



April 2025 Cross Beams



www.englishlutheranchurch.org

Our Vision: A Christ-centered, serving community.

Amira Kay
Melstrom Baptism
3/23/25



Bible Study - March 2025



Piety St. project work has begun.
Lots of activity by the church.



We appreciate pictures of church events. Please capture and share with: office@englishlutheranchurch.org Thank you!



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PASTOR PETE'S ARTICLE

APRIL FOOL'S!!

Back in 2018, Easter Sunday fell on April 1st, and I thought, "What a glorious time to be alive." I mean think about it, this could be such a fun Sunday for April Fool's Jokes!!!! Think about it, the disciples have just watched Jesus die on the cross a few days ago and on Sunday morning, when the women went to the grave to prepare the body for burial, guess what?! April Fool's! Jesus is NOT dead! He is Risen! Alleluia! And I could play a bunch of April Fool's pranks on people, and it would be awesome!

As I was planning for the Easter morning worship service, I read that the suggested passage was John 21:1-18 which is the story of Jesus appearing to the disciples a week after the resurrection. They were out fishing, and he told them to cast their nets on the other side, they caught a ton of fish and then sat by a charcoal fire and ate the fish. Jesus asked Peter three if he loved him and then told Peter, "Feed my Sheep."

I thought that this was an odd passage for Easter morning, but I went with it because it's a great story. I love the imagery of Jesus sitting by a campfire, roasting the fish for breakfast. We printed the bulletin, and I wrote a sermon for it.

The night before Easter morning, I thought, let's listen to a podcast to hear what they have to say, perhaps I need to tweak my sermon a bit. They were talking about Jesus appearing to Mary Magdalene in the garden and her calling him Rabbi and I was confused. That's not what the passage was about until I went and looked it up and turned out, the selected passage was John **20:1-18**. Whoops!! I was in the wrong chapter! I'm sure that Jesus was probably looking down and said, APRIL FOOL'S to ME!!!

Now, you may ask yourself, did Pastor Pete write a whole new sermon and print new bulletins? Nope, I just went with what we had printed because it was still a great April Fool's joke, even if I was the punchline.

It seems that God has a sense of humor and loves April Fool's Day just as much as I. Sometimes we are smart enough to know an April Fool's joke when we see it, but we are sometimes caught off guard and fall for it. In those moments when we are embarrassed because we thought that we were too smart for God, I think that he just sits back with a smirk on his face, because he knew all along what would happen. And I think that Easter might be the ultimate April Fool's joke on the devil because he thought that he had one. He thought that he had finally gotten the better of Jesus, but God knew. And on that Easter morning, when they went to the tomb, ready to prepare a body and found that it was empty, Jesus was standing there, saying, "April Fool's!" Jesus will die on that cross, but that won't be the end of it all!! Jesus will be standing there saying, "April Fool's! You can't get rid of me! I LOVE YOU!!!!!"

Peace, Pastor Pete

CHURCH NEWS



2025 EcoFaith Summit of the Upper Midwest: Earth's Cries, Earth's Call: Becoming Midwives of Hope for the Healing of Creation: Saturday, April 5, 9:30am - 5:00pm, First Lutheran Church in

Duluth and Online. The day includes impactful speakers, action-oriented engagement sessions, vibrant worship, inspiring art, table exhibits, and networking time to equip disciples in congregations, camps, campuses and communities to respond to God's call in the cries of Creation. To register and for more information including a carpool discount, free registration under age 30 and free childcare provided: ecofaithnetwork.org/ecofaith-summit-2025

WELCA Morning of Renewal Saturday, April 5, 2025



9 a.m. to Noon (Program, Lunch, and Craft Sale)
Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, 505 13th St. S.,
Hudson, WI

\$15.00 Admission Fee-Registration/Coffee 8:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.
They have decided on a Western theme for the event and invite everyone to come dressed in Western themed clothing (cowboy hats, bandanas, cowboy boots, etc.)



Synod Women's Organization of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

Morning of Renewal
St. Croix Valley Conference
Saturday, April 5, 2025
Mt. Zion Lutheran Church
505 13th Street South, Hudson, WI

\$15 Admission Fee (includes program and lunch)	8:30am - 9:15am Registration and Coffee	9:15am-11:30am ~ Event 11:30 ~ Lunch & Craft Sale (proceeds go to Eyes That See)
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Nikki (Powers) Ness, founder of Eyes That See
Nikki is a New Richmond native and NRHS graduate. She is the founder of **Eyes That See**, a non-profit organization located in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. They are committed to fighting poverty and injustice through community, education, and empowerment, specifically through helping women leave the sex industry. They provide safe housing, medical care, counseling, education, and vocational training, as well as a strong sense of community and belonging.



Mt. Zion has decided on a Western theme for the event (Round-up for Jesus) and would like to invite everyone who is interested to come dressed up in Western themed clothing (think cowboy hats, bandanas, cowboy boots, etc).

Mt. Zion is also partnering with **Turning Point** in River Falls and would appreciate any of the following "in-kind" donations: shampoo/conditioner, body wash/lotion and combs/brushes. Please bring the day of the event.



Relapse Prevention Group

A Recovery Meeting in the Ellsworth Area is held at English Lutheran Church on Thursday nights at 6:00 p.m.
Read and Discuss "Staying Sober".

FELLOWSHIP

Pastor Pete is cooking breakfast for the guys on Thursday mornings. They gather in the church kitchen at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast with a rotating menu, including fruit, coffee, and orange juice.



The suggested donation is \$5.00 to help cover the cost of food.

Join Us for Lenten Services!

Lenten Worship began on Ash Wednesday, **Wednesday, March 5th**. Worship Service is at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings during the Lenten Season.
Lenten Suppers are at 5:30 p.m.



April Services
Wednesday, April 2
Wednesday, April 9

Palm Sunday, April 13. Service at 9:00 a.m. with 10:00 a.m. brunch.
Maundy Thursday, April 17. Service at 6:30 p.m.
Good Friday, April 18. Service TBD. Watch for more info.
Easter Sunday, April 20. Two Services-One at 8:30 a.m. and the other at 10:00 a.m. with Fellowship at 9:30 a.m.

Voices of Praise-Pierce County Ecumenical Choir

2025 Concert Schedule

Sunday April 6 at 3pm	Sabylund Lutheran Church W11103 Cty Rd J, Stockholm, WI
7pm	Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church S105 Sabin Ave., Spring Valley, WI
Sunday April 13 at 3pm	Spirit of Grace 127 S 2nd St., River Falls, WI
7pm	St. John The Baptist Catholic Church 212 Church Rd., Plum City, WI
Sunday April 27 at 3pm	Rush River Lutheran Church N8623 Cty Rd Y, River Falls, WI
7pm	English Lutheran Church 229 Main St., Ellsworth, WI

Free Will Offering

(A portion of the proceeds will be donated to local charities.)
Refreshments following concert

(Find us on facebook at Pierce County Ecumenical Choir)

Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, April 9th at 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room at church.

We continue our study on Faithfulness-Faith Adventures: Peter and Cornelius

Hostess is Melba Smith

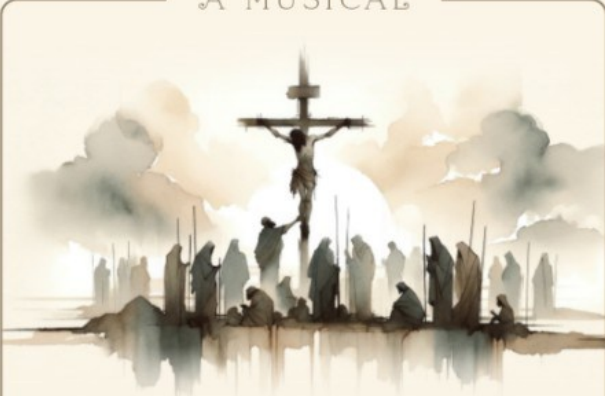
Please join us!



Spring Valley Stagehands Present

PASSION OF CHRIST

A MUSICAL



Adapted & Directed By
Luke Hayes

Music Used with Permission From Lorenz Corporation

Performance Dates
APRIL 3-5 & APRIL 10-12 at 7:30 PM
APRIL 6th & APRIL 13th at 2:00 PM

Tickets Available Online at
WWW.SVSTAGEHANDS.ORG

S234 McKay Ave, Spring Valley, WI 54767 • (751) 778-4475

Sharing Shed

Please remember English Lutheran's Sharing Shed for your extra or no longer needed new or gently used items. (Clothing and Household Items. No Furniture, please.)



Drop off your items directly in the Sharing Shed which is located just outside the south door of the church. Thank you!

Cheese Curd Festival

June 27 & 28, 2025



Please keep these dates in mind! Volunteering at the Cheese Curd Festival is a win-win! Not only are you contributing to an important community event, but a \$10 donation for each hour you work (plus a bonus, if applicable) also

goes back to the non-profit that you designate. We hope to have many of our members participate. It truly is a fun event! Watch for more information coming soon.

Heart-Helping Others- The Heart Story:



Founded in 2012, Heart Response Ministry began with a simple mission: to support local officials and organizations as they work in their communities during disaster recovery. Since then, HEART volunteers have started to focus not only on disaster recovery but on other real needs within our communities. By partnering with over 170 non-profit organizations, and city and county governments, police departments, and schools, HEART's goal is to build relationships with local organizations to meet the spiritual and physical needs of their communities. We transform communities by getting the right goods into the right hands to distribute to the people in need that our non-profit partners serve. Heartland Outlet serves as one of the primary funding mechanisms for HEART. The outlet is open to the public 20 hours a week and carries home improvement products, food, beverages, clothing, furniture, and so much more.

Heart-Helping Others Heart was created to help those in need. Through this organization, we can shop and bid on items at significantly discounted prices. Shopping appointments are arranged for us, and purchases go directly to those in need. We are partnering with the Ellsworth School District and Pierce County Human Services to identify families who would benefit most from this support. This is a valuable opportunity to stretch our resources and reach out to those in need. If you want to contribute to this initiative, please designate "Heart" on your donations, or contact Cindy Baird.

Heart committee members: Cindy Baird, Denise Hager, Melba Smith, and Diane Wiskerchen

Random Acts of Kindness

There are baskets located by the front and back doors of the church for nonperishable food items. All items collected will be donated to the Pierce County Food Pantry. They are in need of:

- Flour
- Sugar
- Jelly
- Peanut Butter
- Oatmeal
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Baked Beans
- Dry Soup Mix
- Cereal
- Canned: Fruits, Vegetables, & Meats
- Shampoo
- Dish Soap
- Laundry Soap



Thank you for your "kindness".

Adopt a Highway Clean-Up



Saturday, April 26

Meet at church at 9 a.m.

We look forward to seeing you!

ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

February 18, 2025

Members Present: Pastor Pete, Mark Groen, Paul Tonsager, Mike Harris, & Danielle Chollett

President Mark called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm

All read the mission statement

Pastor Pete gave the devotions

We read about the duties of the Congregation Council from the Constitution

Motion to approve the agenda by Paul, Danielle

Motion to approve the December minutes by Paul, Danielle

Reports:

Finance Committee -Report given by Paul and accepted, Mike, Danielle

We discussed why the income was down compared to last year. Last year we had some gifts that were intended for 2023 that didn't get deposited until January 2024

Certificates of Deposit were maturing so we voted to take the interest and put into the general fund and roll the two CDs (\$125,000 & \$25,000) over for another term (9 months). Interest was believed to be around \$5,300. MSC, Mike, Danielle

Pastor's Report-

Hasn't had a funeral for 3 weeks (knocks on the wooden table)

Recapped the Bishop's visit on Sunday

Spoke about monthly Pastors' Conference Meetings

Worship and Music- next meeting in February.

Property Committee-Mark-

Tasks that have been completed: Fellowship Hall floor was stripped and waxed, new LED lights have been installed in Pastor's Office & the landing going into the dungeon and there is a railing has been installed as well

Mark asked if we could buy some more LED lights to replace the florescent fixtures that are burning out. We have 12 that will need to be replaced soon. We checked the Property committee Fund, there are funds, but we did not decide

Discussed doing a capital appeal to add AC to the Senior Center and Fellowship Hall. The quote from Majeski was around \$10,500 to do the job. We will post something in the Newsletter, online, and in the bulletin

Children, Youth and Family- met on February 4th at 5:30.

Sunday School – going well, we will need a new teacher next year because Katie Groen will be unable to help us out next year

Kingdom Kids – Going gangbusters, over 40 kids signed up

VBS – Scheduled for June 16-19th in the afternoons. Luther Point will send counselors to lead the programming. English, Our Saviors, & Eidsvold/Svea Churches are partnering again, and we will invite the other churches to join us as well

Luther Point Bible Camp – we want to make a concerted effort to get kids to go to camp and we will make sure that money is not a barrier. Asking that each child pay \$50

Stewardship- Committee is working on the Hot Beef Dinner

Endowment – Met on February 5th and granted all the requests that were submitted

Old Business:

Hot Beef Dinner February 23rd

We are less than a week away and things are coming along nicely

Red Wing radio station will announce the dinner on the air

Suggested putting an ad on Facebook too

Pie Making for the Fair this year was talked about as there is more interest in our church in making all the pies for the Fair

New Business:

Building Use Requests

GROWW – wants to hold a meeting in the fellowship hall Request denied.

Pierce County Ecumenical Choir – would like to host a concert on Sunday, April 27th. Request granted. Pastor will contact them to see if they are still interested in using our facilities

Strategic Planning

It was asked if we have a Strategic Plan, we don't. Mike mentioned that he has experience with them and will meet with Pastor Pete to discuss how to create one. Motion passed to create strategic plan, Mike, Danielle

Thrivent Mutual Funds

Discussed updating the signers on the account. Currently it is Greta Larson and Gary Brown

Bible Studies & Small Groups

It was brought up that we used to have small groups that would gather for Bible Studies and that they felt that they missed them. Others have mentioned this to Pastor Pete as well. Pastor also expressed interest in offering more bible studies. This will be a topic of further exploration

Piety Street Project

Pastor attended a Pre-Construction meeting on Tuesday, February 11th

Construction is set to begin on Grant Street on April 7th, weather permitting

The goal is to begin work on Piety, starting by Main St. in early June

Contractors said that we will have access to our parking lot at night and on weekends

Closing the meeting:

All recited the Lord's Prayer

Mike and Paul made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 P.M. Next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, March 18th @ 6:30 P.M.

April 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8:30am Foot Care (Sr. Ctr.) 1:00pm Game Day (Sr. Ctr.)	2 3:30pm Kingdom Kids 5:30pm Lenten Supper 6:30pm Lenten Service 7:00pm Confirmation Lent Mentoring	3 8:00am Men's Breakfast 6:00pm Relapse Prevention Recovery	4 1:00pm Pool Players (Sr. Ctr.)	5 10:00am Health Fair at Svea Lutheran
6 9:00am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship	7 1:00pm Pool Players (Sr. Center)	8 11:00am Discovering Tuesdays (Sr. Ctr.) 6:30pm Church Finance Mtg.	9 9:30am Women's Bible Study 5:30pm Lenten Supper 6:30pm Lenten Service 7:00pm Confirmation Lent Mentoring	10 8:00am Men's Breakfast 1:00pm Euchre (Sr. Ctr.) 6:00pm Relapse Prevention Recovery	11 1:00pm Pool Players (Sr. Ctr.)	12
13 9:00am Worship 10:00am Palm Sunday Brunch	14 1:00pm Pool Players (Sr. Center)	15 9:00am Pastors' Conference Mtg. 6:30pm Church Council Mtg.	16 11:00am Wellness with CJ (Sr. Ctr.)	17 8:00am Men's Breakfast 6:00pm Relapse Prevention Recovery 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Service	18 Newsletter articles due 1:00pm Pool (Sr. Ctr.) 6:30pm Good Friday Service	19
20 8:30am Easter Sunday Worship 9:30am Fellowship 10:00 Easter Sunday Worship	21 1:00pm Pool Players (Sr. Center)	22 8:30am Foot Care (Sr. Ctr.) 9:00am PCPH Community Health Priority Meeting	23	24 1:00pm Euchre (Sr. Ctr.) 6:00pm Relapse Prevention Recovery	25 1:00pm Pool Players (Sr. Ctr.)	26 9:00am Adopt A Highway Clean-Up
27 9:00am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship 7:00pm Pierce County Ecumenical Choir	28 1:00pm Pool Players (Sr. Center)	29	30 1:30pm Celebrating Seniors (Sr. Ctr.) 6:00pm Confirmation			

EASTER MESSAGE FROM BISHOP MARTIN



I can still remember the pound of my heart to this day. It was Good Friday in the year 1995. I was working at Lutherdale Bible Camp as a year round staff and my task that day was to dismantle the several hundred foot zipline. It was a warm spring day, but I still experienced the wind that caused the tree that I was attached to to sway far more than I wanted it to. The tree itself was dying and thus it could no longer serve as the anchor of the zipline where the platform was. It was on that platform where youth and staff alike would find themselves transferring the rabbit ears attached to their harness to the zipline that would lead to the ensuing rush of emotions. As I stood on that platform, connected to a couple of tree staples with my own rabbit ears, I loosened the hardware that secured the zipline cable to the tree, bolt by bolt. It was quite a surreal experience.

As I loosened the final bolt, that cable released about a foot away from my face, causing my heart to beat in a way it has never beaten before or since. The sound haunted me for those few seconds as the cable fell to the ground about 40 feet below. Once I collected myself, all I could think about was how appropriate it was to watch the death of the zipline on Good Friday. That element was always the climax on the high ropes course. It was the final adventure for countless youth as they experienced the challenges of that course. Just step off the platform, trust, and fly!

I was saddened to see that zipline fall. But then I was overjoyed to see it rebuilt in a new and more secure location! It reminds me of that great Easter spiritual that states, "It's Friday, but Sunday's coming." It's the reminder that we call it Good Friday only because as Christian believers, we know that Easter is coming. Without Easter Sunday, Friday would have been even more devastating as it already was. Jesus' followers were lost, confused, and in deep sorrow. Those emotions resulted from the trauma that they were experiencing. But Easter reversed the pain of that trauma and turned it into a joyous chorus of "Alleluias" where we can now see God's almighty power being revealed! We can see how God has power over death itself and not just for Jesus. God's power to give life to all believers in all times and in all places through the death and resurrection of Jesus is what brings us joy, hope, comfort, and faith itself! God's power to renew our lives each and every day through the gift of forgiveness cannot be understated. God's desire to heal our broken relationship because of our sinfulness indicates the depth of that love, knowing that God so desperately desires to be with us forever.

That old zipline was a source of joy for so many people. But when contrasted with the joy we can experience daily, it simply pales in comparison. Friends, live into that joy of the resurrection. Remember the gift that Jesus embodies that is truly the greatest gift we've ever had - the gift of God's unconditional love. Despite the various losses that we grieve each year, some that appear to be quite unbearable at the time, remember the gift of Jesus. We are a resurrection church. We are a forgiven and forgiving people. And we bask in the glory of God's amazing grace.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Bishop Martin



Prayer requests:

Janet Arndt
Ben Bauer
Jerry Christiansen
Addison Closs
Linda During
Vern Ellefson
Tomi Erlandson
Vincent Figi
Julie Gore

Mikey Krohn
Lila Larson
Marianne Melstrom
Dean Mewes
Judy Morrow
Steve Pieczykolan
Sophia Sokolik
Elaine Wegerer

Military service prayers:

Josh Bechel
Jonathan Bergman
Kohl Flock

“God is our refuge and strength.”
— Psalm 46:1



Financial Update

February 28, 2025 Cash Balances
General Fund = \$108,879.48
Dedicated Fund = \$109,335.61
Total = \$218,215.09
Thrivent = \$109,050.38

February General Fund Balance
Income = \$16,960.78
Expenses = \$19,664.03

The next finance meeting: April 8 at 6:30 p.m.

Deaconess

The role of the Deaconess consists of sending thoughts, well wishes, and congratulations to members of our church to let them know we are thinking of them. Please notify the church office or any deaconess worker with prayer requests.

The Deaconess for April is Jeanette Wright.

Staff

Pastor Pete Warren
pastorpete@englishlutheranchurch.org
218-760-6974

Communications Coordinator: Julie Winger
office@englishlutheranchurch.org
Office: 715-273-4617

Finance Administrator & Accompanist: Ava Maxwell
finance@englishlutheranchurch.org

Music Director: Missy Kowalchyk
music@englishlutheranchurch.org

Custodian: Malerie Mathis



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Church website:
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Find us on Facebook!
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Office Hours

Our office hours are:
Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday
10:00 am to 3:00 pm

