



December 2024 Cross Beams



www.englishlutheranchurch.org

Our Vision: A Christ-centered, serving community.



Quilting

All Saints Day at church ↓



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



Kingdom Kids singing in church



Please enjoy these pictures of recent events at the church

Art work by the youth at church



What's Inside:

- † Pastor's Article
- † Church News
- † Youth News
- † Financial Update
- † Endowment Update
- † Council Minutes
- † Prayer List
- † Church Calendar
- † Miscellaneous
- † Time & Talents Form

"And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." -Luke 2:12



PASTOR PETE'S ARTICLE

One of my favorite shows lately is "The Bear." It tells the story of a Chicago family and their restaurant's journey. I will admit, it is fairly accurate with the amount of swearing and cursing that the actors say when compared to a real restaurant. It is a fascinating glimpse into a restaurant and the extremely dysfunctional Berzatto family that runs it.

One of my favorite episodes is from the second season title "Fishes." It is a flashback to five years earlier, where the family gathers for a Christmas Eve feast called the "Feast of Seven Fishes." It is an Italian traditional Christmas Eve meal that has seven different seafood dishes, which one of the children says, "No one even eats it." But there is mom, Donna, slaving away in the kitchen. She is drunkenly preparing the feast and many of the scenes take place in the kitchen. The kitchen is a mess as Donna has seven different dishes going at the same time, while she is drinking her wine and smoking cigarettes. After Donna is done cooking, the family gathers around the table and the family members continue the fight that have been having all night long. Donna blows up, tells everyone off with a lot of curse words and storms off. The family looks at each other says, "That took longer than expected." They continue with their fight and are ready to come to blows when suddenly, Donna crashes into the house with her car. And that is where the episode ends.

Chaos, anxiety inducing chaos is the only way I can describe that episode. And I think that Christmas and the holiday season can be that way for many of us. We must make sure that we get everything just perfect. On Thanksgiving, we must make sure that the turkey is cooked perfectly with all the trimmings including all the dishes that have been added on throughout the ears. Even Auntie Vi's weird pea salad that no one particularly likes. But we continue with all the traditions because that is what they are. Traditions root us in the past. But perhaps they hold us back as well. If we try to keep all the traditions, we focus so much on them that we cannot make room for new events. Many of the traditions that we keep hold us captive to the past. We need to be set free.

And that is what we will be celebrating in December, when Jesus Christ enters the world and sets us free from the traditions and sins of the past. When that little baby was born, God sent us a savior to save us from the shackles that we place upon ourselves. We do not need to stress ourselves and prepare a meal for the Berzatto family that no one will eat anyway. We just need Jesus and to focus on him and thank God for sending us his precious gift.

I look forward to celebrating the Advent and Christmas season with you. We will be telling the story of Jesus birth in several different ways throughout the month of December. Most Sundays will be loud and boisterous, but on Wednesday nights, we will have a chance to be quieter and more contemplative. On Wednesday nights at 7:00 PM in December, we will have worship using the Holden Evening Prayer Service. It will be a time of song and reflection as we prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord. And before that, starting at 6:00 PM, I'll prepare supper for you. I have not worked out the menu yet, but it will be a simple, hearty meal to warm you up on a cold December evening.

Join us this December as we prepare for the coming of Emmanuel, God with us! - Pastor Pete

Wednesday Nite Suppers in Advent – December 4, 11, and 18

We will have supper available at **6:00 PM** on Wednesday nights in December. Pastor Pete will cook a simple, hearty meal that will fill your belly and warm your heart. Join us afterwards upstairs for the Holden Evening Prayer service at **7:00 PM**.

Advent Festival – Sunday, December 1, 2024

Join us for a fun worship service at **9:00 AM** as we decorate the sanctuary and sing songs and carols in preparation for the Advent Season. The children are invited to be our main decorators!

"A New and Glorious Morn" Choir Christmas Cantata – Sunday, December 15, 2024

The choir will perform its Christmas Cantata at **9:00 am and 4:00 pm Sunday**. A Cantata is a musical worship service with the spoken word mixed in between the songs. "A New and Glorious Morn" is a medley of some of the most favorite Christmas carols and is a delight to the ears. Join us as we anticipate the coming of our Lord and Savior.

Pop-Up Christmas Pageant – Sunday, December 22, 2024

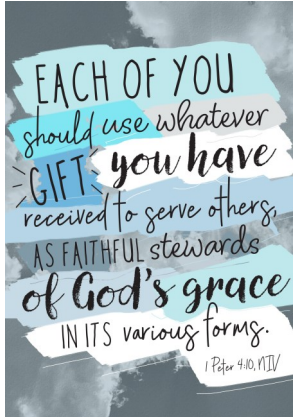
There is no skill involved with this service. Come to church and pick out a costume as we retell the story of Jesus birth. Depending on your costume, you will "Pop-up" to be part of the story. Join us for this fun and whimsical Sunday worship service!

Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24, 2024 - TWO DIFFERENT WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!!

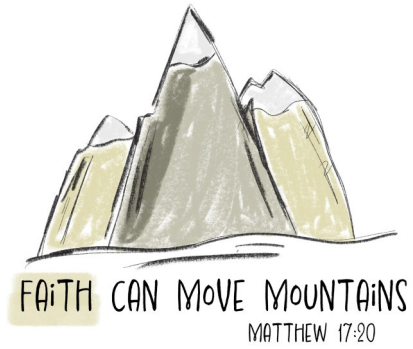
2:00 PM – A family focused Christmas Eve service that will involve the children as we celebrate the birth of Jesus! Holy Communion will be served.

4:00 PM – A traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service of lessons and carols with Holy Communion.

Time and Talents



Please see the last page of this newsletter for a *Time and Talents* form. Printed copies are also available at the back of the church and outside the church office. Volunteers are essential to our community, and we're grateful for each of you! Please take a few moments to complete the form—we're excited to learn more about the unique gifts and talents our members bring. Thank you!



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 made 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.



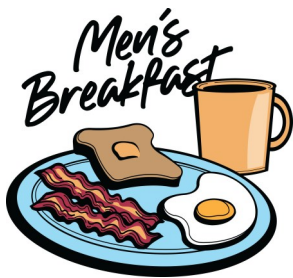
If you would like to contribute to this initiative, please designate "Heart" on your donations. Thank you! Heart committee members: Cindy Baird, Denise Hager, Melba Smith, and Diane Wiskerchen



A New & Glorious Morn!

Please mark your calendars for **December 15th!** You are in for a special treat at the 9 a.m. service that day with the performance of "A New & Glorious Morn!" We also will have a repeat performance at 4 p.m. Please invite your friends and family! Refreshments will be served after the afternoon performance.

Celebrating the Light and Life of Christmas



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.

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"



Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, December 11 at 9:30 a.m. join us at church for Women's Bible Study.

We will be doing our cookie exchange for shut-in gifts.

National Lutheran Choir's 39th Season



This season will explore five dimensions of wholeness and "centers around works that allow audiences to examine how music, community, and the sacred can repair that which divides us and help us find commonality." -Artistic Director, Jennaya Robison

<https://nlca.com/2024-2025-season>

Our Savior's Candy Walk FUNDRAISER

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE COLLEGE KITS AND THE BALLFIELD PROJECT.



LET US HELP YOU WITH YOUR HOLIDAY TREATS/GIFTS.

Homemade Candy will be sold at \$12 per pound
(less than 1/2 the price of candy stores!)

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
N6450 530th Street
Beldenville, WI 54003
1 mile east of Hwy 63 on Cty Rd N
Pierce County, WI



Sweet memories

Endowment Committee Update

The Endowment Committee met in November and approved the following fund requests:

- Sunday School Christmas Party
- Confirmation Program Christmas Party
- Meals for Wednesday night confirmation.
- To defray costs for Generational Retreat at Luther Point Bible Camp in February (Housing)
- Confirmation Service Projects during Christmas
- Kingdom Kids - snack and supplies
- Sweet Treats for a Sweet Purpose - to purchase supplies for a Holiday Bake Sale with proceeds donated to Gillette Children's Hospital
- Graduation Quilting to help with the expenses of purchasing batting, fabric, etc.
- Funds for Thanksgiving Baskets
- Deaconess supplies reimbursement (cards, stamps, etc.)

The Endowment Committee accepts requests quarterly. If your ministry needs funding, please speak with a member of the Endowment Committee, Pastor Pete, or submit a request to the church office to be considered at the next meeting scheduled for February 5th. Request forms can be found on our website in the "Giving" section or on the shelf outside the church office.

Endowment Committee members - Warren Johnson, Traci Maxwell, Trina Groen, Diane Wiskerchen, Mary Sokolik, Dixie Basch, & Kip Gore

Sharing Shed

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



PASS IT ON!

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

A Just Peace Between Palestine and Israel

Hosted by St. Paul's UCC on Sunday, December 8 from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Pastor Diane Dulin and Tom Beilman explore issues related to the military occupation of Palestine and set forth conditions for a Just Peace between Palestine and Israel. All are welcome. Refreshments will be provided.

A Just Peace Between Palestine and Israel

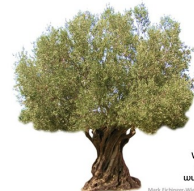
Israel's Laws and Practices in Palestine: Land, Water, Farming, and Children

Sunday, December 8, 2024
11:15 am - 12:15 am

Join us in Fellowship Hall as Pastor Diane Dulin and Tom Beilman explore issues related to the military occupation of Palestine and set forth conditions for a Just Peace between Palestine and Israel.

All Are Welcome!

Refreshments provided.



Please visit our website for more information on our speakers.

St. Paul's UCC
W5706 State Road 72
Ellsworth, WI 54011
www.spuccellsworth.org

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 from Adelaide Meyer

"I want to thank all of you who came to my 98th birthday party. It was so nice to see everyone. It made me realize how much I have missed all of you. It was a wonderful surprise party, and I was very surprised. Thank you." -Adelaide Meyer

ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
October 15, 2024

Members present: Pastor Pete, Greta Larson, Mark Groen, Jill Hague, Paul Tonsager, and Denise Hager

The Mission statement was read by all

Devotions were given by Pastor Pete

Added new business to tonight's meeting. Motion made by Paul to approve tonight's agenda and the previous month's minutes. 2nd by Mark.

Reports

Finance report was given by Paul. He is in the process of getting bids for insurance on the church property. We may have inspectors here to measure or requests for more information from them. Money from the Fair Stand Account will be transferred to the other church accounts as needed. Motion to approve the report was made by Jill and 2nd by Denise.

Pastors Report given by Pastor Pete. A question has been raised as to whether our AED equipment has been checked recently. It will be checked to see if we are on a schedule for that. We have had 2 funerals lately with 11 so far this year. Piper has requested permission to use the church for her annual bake sale.

Property Report. Dave has changed the furnace filters for Fall. The committee will be getting bids on additional air conditioning for the lower level. The leaking faucet in the kitchen has been repaired.

Worship and Music. The music schedule from now until the end of the year has been completed.

Children, Youth and Family. As of now there are 10 to 12 youths in confirmation. May change after Confirmation on October 27th. The Sunday school has a good group this year.

Stewardship Report. There were approximately 45 people that attended the Stewardship brunch on Sunday. Time and talent request sheets will be included in the Sunday bulletin.

Endowment committee report. The committee will meet next month. If anyone has a request, they should submit it before they meet. We will be giving out the Thanksgiving baskets again this year, so please let us know of needy families.

Old Business

The kitchen renovation was discussed. A group that is interested will meet with Pastor Pete. Some ideas were discussed at the last funeral when the kitchen was used. We discussed the replacement of the foyer carpet. Bids from the local floor installer and from Malmquist flooring will be requested.

New Business

We discussed the tension with the last funeral and the Senior Center. It seems that the issues have been resolved. A notice will be placed on our website and on Facebook for a custodian as Julie Baggenstoss is retiring effective November 1. The Schulze's have been replacing the church banners for the last 10 years and will be retiring from that. Volunteers will be needed to continue. It was decided to approve Piper's bake sale in December. The price of the beef for the Stewardship dinner should be about the same as it was for the Fair Stand. Will be able to print tickets here in the church office. A deadline to request takeout orders will be decided on at the next committee meeting.

The Lord's prayer was recited by all.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Denise and 2nd by Paul.

Next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday November 19th at 6:30 pm.

December 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00am Advent Festival 10:00am Fellowship 10:00am Choir Practice	2 1pm Pool Players (Sr. Center)	3 1pm Game Day (Sr. Center)	4 3:30pm Kingdom Kids 5:30pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Advent Supper 7:00pm Advent Worship	5 8am Men's Breakfast 6pm Relapse	6 1pm Pool Players (Sr. Ctr.)	7
8 9:00am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship 10:00am Choir Practice	9 1pm Pool Players (Sr. Center)	10 11am Discovering Tuesdays (Sr. Ctr.) 6:30pm Church Finance Mtg.	11 9:30am Women's Bible Study 5:30pm Choir Practice 6:00pm Advent Supper 7:00pm Advent Worship Service	12 8am Men's Breakfast 1pm Euchre (Sr. Ctr.) 6pm Relapse Prevention Recovery	13 1pm Pool Players (Sr. Ctr.)	14 10am Christmas Cantata Rehearsal
15 9:00am Cantata Worship 9:45am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship 4pm Choir Christmas Cantata	16 1pm Pool Players (Sr. Center)	17 6:30pm Church Council Mtg.	18 11am Wellness w/CJ (Sr Ctr) 1:30pm Celebrating Seniors (Sr. Ctr.) 1:30pm Worship @ Preferred 2:30pm Worship @ Ellis Health Services 6pm Confirmation Christmas Party & Advent Supper 7pm Advent Worship Svc.	19 8am Men's Breakfast 6pm Relapse Prevention Recovery	20 1pm Pool Players (Sr. Ctr.)	21
22 9:00am Pop-up Christmas Pageant Worship 10:00am Fellowship	23 1pm Pool Players (Sr. Center)	24 2pm Christmas Eve Worship 4pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service	25	26 1pm Euchre (Sr. Ctr.) 6pm Relapse Prevention Recovery	27 1pm Pool Players (Sr. Ctr.)	28
29 9:00am Worship 10:00am Fellowship	30	31 8:30am Footcare (Sr. Center)				



Prayer requests:

Janet Arndt
Addison Closs
Linda During
Vern Ellefson
Tomi Erlandson
Julie Gore
Mikey Krohn
Lila Larson

Gary Leonard
Marianne Melstrom
Dean Mewes
Judy Morrow
Vicki Nelson
Steve Pieczykolan
Sophia Sokolik
Sherry York

Military service prayers:

Josh Bechel
Jonathan Bergman

“God is our refuge and strength.”

— Psalm 46:1



Financial Update

October 31, 2024 Cash Balances
General Fund = \$132,662.12
Dedicated Fund = \$92,258.74
Total = \$224,920.86
Thrivent = \$110,263.90

October General Fund Balance
Income = \$54,350.49
Expenses = \$16,601.48

The next finance meeting: December 10 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 December is Diane Wiskerchen.



English Lutheran Church
229 West Main Street
Ellsworth, Wisconsin
Phone: 715-273-4617
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



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 Kowalchuk
music@englishlutheranchurch.org

Custodian: Malerie Mathis

English Lutheran Church, Ellsworth, WI
Sharing Our Time & Talents 2024-2025

Worship

- Usher
- Greeter
- Altar Guild
- Communion Helper
- Read Lessons

Music

- Choir
- Worship Singing Team
- Musical instruments _____

Arts and Drama

- Decorating (Festival/Seasonal)
- Graphics (posters, logos)
- Photography (New Church Directory)

Hospitality

- Prepare Food for special events
- Coffee/Fellowship (provide food)
- Host Coffee Hour
- Funeral (serve/clean-up)
- Kitchen Design Team

Office

- Office volunteer

Building and Grounds

- Handy work repairs
- Electrical work
- Painting
- Plumbing
- Cement or masonry

Care Ministry

- Prayer Team
- Visitation
- Quilting

Education (teach, lead, help)

- Sunday School
- Vacation Bible School
- Confirmation
- Bible study

Church in our Community

- Community Missions Team
- Fair Stand Volunteer

Leadership

- Children, Youth, & Family
- Church Council
- Community Missions Team
- ELC Endowment Board
- Fair Stand Leadership Team
- Finance Team
- Memorial & Gifts
- Nominations Committee
- Personnel Committee
- Property Team
- Stewardship Team
- Worship & Music Team

This year (2025), we are having a Hot Beef Dinner (just like at the Fair Stand!) on February 23rd!!!

Will you help with: Advertising _____ Set up & Decorating _____ Cooking _____
Serving _____ Clean-up _____

Name (please print) _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Thank you for faithful stewardship!