

www.englishlutheran.org
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608-784-9335
1509 King Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

March/April, 2024



the *Voices* of english lutheran

The SEASON of EASTER

WE ARE NOW A

Reconciling in Christ CONGREGATION

On Sunday, February 11, an historic moment for English Lutheran Church took place at the annual congregational meeting. The congregation voted to officially register and publically identify as a Reconciling in Christ Lutheran congregation! There was a larger than normal turnout for the meeting. Of the 104 total ballots cast, 96 were in favor and 8 were against.

Reconciling in Christ churches advocate for full welcome and inclusion for all as equal members of our Christian family. By doing so, ELC committed to strengthening and enabling all of God's beloved to live authentic, visible, and faithful lives.

As a part of the decision, ELC has adopted the following Welcome Statement:

The faith community of English Lutheran Church is rooted in Christ and committed to living life generously.

We celebrate diversity of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, economic status, marital status, physical or mental ability.

- continued on back page

Holy Week

The end of March brings with it the time of great significance for those of us who follow Jesus Christ. Holy Week is when we walk with Jesus from death to life.

Palm Sunday, Saturday, March 23 at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 24 at 8:30 and 10:45, is the day we walk along with Jesus as he enters into Jerusalem, with palm branches and coats laid out on the path before him; hosannas filling the air along with the blessing: "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."



The Three 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 in a single movement, as the church each year makes the passage with Christ through death into life." (from sundaysandseasons.com)

This year we celebrate the Three Days during these times.

Maundy Thursday, March 28, at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, March 29, at 7:00 p.m.

The Vigil of Easter, March 30, at 5:00 p.m.

The Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter), March 31, at 8:30 and 10:45 am.



IN CHRIST

We Welcome, Worship & Work

IN THE WORLD



Worship Times

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

*Holy Week services
see front page article.*

Online Giving



English Lutheran wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

Direct debit giving is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account on a predetermined schedule. Credit and debit card giving allows you to make offerings automatically using a credit or debit card.

Online giving allows you to go to englishlutheran.org/onlinegiving at any time to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history.

As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving!

If you have any questions about setting up your giving plan, please contact Jennifer at the church office (jennifer@englishlutheran.org, 608-784-9335).

English Ringers

Rehearsals

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Play at worship

March 10

April 14

Vocal Choir

Rehearsals

March 20

5:30 - 6:00 p.m.

March 27 - May 8

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Sing at worship

March 17 - "All Things Bright
and Beautiful"

March 31 Easter - "The Angel
Rolled the Stone Away"

April 21 - TBD

May 5 - TBD

May 12 - TBD

LOCATE PAST STREAMED SERVICES FROM OUR WEB SITE

1. Visit www.englishlutheran.org
2. Navigate to :
Worship>Welcome>Livestream
3. Click on: *Click here to find past
worship service videos.*

Or go to:

www.youtube.com/EnglishLutheran
or click on You Tube icon below.



GIFTS, MEMORIALS AND PASTORAL ACTS

UNDESIGNATED

In Memory of: Barbara Musgjerd
by David Musgjerd

In Memory of: Tom Wuttke
by Lou Wuensch

In Memory of: Charles (Chuck) Forer
by Jon and Kathy Hageseth,
C. Richard Kistner, Myron and
Christine Swenson, Norman and
Mary Greene, Vine St. Group, David
and Janice Fransen, Sandra
Denison, Robert and Patricia Meuer,
Ann Kleinertz, Paul Sampson,
Robert and Kathy Hanratty, Patrick
and Teresa Mullaney, Jim and Judy
Gull, J. and L. Daellenbach, Janice
Olson, and Peter Hansen

In Memory of: Marilyn Wildt
by Lou Wuensch

BUILDING FUND

In Memory of: Marilyn Wildt
by Bill and Karen Newburg

BAPTISMS

01/14 Natalie Lenore,
daughter of David and Kara Seiffert

01/28 Wesley Elliott,
son of Trevor and Anna Sprague

02/18 Fern Elena,
daughter of Paul and Maryl Napierala

DEATHS

01/08 Bernice (Be) Facticeau

01/11 Marjorie (Marge) Terry

01/20 Larry Norris



YOUTH GROUPS

P.A.C.K - fourth, fifth & sixth grades

Friday: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

March 8 - movie night

April 12 - escape room & scavenger hunt

Youth Lock-in

8:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m.

April 12

Sunday Youth Group

seventh -12 grades

Youth Room 9:45 a.m.

March 10 and April 14

Fundraisers

- Wall of Envelopes: Housed in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall
- Cornhole Carnival and Silent Auction/Chance Baskets
- Parents Night Out
- Pancake Breakfasts

Watch for more information on these upcoming fundraisers for the ELCA Youth Gathering.

Jared Kronback,
Director of
Faith Formation



SUNDAY SCHOOL and VBS

Sunday School Dates

March 24... Sunday School, Palm Sunday
Students sing at both worship services.

March 31 .. Easter - No Sunday School

May 5 Sunday School

Students sing at both worship services.

May 19 Last Day of Sunday School

Vacation Bible School
week of June 10
in the evenings

Ann Kvale,
Children's Ministry



FIRST Communion

March 30, 5:00 p.m.

Vigil of Easter service

OR

March 31, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.

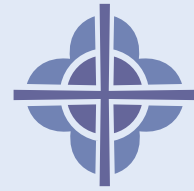
Easter services

Students and their families may choose
whichever service they like.

Save the Date

Affirmation of Baptism
(Confirmation Sunday)

April 28, 10:45 a.m. service
9th grade students



CHURCH OFFICE

main phone 784-9335

SENIOR PASTOR

Pastor Mark Kvaleext 205

pastormark@englishlutheran.org

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

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BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR

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ORGANIST/PIANIST

Luke Thering

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BUILDING MAINTENANCE

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

March/April

EASTER

OUR VISION

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

full of life

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Paying Dividends

As most of you are aware, utility costs have increased considerably over the past few years. In 2021, English Lutheran embarked on a major HVAC project to address needs for replacing and upgrading our systems and tying them together into a single building automation system. I am pleased to say, we are seeing the positive results of the project.

Looking at year-over-year numbers, our Xcel Energy bills in fact went down from 2022-2023 by more than \$6,000, despite increasing energy rates and building use coming out of the pandemic. This trend is continuing, for the month of January 2024, our Xcel Energy bill went down by more than \$2,000 from 2023. Of course, average temperatures were warmer, but much of the decrease is directly attributable to more



efficient systems and better management of those systems.

Additionally, our water usage has decreased significantly, dropping by more than \$4,700 in 2023 vs. 2022. A chunk of that was due to the failure of the basement cooling system for the IT server, nonetheless, our usage was down every quarter of 2023. We have Winona Controls to thank for their good work on the new HVAC systems.

Moving forward we will continue to look for opportunities for more savings through efficiency improvements.

~Dane Melby and Property Committee

Reconciling - continued from front page

We are united in the Holy Spirit as we embrace our differences. We welcome all as we strive to be a community equipped for God's mission in the world.

We invite you to join us as we seek to promote racial equity, social and economic justice, and care for our environment. Wherever you are on your faith journey, there is a place for you here.

