

the *Voice* of english lutheran



Renewing Power of God by Vicar Chad Rademacher

On Sunday, December 9th, Pastor Becky, Pastor Mark, Eddie Kim, Robert Lynn, and Vicar Chad lead worship services at the La Crosse County Jail. The resident jail chaplain, John David, has been working with area congregations to develop a relationship to further ministry connections with the incarcerated population. Worship services were divided between the men and the women. The women's worship service started at 6:30 pm, and there were sixteen women in attendance. The men's worship service began at 7:30 pm, and there were twenty-eight men in attendance. The order of worship was very similar to what you would experience here at ELC on most weekends; worship included singing, scripture readings, preaching, prayers of intercession, and communion.

Admittedly, the only time that I set foot inside a jail was for an outing with the Cub Scouts. My stomach was uneasy, and my thoughts were aloof and distant. I feel this is a symptom of too many movies and Netflix shows where my imagination has been hijacked into believing my life was in danger.

During the prayers of intercession, there was an intentional space

opened up, and freedom of worship could be exercised. I witnessed the power of the Holy Spirit moving through the prayers, and I found myself being flipped upside down. Seeing the heartache and recognizing that we all need the renewing power of God's forgiveness as much as we need food or water or air.

God has a profound way of bringing a community together. While I have no way of knowing how the Good News was placed onto their hearts, I do know with a certainty how the Good News was set onto my heart. God's love knows no boundaries, and when we are called to love our neighbor, it very well might mean loving someone whom we have never met, and with a heart that is open and accepting.

We extended an invitation to our sisters and brother at the La Crosse County Jail to come and worship with us. We proclaim a table that is open and welcoming to everyone, so in the weeks and months ahead, there may be new faces that show up for worship. We are called to love unconditionally, to welcome the stranger, and to remember those in prison as if we were in jail with them (Heb. 13:1-3).

General Fund Report - November 2018

RECEIPTS	CURRENT MONTH			YEAR-TO-DATE		
	Actual	Budget	2017 Actual	Actual	Budget	2017 Actual
Envelope Offerings	26,557	40,950	40,025	362,119	412,500	358,245
Simply Giving Plan	22,998	23,408	22,066	274,033	268,213	244,544
Other General	457	575	567	15,207	18,150	16,803
General Fund Total	50,012	64,933	62,658	651,359	698,863	619,592
Benevolence	2,585		501	4,624		2,308
TOTAL	52,597	64,933	63,159	655,983	698,863	621,900
Communion Fund	695			6,467		
Memorials	500			17,503		
Hungry Jar	718			6,376		
DISBURSEMENTS						
Benevolence	5,358	6,182	5,964	70,395	76,582	68,947
Stability Triangle	43,334	50,330	48,655	535,908	576,697	511,686
Five Big Rocks	8,230	11,583	11,658	50,769	58,993	44,131
TOTAL	56,922	68,095	66,277	657,072	712,272	624,764
Gain (Loss)	(4,325)		(3,118)	(1,089)		(2,864)
Communion Fund	2,312			18,138		
Hungry Jar	1,065			6,313		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Come for Supper OFFICE CLOSED	2 3:30p Property Committee Dinner & Programming – see website for schedule	3 7:00a Fayze's 9:30a Seekers Bible Std. 1:30p Library Committee 6:30p Apostle Paul Class	4 ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE	5 9:00a Altar Ministry 4:00p Healing Min. Mtg. 5:00p Worship
6 8:30/10:45a Worship 9:30a Coffee Hour 9:45a Education Hour 12:00p PR Mission Trip 12:00p Luther Movie 12:00p Healing Min. Mtg. 6:30p Youth Group	7	8 8:45a Quilters 10:00a Caring Ministry 4:00p Internship Comm. 5:30p Fellowship Council 6:00p Evangelism & Worship Councils	9 10:00a Ministry Council 5:30p Youth Steering Dinner & Programming – see website for schedule	10 7:00a Fayze's 9:30a Seekers Bible Std. 6:30p Apostle Paul Class	11	12 5:00p Worship
13 Burritos 8:30/10:45a Worship 9:30a Coffee Hour 9:45a Education Hour	14 1:00p Death Café 6:00p Death Café	15 6:30a Men's Faith Forum 8:45a Quilters 11:30 Comm. Ministers 6:00p Marketing Team 6:30p Spiritual Direction	16 12:00p Community Conversations Dinner & Programming – see website for schedule	17 Feb Mini-Voice Deadline 7:00a Fayze's 9:30a Seekers 5:30p Interfaith Partners 6:30p Apostle Paul Class	18	19 5:00p Worship
Crafters Retreat				Crafters Retreat		
20 WWG Begins 8:30/10:45a Worship 9:30a Coffee Hour 9:45a Education Hour 12:00p Snow Tubing 6:30p Youth Group	21	22 8:45a Quilters 1:30p Mary Circle 6:30p Vision Board	23 Dinner & Programming – see website for schedule	24 7:00a Fayze's 9:30a Seekers 6:30p Apostle Paul Class	25 6:30p PACK	26 5:00p Worship
27 Pancakes 8:30/10:45a Worship 9:30a Coffee Hour 9:45a Education Hour 12:00p PR Mission Trip	28 12:00p Senior Fun & Fellowship	29 Hillview Worship Service 6:30a Men's Faith Forum 8:45a Quilters	30 Dinner & Programming – see website for schedule	31 7:00a Fayze's 9:30a Seekers 6:30p Apostle Paul Class	7 th -10 th Grade Lock In	

JANUARY