

January 2025 Cross Beams

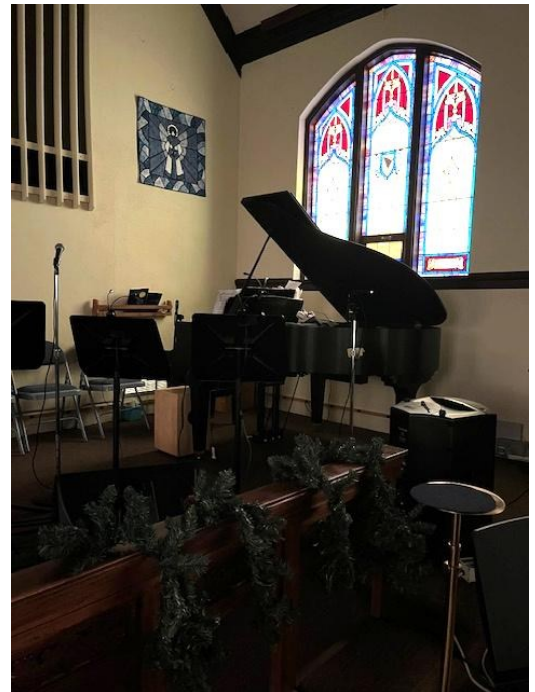


www.englishlutheranchurch.org

Our Vision: A Christ-centered, serving community.



Our
New
Piano



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

As the new carpet is being installed -see the pictures below.



What's Inside:

- † *Pastor's Article*
- † *Church News*
- † *Youth News*
- † *Financial Update*
- † *Council Minutes*
- † *Prayer List*
- † *Church Calendar*
- † *Miscellaneous*

Happy New Year!

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." -Proverbs 3:5-6



PASTOR PETE'S ARTICLE

"In the bleak Midwinter"

Next time you are in church and have a moment, crack open the red ELW hymnal and check out hymn #294. It is a Christmas hymn with a Debbie Downer name "In the Bleak Midwinter." It is from a poem that an English poet, Christina Georgina Rossetti, wrote in 1872. I do not remember hearing it until I was in seminary, doing pulpit supply at my home church for the first Sunday after Christmas. Pastor Paul picked it to be the Hymn of the Day, the song we sing after the sermon. It is a slow and morose-sounding song. It did not seem to fit with the joyful feeling of the Christmas season. For the second service, I asked the organist to switch it to "Joy to the World" and she gladly obliged.

I do not know about you, but I really struggle with the shortened amount of sunlight that we see from early November through February. By the time Advent rolls around, I am driving to work in the dark and driving home in the dark. It is always dark. It is always bleak! Where, oh where is the light?

It is no wonder that we celebrate Jesus Christ's birth on December 25th, right at the time that the days are the shortest. We are celebrating the fact that a new light has come into our world. During the bleak dreariness of winter, we get to celebrate Christmas! Christmas is a time for remembering the good ol' days, celebrating today, and looking forward to the days that are to come. There is lots of light, music, goodies, and color! Oh, the colors; all the greens, reds, golds, silvers, and even some blues! It is such a wonderful and colorful time of year. And musical too!

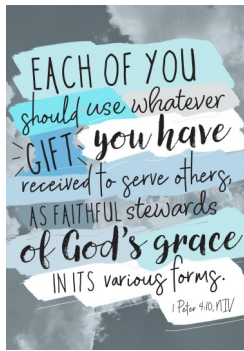
But what if we go back and look at the words for that bleak song? The first verse lays it all out, the earth is bleak in the middle of winter. Winter is cold, and it hardens the earth like iron and water is like stone and the snow keeps falling. But then comes Jesus, who is mighty and powerful because he is the son of God, but where is the first place that he lays down his head? It is a simple stable that holds Christ. They place him in a lowly manger.

For me, "In the Bleak Midwinter" is a beautiful song because the final verse ties up the hymn-like a Christmas package under the tree. It asks, "What can I give him, poor as I am?" What on earth do I have to offer to Jesus? If I were a shepherd, I could offer up a lamb. Its wool could keep him nice and warm in the bleak midwinter. "If I were a wise man, I could give him a gift." The three Magi from the East brought gifts for Jesus. But I have nothing to give him, nothing at all, except my heart. All I can offer is my heart and that is all of me. And that is the best gift of all that we can give to him, our hearts, which are what truly matter.

In this bleak midwinter, let us offer up our hearts to Christ, celebrate all that he has done for us, and love our neighbors. Amen.

-Pastor Pete

Time and Talents



Printed forms are 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 a form—we're excited to learn more about the unique gifts and talents our members bring. Thank you! We need YOU!

Hot Beef Meal

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, February 23, 2025**. This is when you can enjoy our scrumptious Hot Beef Meal at church.

This will be a community meal, and funds will go toward our kitchen refresh. Dine-in or Carry-out meals will be available.

- Hot Beef Dinner (Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy on White Bread)
- Corn
- Coleslaw,
- Pie

Register-seating is limited: [English Lutheran Church: Hot Beef Dinner-February 23, 2025](#) (Sign-up for dining in or for take-out meals.)

Or: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4BAAA62CAAF5C07-53385910-hotbeef#

We will need volunteers to assist with this. Please let us know if this is something you can help with.

Please make sure you pre-register for this meal, either dine-in or take-out. Seating is limited. 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"

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.

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

Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, January 8th at 9:30 a.m. join us in the Fireside Room at church for Women's Bible Study.

Our study will be of "Faithfulness in these days", focusing on Ruth and Naomi.

Hostess is Bev Greeley
Please join us!



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>

Cantata December 15, 2024

Wow, what a magical afternoon we experienced at English Lutheran Church, bursting with the breathtaking harmonies of our amazing Cantata! A massive shoutout and heartfelt thanks to everyone who played a part in making this spectacular performance happen – your hard work and dedication truly shone through. They turned this night into an unforgettable celebration of our vibrant community's talent and spirit! There is a picture below for you to enjoy.



Random Acts of Kindness-Heart Program

To give you an overview of the projects this committee has been busy working on:

- Donated 60 turkeys for the Thanksgiving families/ others
- Supplies for the needy in the schools in Pierce County
- College Student gifts
- Provided 100 gifts for the 4 Christmas families through the Gift Box Program
- Helped Pierce County families that are in need
- Sharing Shed-keeping this organized, stocked, etc.
- Paid for meals for those in need
- Provided gift cards as appropriate

Special thanks go to: Melba, Diane, Denise, and Cindy. We appreciate you!

Below you will find a couple of pictures of the gifts wrapped and ready to be delivered for the Gift Box Program.



Sharing Shed

Please remember English Lutheran's Sharing Shed for your extra or no longer needed new or gently used items. This is perfect time to add winter coats, boots, etc.



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

Thank You for the Poinsettias

Melba Smith (2) In Memory of Heather Hantsbarger
Curt & Judy Dumermuth (2) In Memory of Earl King & Irene Dumermuth
Adam & Miranda Mewes In Memory of Mary D. Prokop
Lee & Jeanette Wright In Memory of our parents
Peter & Shelley Carr In Memory of Theresa Jonas
Greta Larson In Memory of Sallee Larson
Donna & Tom Danielson In Memory of Bev Danielson & Jerry Starkey
Bryan & Cindy Reuvers (2) In Memory of James & Suzanne Reuvers
Joel & Sharon Schulze (2) In Thanksgiving for our grandchildren

The Poinsettias helped make our sanctuary festive for the holiday services. Thank you!

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"

"Your word is lamp for my feet, a light on my path." - Psalm 119:105 (NIV)

ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES
November 19, 2024

English Lutheran Church Council Minutes November 19, 2024

Members present: Pastor Pete, Greta Larson, Mark Groen, Jill Hague, Paul Tonsager, Denise Hager, Lynette Winger, and Dennis Swanson.

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by President Greta Larson.

Mission statement was read by all.

Devotions were given by Pastor Pete.

Agenda was changed to move the Insurance presentation from Kris Flock before other business. Motion to accept new agenda made by Paul and 2nd by Lynette. Motion to approve October minutes was made by Denise and 2nd by Dennis.

Reports

Finance report was given by Paul. The end of the year is coming up so everyone was urged that if they have any changes that should be made to the 2025 budget they should let the Finance Committee know. Insurance report was made by Kris Flock. He had quotes from 3 companies for the insurance on the Church. He discussed the prices and differences between the quotes. Paul made a motion to accept the quote from Nationwide. It was 2nd by Jill.

Pastors Report was given by Pastor Pete, 66 families have signed up to receive a Thanksgiving food basket. Christmas eve services will be at 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm. December 15th will be the Christmas Cantata and December 22nd will be the Pop-up Christmas Pageant.

CYF report was given by Denise. Confirmation has finished the 1st half of their classes. There will be a retreat for the kids from January 31 to February 2nd. February 5th will be when they go to Feed Starving Children.

Stewardship report given by Lynette. There will be 2 seatings for the February Beef dinner. One will be from 11:00 to 12:00 and the other from 12:30 to 1:30. January 18th was set as the date to make pies for the event and gravy making to be done on February 20th.

Endowment report. The committee met and had 11 requests for funds. One request was pended for further information and the rest were approved.

Old Business

The kitchen renovation committee has met and the discussion of what needs to be done is still being worked out. We have estimates for replacing the carpet in the front hallway. Motion was made by Lynette that we spend no more than \$6000.00 on the project and was 2nd by Denise.

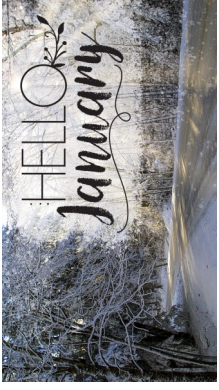
New Business

No new business was discussed at this time.

The Lord's prayer was recited by all.

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

Next scheduled meeting will be December 17th.



January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 8am Men's Breakfast 6pm Relapse Prevention Recovery	3 1pm Pool Players (Sr. Ctr.)	4
5 9:00am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship	6 1pm Pool Players (Sr. Center)	7 9:30am Foot Care (Sr. Center) 1pm Game Day (Sr. Center)	8 9:30am Women's Bible Study 3:30pm Kingdom Kids	9 8am Men's Breakfast 1pm Euchre (Sr. Ctr.) 6pm Relapse Prevention Recovery	10 1pm Pool Players (Sr. Ctr.)	11
12 9:00am Cantata Worship 9:45am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship	13 1pm Pool Players (Sr. Center)	14 11am Discovering Tuesdays (Sr. Ctr.) 6:30pm Church Finance Mtg.	15 11am Wellness w/CJ (Sr Ctr) 6pm Confirmation	16 8am Men's Breakfast 11am Sr. Ctr. Board Mtg. 6pm Relapse Prevention Recovery	17 1pm Pool Players (Sr. Ctr.)	18
19 9:00am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship	20 1pm Pool Players (Sr. Center)	21 9am Conference Mtg. 6:30pm Church Council Mtg.	22 6pm Confirmation	23 8am Men's Breakfast 1pm Euchre (Sr. Ctr.) 6pm Relapse Prevention Recovery	24 1pm Pool Players (Sr. Ctr.)	25
26 9:00am Worship 9:45am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship	27 1pm Pool Players (Sr. Center)	28	29 1:30pm Celebrating Seniors (Sr. Ctr.) 6pm Confirmation	30 8am Men's Breakfast 6pm Relapse Prevention Recovery	31 1pm Pool Players (Sr. Ctr.)	



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
Steve Pieczykolan
Sophia Sokolik
Sherry York

Military service prayers:

Josh Bechel
Jonathan Bergman
Kohl Flock

“God is our refuge and strength.”

— Psalm 46:1



Financial Update

November 30, 2024 Cash Balances
General Fund = \$127,039.65
Dedicated Fund = \$114,944.14
Total = \$221,983.79
Thrivent = \$110,263.90
October General Fund Balance
Income = \$14,047.01
Expenses = \$19,653.11
The next finance meeting: January 14 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 January is Bev Greeley.

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

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Custodian: Malerie Mathis



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Find us on Facebook!
EnglishLutheranEllsworth

Office Hours

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

