food service providers into one place made for good conversation and connections!

the worship service: After dinner on Friday, I saw the ecumenical posture of the synod council who invited a United Methodist Bishop, Dan Schwerin, to give the sermon.

voting: This is a year which comes every six, when we elect the bishop for the next six years. The election process was quite exciting and very different, with 4 ballots (rounds of voting) over the two days. Our current bishop, Joy Mortensen-Wiebe, was re-elected.

passing a resolution: We resolved within the synod to commit to active participation in the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Decade of Climate Justice Action, utilizing information and resources on the Decade of Climate Action website, including the "Six Pathways Implementation Approach." *Bishop Joy is keen to take action on this!*

Cecilia Hook

For years, having existed in the world of the ELCA, I have heard of these elusive synod assemblies. Sometimes these synod assemblies have felt cloaked in mystery. What even does a voting member do? What does one need to prepare for being a voting member? Is it hard? This year, for the first time, I went to the ELCA Wisconsin South Central Synod Assembly, and pretty quickly it became apparent that being a voting member at the Synod Assembly is not as cloaked in mystery as I may have previously believed. The prep work I did for the assembly included reading the assembly book, which I did in one evening, and considering the voting choices I would want to make at the assembly.

Things we voted on and had the option to voice our opinions on included a caring for creation resolution with commitments to taking care of and respecting the earth we exist on, the election of a Bishop for our synod, and the filling of other synod council positions. Discussion and voting rules were clearly laid out both in the assembly book and throughout the weekend. I found it pleasantly easy to follow, even being new to representing our church. Beyond the voting procedures, our weekend agenda included: shared worship, devotions, updates from our Synod and

SYNOD ASSEMBLY ATTENDEE REFLECTIONS

Cecilia Cont.

across the ELCA, and of course, we were kept well fed with a few meals and snack breaks. It was nice to connect further with members from our church and churches in the area. For me, being someone who has spent time working at a Lutheran Outdoor Ministry summer camp, I found I actually knew quite a few people also in attendance, but even if I had known no one, this experience would have been a good one.

Jim Mavis

As a member of ELCA Lutheran Church of Mount Horeb I attended the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin 2026 Synod Assembly as a voting member Friday evening 15 May and all-day 16 May.

At the assembly meetings, I was able to enjoy friendships with those with me from our church and others from different congregations. I enjoyed the election process for officers. I got a greater sense of what it was like to be a Christian and more specifically, a Lutheran.

In addition, I had the opportunity to spend some valuable time with the Counseling Center of Southern Wisconsin staff people. I am into mindfulness and caring for mind, body and spirit. I strongly believe in counseling for wellness. The center provides services for rostered leaders and spouses in our synod. They provide trained help for individuals, couples and families.

I also enjoyed the various accomplished speakers. I was impressed with their sense of compassion, vision and their sense of humor. I now have more new ideas to think about and put into action.

This is one time I truly enjoyed doing something important for our church. What we experience in worship must be practiced in our daily lives as we thoughtfully deal with all kinds of others. We need to get past ourselves and enjoy the moment and the others in it.

PRAYER list

PLEASE PRAY FOR Kelli O'Connell, 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, P.R

MEMORIALS

Given For:

Given By:

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)*

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

School will be out for the summer soon. Fond memories of fun in the sun share space with memories of Back-to-School sales. Summer is the best time to stock up on school supplies for the Lutheran World Relief school kits. Big chain stores like Staples and Target often carry supplies at very special prices but with limits on how many one person can buy so many shoppers are an asset to the project. Each School Kit requires (new items please):

- 4] spiral notebooks (70 pages) *We have a supply of 250 bags, ready to fill.*
- 1] box crayons (16 or 24)
- 5] Unsharpened pencils *Watch for collection bins in the Narthex in July.*
- 5] ballpoint pens, blue or black ink
- 1] 30 cm ruler
- 1] blunt tip scissors
- 1] 2.5-inch eraser
- 1] pencil sharpener

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, June 8th 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. We'll take a break for the summer and resume our meetings in late August. ruthheinecke@gmail.com or 608-444-4949.

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

MEMBERSHIP NEWS Cont.

SARAH CIRCLE will enjoy a dinner outing together at Hi Point Steak House on **Wednesday, June 23rd at 5 pm.** Please **RSVP to Karen Erickson (608 228-2529) by June 20th** if you plan to come. As you reserve, also indicate if you want to carpool from church at 4:30. Include your name if you text.

We will assist with assembling Baby Kits for Lutheran World Relief on **Wednesday, August 12th at 9:30 am.**

There is no scheduled Bible study meeting for June, July or August. We plan to be back in session for monthly third **Tuesday meetings on September 15th at 7 pm.** Watch the next newsletter and your emails for other summer outings."-Connie



**Mount Horeb Community
Blood Drive
Evangelical Lutheran Church
315 East Main**

**Friday, June 19, 2026
12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

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

Only the front door will be open

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

Come to give blood 6/19/26 for a \$100 gift card +
chance to win a \$75K prize! See rcblood.org/June.

Give Blood.

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

© 2025 The American National Red Cross 01/1911-8 CW

1/4/25 10:00 AM W111 02/18/25 09:44:11 4258 264/14.0 0 06/11/2025

MEMBERSHIP NEWS Cont.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS
FREE MEAL—BRING YOUR FAMILY,
FRIENDS, AND NEIGHBORS!

EVERY
THIRD OF
THE
TUESDAY
MONTH

MOUNT HOREB
COMMUNITY CENTER

5:30 TO
8:30 PM



107 N. GROVE ST
UPPER LEVEL

3RD TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

AREA CHURCHES AND OTHER LOCAL
ORGANIZATIONS ARE INVITED TO
SPONSOR A MEAL



MHCOMMUNITYSUPPER@GMAIL.COM

It's that time again.

ELC has the month of June for the community supper and has hosted several times. If you are interested in attending, please see below. This year will feature dine-in as well as call ahead take-out. We will need servers, cooks/chefs and take-out personnel. We are still working out details, but the plan is to serve about 100 meals. If you would like to help in the cause, please contact the church office and we will be in touch. - Bruce Meister

Community Supper

ELC will be assisting with the June Mount Horeb community supper.

Mount Horeb Community Center

June 16: 5:15 – 6:15

107 North Grove Street Mount Horeb

We need several volunteers. Contact the church office if interested.



*Summer Hours.
9-Noon-Monday-Friday*

STEEPLE ECHOES ARTICLES DUE BY Noon on Thursday, June 18th
for the JULY/AUGUST issue of the newsletter.

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



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 then 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
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1 John 3:1, NIV



2026

Summer Camp Scholarship Application

With summer in the not-too-distant future, we hope that all ELC youth who would like to attend summer camp have or soon will register with the camp of their choice. ELC is designating a \$300 campership to each registered camper.

Complete the form below for each child or youth attending Bible camp and submit it to the church office by June 15th. The scholarships will be sent directly to the camp earmarked for each individual child.

Name: _____

Will be attending summer Bible camp this year from

_____ to _____ at the following camp:
(date) (date)

(Please check only one.)

Okoboji Bethel Horizons

Lutherdale Imago Dei

Outlaw Ranch Sugar Creek

Other _____

Parent's Name _____

Please fill out one form per child.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SCHEDULE

	JUNE 6th & 7th	JUNE 13th & 14th	JUNE 20th & 21st	JUNE 27th & 28th
ACOLYTES	Sunday Sarah Zelle Leah Aeschlimann	Sunday Logan Aeschlimann Colby Johanning	Sunday Brooklynn Kreul Scarlett Ploessl	Sunday Evelyn Rameker
COMM ASSIST	Sunday Kim Kelliher Diane Bartz Linda Wahlgren	No Communion	Sunday Available Available Available	No Communion
READERS	Saturday Available Sunday Amy Sinner	Saturday Kate Hook Sunday Diane Bartz	Saturday Ann Baumgartner Sunday Available	Saturday Bonny Kellogg Sunday Available
USHERS	Sunday John Rosenbaum Matt Anderson	Sunday Jim Cook Mary Gullickson- Krantz	Sunday Mary & Wayne Knudson	Sunday Doug Nesheim Gerald Stamm
ALTAR GUILD	June.-. Deb Dangerfield, Shannon Hadac, Judy Steinhauer, Joan Stensby, Jessica Powell			
CNCL DUTIES	June - Matt Anderson			



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.

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.





JUNE

Birthdays

1	Micah Sieg	11	Cathie Field	22	Joshua Green
	Wyatt Stamm		Marty Morin		Colin Larson
	Lauren Tetzlaff		Lisa Morin		Ellie Larson
			Wyatt Van Ooyen		Emma Van Orsdel
					Serena Vondra
3	Caleb Gaulke	12	Rick Field		Leni Lu Cresson
	Leah Mathe				Waylon Jules Cresson
	Becky Mostrom	13	Hanna Bickford		
	Paige Ramos		Terek Nesheim	23	Mike Schlicht
			Ann Peter		
5	Linda Luenser			24	Chris Hook
	Natalie Mullendore	14	Ty Albrecht		Louie Johanning
	Savannah Stehn		Sylvia Lokken		Ashley Van Galen
	Bobby Sutter				
	Alex Thompson	16	Christopher Kiel	25	Elizabeth Geiger
6	Aaron Fendrick	17	Olivia Parks	26	Betty Drape
	Gabriel Olson				Julia Magnuson
		18	Kim Guenther		
7	Kevin Ollendick		Morgan Krantz	27	Liam Brager
	Cheryl Wille- Schlessler		Dustin Hodgson		Delma Larson
			Emily McKay		Nick Meister
8	Rod Boettcher		Duane Miller		Sharon Schiefelbein
	Scott Stensby		Nickalas Monroe		Mae Syse
	Tia Vasen		Gene Spellman		
			Brandon Stamm	28	Melissa Hanson
9	Markus Edwards		Linda Stoenner		Charley Collins
	Connie Floan				
	Sara Hellenbrand	19	Charles Collins	29	Jaclyn Steel
	Char Smith		Teddiann Sadler		Richard Skogen
			Steve Samuelson		
10	Mason Hurda				
	Melanie Johnson	21	Noah Ollendick		
	Thomas Winkler		Jason Schrank		
			Emmelyn Skibba		

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



315 East Main St.
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

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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 E-mail: