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1509 King Street  
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July/August, 2022



# the *Voices* of english lutheran

The SEASON of PENTECOST

## Blessings

TO YOU

from Niki Pohnl

As I reflect on my 19-year career as the Director of Discipleship at English Lutheran, I feel blessed to have formed so many relationships with faith as our base. I appreciate the support given by the staff and congregation to use my gifts from God in the various roles in which I have worked over the years. We are blessed to be part of a congregation that emphasizes everyone using their gifts to work together for the better of our church, our community, and our world.

It has been a pleasure for me to be a source of support to our members' families and feel proud of the work I have done helping the children of our congregation experience God's love.

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## LAMENT, DANCE, AND GRACE by Pastor Mark Kvale

Every year I look forward to two events, that for me, herald the beginning of summer: The first, the La Crosse Area Synod's Assembly. And the second, the return of "Moontunes" at Riverside Park. The former gives me and all of us the opportunity to be church together, to gather to be about what God intends for us in this synod, to learn together, to discern together, to worship together. The latter? Well, to be outside on a beautiful summer evening, listening to amazing music is for me all gift!



This past weekend, we gathered in assembly. Our theme was "Wild Lament/Whirling Dance;" taken from Psalm 30 (The Message Translation): "God, my God, I yelled for help and you put me together. . . God, you pull us out of the grave, give us another chance at life when we are down-and-out. So listen! Show us mercy! Help us out of this!" . . . You did it: you changed wild lament into whirling dance; You ripped off my black mourning band and decked me with wildflowers. I'm about to burst with song; I can't keep quiet about you. God, my God, I can't thank you enough. . ."

We gathered to lament all that is hard in our lives and in our world; knowing that God hears and acts and that God is near!

A few weeks ago, 'Moontunes' kicked off with a concert from Bill Miller. I was really struck by one of the songs Bill shared, whose title is "Blind Faith:"

"So take a look around See every sight; hear every sound It's all grace"  
May God grant you peace and time and space to lament, and at the same time to experience the amazing gift given to us in Jesus Christ! It is all grace!

Soli Deo Gloria! (To God alone the Glory!)

IN CHRIST

We Welcome, Worship & Work

IN THE WORLD



## Summer Worship Times

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 9:30 a.m.

**See article below.**

## Summer Worship Times & Outdoor Worship

### Saturday Worship 5:00 p.m.

On the **first and third Saturday's** July 2 and 16, and August 6 and 20 will be **outside on our bell tower patio**. If it is raining, we will have service in the sanctuary or the fellowship hall. All the other Saturdays worship will be in the sanctuary.

### Sunday Worship 9:30 p.m. through August 21

The weekend of September 3/4, the service times resume as they are currently, Saturday 5:00 p.m., Sunday 8:30 and 10:45.



## River Service at COPLAND PARK

August 28 at 10:45 a.m.

800 Copeland Ave,  
North La Crosse



Immediately following the worship service there will be a *prepared lunch provided for everyone*.

Stay for conversation and games for all.

## Volunteers Needed

- **Singers** for worship. More details to come.
- **Helpers** to transport and set up at the park
- **Food** servers and dessert makers!



## New Member Class & Faith Workshop

Are you or someone you know interested in becoming a member at English Lutheran Church or simply want to learn a bit more about us?

New members will be received at the service of their choice on the weekend of September 4 and 5.

### New Member Orientation and Faith Workshop

Wednesday, August 24  
5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

A light meal will be provided.

For questions or more information, please contact Carol Robertson at 608-784-9335 or [carol@englishlutheran.org](mailto:carol@englishlutheran.org)



## Outdoor Youth Ministry Opportunities

### WEEK AT SUGAR CREEK - July 17-22 (week 6)

English Lutheran staff will be visiting and volunteering at camp regularly that week and it will be fun for our youth to see one another all over camp!

### CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

English Lutheran believes outdoor ministry is a worthy partner in the faith formation of our young people. If you attend **any ELCA camp**, English will pay \$100 of your registration fee. Just send Niki Pohnl a copy of your registration form for the summer and we'll send the money directly to camp in your child's name.

# RECONCILING *in* CHRIST

## One-on-One Conversations

Greetings from the RIC committee. As you may know, this group is exploring the opportunity for our congregation to become an RIC church. A church that chooses to be designated RIC makes a commitment to full welcome and inclusion of all Lutherans, regardless of gender, sexual identity and orientation, race, ethnicity, economic status, or ability.



This summer our committee is having one-on-one conversations with members to talk about the RIC process, learn what education would be helpful, and to hear member's opinions regarding how well they feel English Lutheran welcomes new members as well as sustaining a welcoming atmosphere for ongoing members.

The RIC program has been in existence since 1983 and is made up of Lutheran organizations such as congregations, synods, colleges,

seminaries, outdoor ministries, and other Lutheran organizations. Thus far, two faith communities in La Crosse, Our Savior's Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Campus Ministry - La Crosse (LuMin), have become RIC partners.

RIC churches are involved in advocacy and community involvement within the church and society. Since 1974, Reconciling Works, the organization sponsoring the RIC program for Lutheran congregations, has been providing resources to help congregations become RIC partners.

The English Lutheran RIC committee is gathering information from the congregation and plans to create educational forums, panels, and scriptural study in the months to come.

Jon Hageseth  
RIC Core Committee Member

### CHURCH OFFICE

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### SENIOR PASTOR

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Luke Thering

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### BUILDING MAINTENANCE

Dane Melby  
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## GIFTS, MEMORIALS AND PASTORAL ACTS

### PIANO FUND

*In Memory of:* of Alice Sather

by Patrick and Louise Lawrynck and  
Judith and Dave Konop

### UNDESIGNATED

*In Memory of:* Terry Krueger

by James Sill

*In Memory of:* Arla Redman

by Joan Sullivan, Graham and Susan  
Courtney, Fred and Sharon  
Schmelzer, John and Brigid  
Hartmann, Bev Bodine, Robert and  
Jean Stannard, family and friends.

### WORLD HUNGER

*In Honor of:* Kathy Weeks

by Mary Circle

### YOUTH FUND

*In Memory of:* Alice Sather

by Lillian Bruvold

### BAPTISMS

04/30 ...William Waldemar,

son of Howard and Alice Heinrich

6/26 .....Finneas Lee,

son of Paul and Maryl Napierala

### MARRIAGES

04/25 ...Jarod Griswold

and Alexa Miller

05/25 ...Jay Woodhouse

and Alexis Dunnum

### DEATHS

04/27 ...Jeanine Helke, funeral, 05/04

05/21 ...Ron Rogers, memorial, 06/10

05/26 ...Mary Key, funeral 06/04

05/29 ...Delores "Dorie" Boehlke,  
funeral 6/27

### NEW MEMBERS

Kyle and Inga Cluppert, children

Weston and Johanna; Deborah

Hanson; Ryan and Jessica Hytry, son

Evan; Michael and Rebecca Quam,

children Miles and Emmett; John and

Beth Roof; Ben and Pastor Dione Ste-

panek; Steve Smith; Mark Zellmer and  
Debra Daehn Zellmer



Blessings - *continued from front page*

I have worked my passion and I thank you all for the opportunities to grow in my career and my spirituality, and for the support in all I was asked to be involved in. I cherish so many highlights in this career, too many to count, and appreciate the opportunity to be creative and challenged.

Moving forward, my family and I plan to continue to be part of this wonderful, thriving congregation, our faith family, and look forward to practicing our faith along-side all of you through worship and ministry.

*Blessings to you all and THANK YOU again.*

*Niki Pohnl*



## PRIDE in the PARK Saturday, September 10

English Lutheran's  
Evangelism Council  
and RIC Team  
is hosting a display at the  
annual Pride in the Park  
on the north end of  
**Riverside Park from  
11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

If you're interested in helping  
with the display and talking  
to people about our church,  
please contact Pastor Becky  
or the church office.

## HVAC UPGRADE

You may be aware of an extensive upgrade to our Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system. Supply chain delays extended the time line considerably and some of you (staff especially) were uncomfortable at times. Well, we are happy to report that by the time this article is published the project should be complete and you should be feeling just right!

The HVAC project addressed three main areas including:

- 1) replacing the 30+ year old sanctuary cooling system with a more efficient split system
- 2) replacing the failed narthex cooling system with a new more efficient split system, and
- 3) replacing the building automation system (BAS) with a more capable BAS.

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# Stewards of the Earth

Hello Members! Our blink-of-an-eye spring has given way to summer and hopefully you have been able to see the efforts of numerous people to improve the health and beauty of the church yard and grounds.

This began with our participation in the No Mow May program, approved by the city in April. It made for a slow mow to tame the grasslands, nonetheless, the new Honda mulching mower was up to the task and the lawn looks healthier for it.

Promoted by Irene TenEyck, we also decided to get involved with another beautification effort and create several pollinator gardens. Our application was approved thanks to a heavy lift from Mark Flaten to prepare the bump out corners of 15th and King and 16th and King, we got to work. Pete Bemis lent his expertise and muscle to the project and the fruits of the labor can now be seen flowering on the corners (and the La Crosse Tribune).

Additionally, as a ministry project, Irene, assisted by Boy Scout Troop 18, planted a small vegetable/herb garden outside of the conference room. Look for tomatoes, peppers and herbs to be made available to neighbors and members in the coming months.



Another big improvement can be seen on the north end of the parking lot. Gone are the lilacs and in their place are the daylilies from the space now occupied by the vegetable garden. Removing the lilacs was another heavy lift, completed by Mark Flaten and Pete Bemis.

Big thanks goes out to Dave Johnson for providing and delivering mulch and a number of the Property Committee members for getting it placed and making it look easy! Another big thanks goes to Mike Betz for bringing the good stuff fertilizer and seed for the lawn. I hope ongoing efforts to maintain a well kept and weed free lawn to be self-evident.

To that end, from now through August, any members willing and able to help on Wednesday afternoons from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m., please just show up (weather permitting) and there will be light-duty tasks in stewardship of our little corner of God's Green Earth. Bring some work gloves and maybe a hand pruner/trimmer for fellowship, poking, prodding, sprucing, trimming, weeding and all the good stuff that feeds the soul!

*Dane Melby*

*HVAC - continued from page 5*

Replacing the BAS involved over 100 points of control on the various HVAC components ranging from the 1 ton unit in the basement that cools the server, to the 30 ton unit on the roof that cools the fellowship halls, to the radiant heaters in the classrooms, to all of the thermostats located throughout the building. The BAS is also used to "schedule" the HVAC system

which makes sure the spaces are comfortable when people are scheduled to occupy them, and are not wasting energy by running equipment too hard when no one is scheduled to be there.

Our vendor Winona Controls did a great job keeping us informed and working with us to resolve issues, and will be our service contractor going forward too. I would like to thank Kathy Slindee and

Dane Melby for going above and beyond, as well as staff for their patience and input along the way.

Please don't hesitate to contact staff if you have an issue and also be sure to keep them informed of any planned meetings so they can schedule your comfort ;-)

*Rick Heiden*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## July/August

PENTECOST

### OUR VISION

BY THE GRACE OF GOD,  
ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
SHALL BE A HEALTHY,  
MISSION-FOCUSED  
CONGREGATION

*full of life*

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## The Bethlehem Event

EXPERIENCE the JOURNEY

Experience the sounds and smells of ancient Bethlehem at the time of Christ's birth at English Lutheran Church in December 2022. This event was canceled in 2021 due to Covid but has now been rescheduled for December 17 and 18, 2022.

Much of the church turns into the village and many of its members and others, become its residents for "The Bethlehem Event." Cast and crew of around 300 are needed to re-create and staff the City of David at the time Christ was born more than 2,000 years ago. The transition from Fellowship Hall to Bethlehem will start in mid-October.

The intention of the work in the Fellowship Hall is to recreate the feeling of Bethlehem at the time of the birth of baby Jesus. A 70' x 14' mural that includes city streets, an grand entry to the City of Bethlehem, a typical house and the opportunity to peek inside the city walls serves as the backdrop for the indoor re-creation of Bethlehem. Goat herders — with live goats — goldsmiths, perfumers, cheese makers, carpenters, tent makers, bakers and other townspeople take part in retelling what happened. Planners rely on historical accuracy and detail to make the re-creation of the first Christmas a memorable experience.

During the event, a marketplace will offer items crafted by modern-day artists of Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Gaza areas of Palestine. The store is an attempt to create awareness about the hardships artisans and retailers are facing currently in the Middle

East. All profits will be given to support women, children and the elderly in Bethlehem.

*Pete Bemis*

