



March 2025 Cross Beams



www.englishlutheranchurch.org

Our Vision: A Christ-centered, serving community.



Kingdom Kids - February



Kingdom Kids - February



Hot Beef Meal Pictures



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



Bishop Martin Halom Feb. 16, 2025



What's Inside:

- † Pastor's Article
- † Church News
- † Youth News
- † Financial Update
- † Council Minutes
- † Prayer List
- † Church Calendar
- † Children, Youth & Family News
- † Miscellaneous



PASTOR PETE'S ARTICLE

Siblings in Christ, the return of that time-honored tradition of Spring is about to return. No, I'm not talking about baseball, but it is great to have that going again. Nope, I'm not talking about March Madness, the end of Daylight Savings time, or the running of the smelt (I grew up in Ashland, on Lake Superior, where the smelt run was almost as popular as deer hunting season.) I am talking about the return of Lent!! Specifically, the Lenten Suppers and Worship Services. It is once again time to gather on Wednesday nights to break bread and worship together!!! I love this time of year because it gives me another chance to grow as a community in Christ.

This year, for the suppers, I would like to try something a little different. For the past couple of years, we have asked people to sign up to bring in soups that are made from home. This year, I am asking people to help make the food here at the church. I will gather the ingredients and then we can work together to prepare the food. You might notice that I'm not saying soup each time, that's because I want to give us the freedom to try different things. One week might be soups, the next week some hot dishes (yes, I call casseroles that because I lived in Minnesota for way too long), and who else knows what. Part of it will depend on the weather and our budget.

The way we will do this is that we will have signup sheets for cooks, servers/clean-up, and dessert makers. Keep your eye out on Sunday mornings for that clipboard to be passed around. The cooking will be done on Wednesday, and we will post the schedule for our "cooking classes." Times will vary depending on the menu. The biggest reason why I would like to try this is for food safety concerns. You won't need to worry about having to make soup and then figure out how to transport it to the church while making sure it maintains the proper temperature. Also, there is a community built by preparing food together and there is something wondrous about serving your neighbors with food and love.

After we have broken bread, we will go upstairs to the sanctuary for a Taizé worship service. It came out of Taizé, France, a city that has an ecumenical Christian monastic community. It is made up of Christians from different denominations and their worship services often include songs that have a simple phrase that is repeated in a simple melody. It is a way to help us focus on God as we pray. We often incorporate Taizé worship into the Prayers of the People on Sunday mornings. It is a peaceful and contemplative worship service, and we invite you to join us on Wednesday nights in Lent.

Now, when does all of this start? Ash Wednesday will be on Wednesday, March 5th and we will start with supper at 5:30 to 6:30 PM. Worship will begin at 6:30 PM and the service will probably be about 30 minutes. Please, come and join us for a time of food, fellowship, and faith on Wednesday nights this Lenten season.

Also, I invite you to find a spiritual practice for Lent. For some, it's adding in prayer or meditation, and for others, it's a time to give something up, to help you remember Christ and the sacrifice that he will make for us. It can be as simple or as complex as you like. I pray that the Lord blesses you on your Lenten Journey!

Peace, Pastor Pete

CHURCH NEWS

Graduate Quilting Group

The Graduate Quilting Group will meet at the church on Saturday, March 8 from 9 a.m. to Noon. They welcome you to join them!



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.)

Womans **WELCA** 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.



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 begins this year on **Wednesday, March 5th**. Worship Service will be at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings during the Lenten Season.

Lenten Suppers will be at 5:30 p.m.

March 5--Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 12

Wednesday, March 19

Wednesday, March 26

Wednesday, April 2

Wednesday, April 9

Palm Sunday, April 13. Service at 9:00 a.m. with 10:00 a.m. brunch.

Maunder 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.

Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, March 12th at 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room at church.

We continue our study on Faithfulness-The Depths of Faith, Psalm 22.

Hostess is Bev Greeley
Please join us!



Beautiful Floor

Thank you to those who helped with stripping and waxing the floor in our fellowship area. Look at the shine! When you get a chance to be in the church, make sure you stop down and check it out! We appreciate our volunteers! Thank you!

Relapse Prevention Group

A Recovery Meeting in the Ellsworth Area at English Lutheran Church on Thursday nights at 6:00 p.m.

Read and Discuss "Staying Sober"

2025 Church Council

Mark Groen, President
Mike Harris, Vice President
Paul Tonsager, Treasurer
Jill Hague, Secretary
Cindy Baird
Danielle Chollett
Eric Van Nocker



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



Sharing Shed



Please remember English Lutheran's Sharing Shed for your extra or no longer needed new or gently used items.

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

Souper Bowl Sunday

We want to thank you for the donations on Souper Bowl Sunday. Results: Kansas City Chiefs \$103.00. The Philadelphia Eagles \$80.00. Undecided \$20.00. Donations are going toward the Sharing and Caring Hands meal we will provide on March 31. Watch for the sign-up sheets in church.



Easter Plants



It is time to place orders for your choice of beautiful plants for Easter. We are thankful to Reuver's Nursery for the quality and variety of plants they offer to us for this beautiful season. Please see the sign-up sheets at the back of the church to get your orders placed. The deadline to get your orders in is **Monday, March 10th**.

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"

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay." -Matthew 28:5-6

ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

January 21, 2025

Members Present: Pastor Pete, Mark Groen, Paul Tonsager, Greta Larson, Lynette Winger, Denise Hager

President Greta called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

- All read the mission statement.
- Pastor Pete gave the devotions.
- Motion to approve the agenda by Lynette, Mark
- Motion to approve the December minutes by Paul, Mark

Reports:

- Finance Committee -The report given by Paul and we have stayed within the boundaries of the budget. Motion to approve the report by Denise, Lynette.
- Pastor's Report- Busy month and staying healthy through the Advent services and Christmas, Funerals, and a monthly Pastors' conference, and seven attended.
- Worship and Music- next meeting in February.
- Property Committee-Mark- A small water heater was installed under the second sink in the kitchen. Working great. An update on the air conditioning units will be stated at the annual meeting. A railing was requested going down into the freezer area and brighter lighting. The dining room floor will be waxed before the Hot Beef Dinner.
- Children Youth and Family- The next meeting is on February 4th at 5:30. We have a sign-up for February 12th to attend Feed Your Starving Children in Eagan.
- Stewardship- no report
- Endowment- no report

Old Business:

- Hot Beef Dinner February 23rd- Pie-making day went great on January 18th and they made twenty-seven pies of Apple and Pecan and crusts were made so they are ready for pumpkin pie later. Per Lynette
- Paul shared with us his updates on the supplies that he has, and we discussed the need for other items that will be purchased closer to the dinner.
- Details of the meal and the setup were discussed. Roast Beef Sandwich with potatoes and gravy, corn and coleslaw, pie, lemonade, coffee, and water. Serving line and take-out areas we also discussed. We will have everyone come through the front entrance to have less confusion with the customers as they pay for their meals.
- Settings at 11:00 and 12:30 for the meals.
- The date was set for Gravy making on Thursday, February 20th at 5:00 P.M.
- The setup date is Saturday, February 22nd at 8:00 am or as needed.
- We will be setting up the tables, baking the pies that are already made and, in the freezer, and making the pumpkin pies and peeling the potatoes for Sunday's meal.
- There will be a signup sheet created for the various times that we will need help in making this event a momentous event.
- There will be emails as we get closer to the event for the group that is working with the pie-making.

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:

The council went over any highlights in the proposed budget of 2025 and a motion was made to accept the budget by Mark, Denise

Discussed the Annual Meeting

Agenda:

We looked over the agenda and talked about the highlights for the year. Cantata, Pop Up Pageant, Kids Kingdom, Sunday School, Confirmation, and the Senior Center.

2025 updates: Kitchen Remodel, Air Conditioning units. There will be a hold on selling any property at this time.

Greta, Denise, Lynette, and Dennis will be leaving the council this year. Thanks for all their help through the years.

Closing the meeting:

All recited the Lord's Prayer

Paul and Lynette made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 P.M.

The next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, February 18th at 6:30 P.M

March 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9:00am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship	3 1:00pm Pool Players (Sr. Center)	4 1:00pm Game Day (Sr. Center)	5 5:30pm Lenten Supper 6:30pm Ash Wednesday	6 8:00am Men's Breakfast 6:00pm Relapse Prevention Recovery	7 1:00pm Pool Players (Sr. Ctr.)	8 9:00am Graduate Quilting Group- Fellowship Hall
9 9:00am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship	10 1:00pm Pool Players (Sr. Center)	11 11:00am Discovering Tuesdays (Sr. Ctr.) 6:30pm Church Finance Mtg.	12 9:30am Women's Bible Study 3:30pm Kingdom Kids 5:30pm Lenten Supper 6:30pm Lenten Service 7:00pm Confirmation Lent Mentoring	13 8:00am Men's Breakfast 1:00pm Euchre (Sr. Ctr.) 6:00pm Relapse Prevention Recovery	14 1:00pm Pool Players (Sr. Ctr.)	15
16 9:00am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship	17 1:00pm Pool Players (Sr. Center)	18 9:00am Conference Mtg. 6:30pm Church Council Mtg.	19 11:00am Wellness w/CJ (Sr Ctr) 5:30pm Lenten Supper 6:30pm Lenten Service 7:00pm Confirmation Lent Mentoring	20 8:00am Men's Breakfast 11:00am Sr. Ctr. Board 6:00pm Relapse Prevention Recovery	21 Deadline for newsletter articles 1:00pm Pool Players (Sr. Ctr.)	22
23 9:00am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship	24 1:00pm Pool Players (Sr. Center)	25 6:00pm Community Summit-2025 (EHS Library)	26 1:30pm Celebrating Seniors (Sr. Ctr.) 5:30pm Lenten Supper 6:30pm Lenten Service 7:00pm Confirmation Lent Mentoring	27 8:00am Men's Breakfast 1:00pm Euchre (Sr. Ctr.) 6:00pm Relapse Prevention Recovery	28 1:00pm Pool Players (Sr. Ctr.)	29
30 9:00am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship	31 9:00am Sharing/ Caring Hands 1:00pm Pool Players (Sr. Center)					

Children, Youth & Family News

Kingdom Kids is a program for our elementary-age youth that is usually on the first Wednesday of the month. For March, it will be on Wednesday, March 12th because the first week of March is Spring Break. The program has kept us hopping with over 40 children each time we host it. It is almost like a mini-day of VBS, where the kids are dropped off at the church by a school bus and they have a snack. We then have a Bible lesson followed by games, activities, and arts and crafts. We wrap it up with a music session with Missy and Ava where they practice a song that they will usually sing the following Sunday. It is an action-packed hour and a half! And we are always looking for more helpers. Talk to Pastor Pete if you have any questions.

Sunday School starts on Sunday mornings at the end of the service after the children have received communion or a blessing. We have two high schoolers who take turns teaching Sunday School, Katie and Piper and we are so grateful for them! The exciting thing for this Spring is that the EASTER BASKETS are coming back! The kids will assemble the Easter Baskets on Sunday, March 30th during their Sunday School time, and then on April 6th, they will go to the Ellsworth Care Center and Preferred Senior Living to deliver the baskets to the residents. They will leave right at the start of the worship service after the congregation says a quick word of prayer to bless the children and the baskets. This is a great way for our children to bring some sunshine to our community!

Confirmation has wrapped up its teaching sessions for the year. They will still gather on Wednesday nights during Lent for their mentor sessions after worship. It will be a time of guided discussion where a student is paired with an adult from our congregation so that they may grow in faith and community.

Luther Point Bible Camp We invite all our youth to partake in the joys of bible camp! The Ellsworth area ELCA churches are coordinating to send their youth to LPBC during the week of July 13-18th. There are a multitude of programs available for youth of all ages. Check out www.lutherpoint.org for more information and to see what programs are offered. There are overnight camps for 1st & 2nd 2nd-grade kids, half-week camps for 3-4th grade students as well as whole-week camps for 4th-6th grade students and 7-9th grades. There is even a fish camp for 7th-12th grade youth, where they get to go fishing all week long out on Big Wood Lake! If your child would like to go, go to Luther Point's website and use coupon: **English25** to register.

Vacation Bible School will be on June 16th – 19th from noon to 3:30 PM. We will start with Lunch after the kids get here from Summer School and then go into all of our fun activities. As a bonus, we will have counselors from Luther Point Bible Camp here to lead the programming! There will be a flyer going out to the students at Ellsworth Elementary School soon with more information! And keep your eyes peeled for this newsletter and the E-news for more information. Please make sure to save the dates of June 16th – June 19th on your calendars!



Prayer requests:

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

Christa Krohn
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

January 31, 2025 Cash Balances
General Fund = \$111,446.33
Dedicated Fund = \$106,017.04
Total = \$217,463.37
Thrivent = \$109,050.38
January General Fund Balance
Income = \$10,637.61
Expenses = \$23,384.42
The next finance meeting: March 11 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 March is Jeanette Wright.

Staff

Pastor Pete Warren

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218-760-6974

Communications Coordinator: Julie Winger

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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:
www.englishlutheranchurch.org

Find us on Facebook!
EnglishLutheranEllsworth

Office Hours

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

