

www.englishlutheran.org
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1509 King Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

March/April, 2023



Garden of Gethsemane in modern times.
Gethsemane means oil press.

the *Voices* of english lutheran

The SEASON of LENT and EASTER

THE 3 DAYS

“Every Sunday in worship the church celebrates the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit gathers us to receive again the gifts of God that come to us through Christ, the saving Word. On several key days at the center of the church year, however, worship takes a particular shape. These central days have come to be known as the Three Days, recalling Jesus’ own words to his disciples that he would be handed over to death, and that “after three days he will rise again” Mark 10:34.

The Three Days encompass the time from Maundy Thursday evening through the evening of Easter Day. In particular, the services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter unfold through death into life.”

from *sundaysandseasons.com*

This year, we celebrate the Three Days during these times:

Maundy Thursday, April 6, at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 7, at 7:00 p.m.

The Vigil of Easter, April 8, at 5:00 p.m.

The Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter), April 9, at 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.

PASTOR BECKY’S SABBATICAL BEGINS MAY 15

Sometimes I find it hard to believe that I am in my sixth year with all of you! English Lutheran Church provides its pastors the wonderful opportunity to take a sabbatical after serving five years. **I will begin my sabbatical May 15 and will return August 14.**

A sabbatical is a time for a pastor to step away temporarily from the persistent obligations of daily congregational life and engage in a time of renewal and reflection. This is not a vacation, but a time for intentional exploration and reflection, for regaining the enthusiasm and creativity for ministry, and for discovering what will make the pastor’s heart sing.

Pastors serve in a variety of roles at the center of congregational life as preacher, teacher, spiritual guide, pastoral visitor, friend, and confidant. The responsibilities are continual, and the pace and demands of congregational life can be relentless, often leaving even the most dedicated pastors recognizing the need to refill their spiritual tanks to regain energy and

strength for their ministry.

The guiding theme for my sabbatical will be: “Refreshment, Renewal, Reconnection and Reflection.” I look forward to physical and emotional refreshment, strengthening my relationships with family and friends, and reflecting upon the intersections of my passion for creation and our ministry at English Lutheran Church.

Some of my inspiration for has come from author John Steinbeck and his book, *Travels with Charley: In Search of America*. While his travels may have not actually happened in the way he portrayed them, I appreciate his model of intentionally veering off the beaten path in order to explore and immerse himself in an area. I do not want to travel just as a tourist, but also as a pilgrim.



Sabbatical continues on page 2

IN CHRIST

We Welcome, Worship & Work

IN THE WORLD



PRAY FAST GIVE

Worship Times

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:30 a.m. and 10:45.

**GUEST PREACHER
DANIEL RIFT**

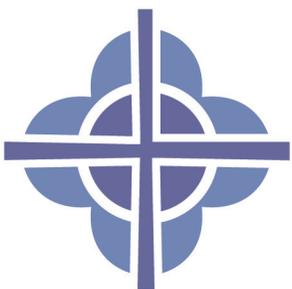


March 4 and 5

Please join us in worship as we welcome Daniel Rift as our guest preacher and presenter on Saturday evening, March 4 and Sunday morning, March 5.

Dan is the director of ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response Fund. Dan will be sharing with us the important work done by World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response in worship, and in conversation between worships on Sunday.

We give thanks to God for Dan's work, the work of Word Hunger and Disaster Response, and the many ways we partner together in ministry!



First Communion Class

for children of all ages and their parents

For many years at English Lutheran Church (ELC), children in fifth grade have participated in First Communion instruction. Recognizing that families are in different places with their children participating in the Lord's Supper, and believing that there is no age restriction to the table of the Lord because all are welcome, we want to invite children of all ages to learn more about Holy Communion.



Lord's Supper is why we celebrate this meal together at church, and how we can participate in this Sacrament at ELC. We plan to bake communion bread and have some fun together, too!

Children younger than fifth grade can take part in the Lord's Supper at ELC, however we (the pastors) think it is important to first talk with them and their parents about Holy Communion.

We will celebrate students' **First Communion** **Maundy Thursday service** April 6, at 7:00 p.m.

In addition, as a part of the Children's Ministry at ELC, we also periodically offer an age-appropriate class about Holy Communion.

First Communion class for children **fifth grade and younger** and their parents
Sunday, March 19,
12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

If you have questions, please talk with either Pastor Becky or Pastor Mark.

We will begin the class by sharing a meal and then we will dig into what the

If are interested in registering your child for the First Communion class, please email Pastor Becky at pastorbecky@englishlutheran.org with their name and grade, and their parent(s) name of who will be attending the class with them.

*Sabbatical
continued from front page*

With this in mind, I plan to travel solo to the West, Southwest and back, exploring new and once familiar places and reconnecting with family and friends. Cheryl, Gracie (our toy poodle), and I plan to do some traveling together around the Midwest. The rest of the time, I will rest, recharge, and perhaps learn a new skill or two. I have some photography, cooking and gardening classes that I've been itching to take.

available to lead worship, preside at funerals or weddings, and so on. Arrangements are being made to help cover my daily tasks, as well as occasional supply pastors.

I am grateful for all of you, and the excitement and encouragement that you've shared with me regarding my sabbatical. I am also grateful for Pastor Mark and the rest of the ELC staff for their support in helping make my sabbatical happen. I look forward to where the Holy Spirit will lead me and all of you!

During my sabbatical, I will not be

Pastor Becky Goche



scrip FUNDRAISING

ELC has been selling Scrip Cards for many years. The card options include many stores that you may already shop at, such as Festival, Kwik Trip, Amazon, Target, Moka, Starbucks, etc. For every card purchased, the church gets anywhere from 5-10% of the price of the card. The youth use the money to help pay for youth nights & activities, as well as mission trips, Sugar Creek Bible Camp, and family church trips, to name a few things.

We are asking for the congregation's help. If you plan to purchase Gift Cards, please check out what cards we have available. It does not cost you any extra, and it helps our church and the youth. Scrip cards are sold between services on Sundays in the Fellowship Hall. During the week, stop into the office and purchase them by talking to Jennifer or Carol.

GIFTS, MEMORIALS AND PASTORAL ACTS

UNDESIGNATED

In Memory of: Peter Allen by Donna Schulz, Steven Mieden and Carole Ann McQueen

In Memory of: Cathy Novotney by Ruth Kuntz, Kathy Erickson, and Howard and Nancy Mills

In Memory of: Joan Roberts by Earl and Carol Roberts, Dennis and Linda Buttera, and Roger and Kay Stewart, Steven Meiden and Carole Ann McQueen, Marvin and Michelle Wanders, Howard and Nancy Mills, Ruth Kuntz, Kent and Lee Johnson, Randy and Debra Abbott, Thomas and Karen Johnson, Robert and JoeAnn Schleifer, Teresa Tanke and Terry Christopherson, Robert and Laurie Jaszewski, Tricia Finch, Maureen Rouse, Susan Schaller, Russell Lee, Jr., Trygve and Karan Mathison, Richard and Carolyn Bryant, and Dale and Diane Piper

CARING MINISTRY

In Honor of: the Caring Ministry by James Sill



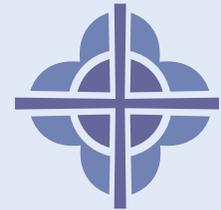
No one is untouched by life events that impact our day to day world. From the death of a loved one to the birth of a new child, each life event can leave us searching for a new normal. The Sunshine Ministry aims to make the search for that new normal easier by offering a meal to those who could use a little sunshine.

If you or someone you know have experienced a life event, please do us the honor of allowing us to show you some love and care. Contact the church office and let us know that you would like a call from the Sunshine Ministry. The ministry coordinator will contact you to arrange getting a prepared meal onto your dining room table at your convenience. We are happy to take into consideration dietary needs and other requests.

A "life event" may include anything from a death in the family, the birth or adoption of a child, divorce, hospitalization, etc.

As we strive to "be the hands" of God's loving arms, we are looking for volunteers who would enjoy sharing their culinary talents with those who will certainly appreciate it! If you are interested in being on the list to prepare and deliver meals, please complete this interest form!

*Many thanks!
Lisa Weston*



CHURCH OFFICE

main phone 784-9335
direct line..... 784-8876

SENIOR PASTOR

Pastor Mark Kvaleext 205
pastormark@englishlutheran.org

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Pastor Becky Goche.....ext 301
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DIRECTOR of MUSIC

Trevor DuPeyext 303
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BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR

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ORGANIST/PIANIST

Luke Thering

DIRECTOR of CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

March/April

Lent and Easter

OUR VISION

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

full of life

608•784•9335

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ELC to help

Monday Ministry

Trinity Lutheran Church is home to a vibrant neighborhood outreach called Monday Ministries. Trinity, located on the north side of La Crosse in a diverse community where seventy percent of the residents live below the poverty level, has become a hub of support and outreach for this community.

Over the past few months, ELC Ministry Council has been meeting with Pastor Phil from Trinity and has visited the site. Impressed with the scope of their work and the passion and dedication of this smaller ELCA church from our synod, we have pledged our support in a variety of ways.

You may have noticed that we already have bins set up in our donation area to

help with the toy closet and the clothing closets for boy, girls, and teens. Last month our 1st/2nd grade Sunday School children selected Trinity Lutheran Church's Monday Night Ministries as the recipient of the Hungry Jar.

On a larger scale we have also committed to preparing and serving four of the Monday meals, in March, July, October, and December. Already a couple of our small groups have stepped up. Mary Circle has offered to provide desserts for each of the four meals, and the Wednesday Evening Bible Study will be planning, preparing, and serving the first meal on March 6. We are hoping for other small groups from ELC to step up and sponsor a meal, and we are looking for an individual from ELC to coordinate and help plan these four meals.

For more information on the meals or coordinator position, call the office or contact Kathy and Bob Weeks.

Our other ELC commitment to Monday Ministries is to provide back-up help on Monday nights in the food pantry, the clothes closets, and with the meal program. Ann Kvale has volunteered to coordinate this ministry for ELC with each of the leaders of Monday Ministries. When they need extra help, Monday Ministry leaders will be contacting Ann, and Ann will then draw from our list of volunteers to send help where it is needed. If you are available on Monday nights and interested in serving, there is a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center, or you can contact the office or Ann.

We are looking forward to seeing others step up and help support Monday Ministries –both individuals and small groups. This is an opportunity for us to share the love of Jesus, (and a little of our time) with our neighbors.

