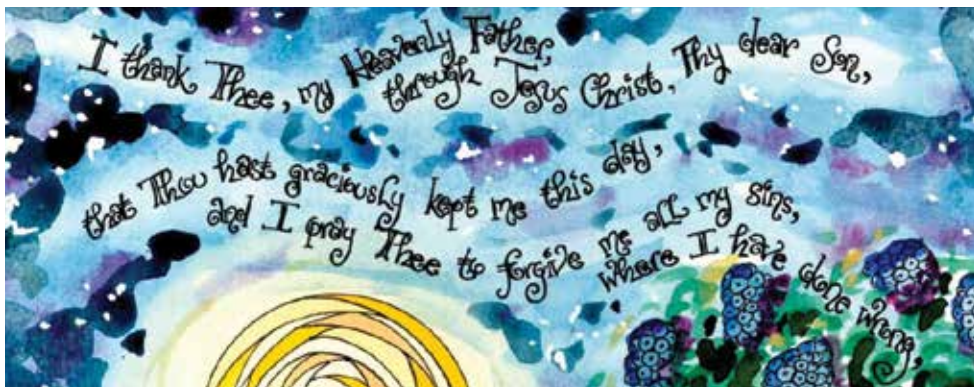


www.englishlutheran.org  
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608-784-9335  
1509 King Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

May/June, 2023



a portion of Martin Luther's evening prayer

# the *Voices* of english lutheran

The SEASON of EASTER and PENTECOST

## *Sanctuary Skylights*

If you have recently looked up in our Narthex and Sanctuary, you have likely noticed our wonderful skylights are visibly yellowed with age. The beautiful natural light they provide is diminished as they are past their anticipated thirty year life span.

Three years ago the skylights were professionally inspected and beyond the yellowing, the seals are shrunken and weathered. At that time we were warned we could expect problems in the next three to five years. Action needed to be taken. Fortunately, we have not experienced leaks, condensation, or other noticeable water damage below or to the surrounding ceiling and roof structure.

The Property Committee researched and coordinated a replacement plan with and approved by the Church Council. Fortunately, skylight technology has improved significantly. The new skylights will allow a brighter, more even light, have UV protection to prevent yellowing, and are double glazed to increase energy efficiency.

Replacement is scheduled June 5, by the W.L. Hall Company of Hartford, Wisconsin. Work will begin in the

*continues on page 3*

## EVERY GIFT IS FROM GOD

Dear Friends,

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

God's love and peace to you in this season following the resurrection of the Savior of the World, Jesus Christ.

As I write these words, I am looking outside my window; watching the grass turn green, and the trees bud, almost instantly as I watch. It is a beautifully warm, spring day, and I find myself so thankful for all that God creates and gives us. It is all gift, nothing earned; just the beauty and warmth of a loving God spilling out into the world!

And I find myself grateful for all of you! Thank you for all that you are doing in serving Jesus Christ! Thank you for your generous hearts!

My daily devotion this morning was

from the Moravian Daily Texts.

First a reading from James:

"Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." James 1:17

And then, this prayer:

As energy streams from the sun, giving light and food to the earth, so even the universe itself, with all its light and love, streams from you, creator God. May your creative energy be the source of our own gifts in return: caring for and revering creation. Amen.

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



Pastor Mark Kvale

IN CHRIST

We Welcome, Worship & Work

IN THE WORLD



## Worship Times

Saturday 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.  
*See article below for summer hours.*

## Summer Worship Schedule

### Beginning Sunday, May 28

(Memorial Day weekend)  
Sunday worship - 9:30 a.m.  
Saturday worship - 5:00 p.m.

Coffee fellowship Sunday mornings,  
roughly 30 minutes before and 30  
minutes after the worship service.

No Sunday, but please participate in  
**Vacation Bible School in June!**

### Beginning Sunday, September 3

(Labor Day weekend).  
Sunday worship - 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.  
Saturday worship services - 5:00 p.m.

## GIFTS, MEMORIALS AND PASTORAL ACTS

### BAPTISMS

03/04 .....Gene Henry Lovell,  
son of Dustin and Kirstin Lovell  
04/08 .....Jackson Morais Jackson,  
son of Cory and Andreia Schultz  
04/08 .....Margaret Hazel Wolfe,  
daughter of Scott and Holly Wolfe  
04/16 .....Reagan Noelle Quam,  
daughter of Mike and Becky Quam

### DEATHS

03/14 .....John Monson, funeral 03/18  
03/18 .....Jane Johnson, funeral 04/15



As a part of the annual La Crosse Area  
Synod's Assembly, English Lutheran and all  
congregations within the Synod are invited  
to attend worship together.

This is a great time to get to know and  
worship with your ELCA siblings in Christ  
from across our Synod.

There will be a picnic following worship. As  
part of the service project for the communi-  
ties within our Synod, we will be collecting  
NEW underwear and socks that will then be  
distributed to those who need them.

*More information to come.*

**NOTE: This outdoor worship replaces our  
regular Sunday worship in the sanctuary.  
However, worship on Saturday, June 10 at  
5:00 p.m. will be at church.**

## NEW MEMBERS received February 26

- Michael and Kasey Crawford,  
children Kinsley and Keaton
- David Shelsted and Lorri Lobeck
- Adam and Jordyn Schneider,  
daughter Rosemary
- Jules Black
- Mike and Julie Brudos,  
children Frank, Nathan, and Thomas
- Dan Gibson-Reinemer and Corrie  
Welch, daughters, Anna, Kerith, Noa,  
and Robyn
- Amy Tischler, children Andres and  
Mia Snook-Tischler
- Lisa Jacobson
- Erin and David Kujak,  
children Makai and Janiya
- Gina Miller,  
children Adeline and Soren
- Ardeen Farmer
- John Kluth and Sharon Schultz
- Robert DeFrisco

## Students Celebrate

## First Communion



Niklaus Anderson, Peter Moulton, Adam Moulton, Matt Hatfield, Harper Hatfield, Kinsley Crawford, Keaton Crawford, Gavin Davey, Sam Letendre, Wesley Chittendon, Miles Quam, Evan Damstra, Gus Martin, Arthur Wolfe, Thomas Pierce, Brody Frost, Josiah Stammeyer, and Charlotte Stammeyer

Twenty-five students in grades kinder-  
garten through fifth grade and their  
parents/grandparents participated in  
classes in March to learn about Holy  
Communion and why we celebrate it.  
The students heard several Bible stories  
that provide the foundation of why we  
celebrate the Lord's Supper, learned  
the names of the communion ware  
used at English, taste tested the wine  
and the bread, and baked bread to use  
at their first communion.

A majority of these students (as shown  
in the photo) celebrated their first com-  
munion during the Maundy Thursday  
service on April 6. Several more will be  
celebrating their first communion  
on Sunday, April 30.

Thank you to all the students, their  
parents/grandparents, Alisha Merwin,  
Deb Bemis, and Ann Kvale who helped  
Pastors Mark and Becky teach the class!



**Have you ever  
"wondered"  
about things?  
Come "wonder" with us  
at VBS this summer.**

**Vacation Bible School  
June 19- 22  
5:00 – 7:30 p.m.**

We will be "wondering" about our unique stories that God is creating for each of us. We will also "wonder" about the gifts God has given us, as well as "wondering" about what we can learn from others and "wondering" how we can spend time with God. There will be scripture, food, music, skits, games, crafts and experiments to help us through our wondering.

This Vacation Bible School is for students who have just finished PreK - 6th grade. Students will have opportunity to both meet with their own age groups during small group time and work with other age groups during large group time. It will be a wonderfully marvelous few days of wondering and studying in God's Word!

**Dinner served at 5:00 p.m.  
VBS will conclude at 7:30  
p.m. each evening.**

**Meet in Fellowship Hall**

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY  
COORDINATOR**

Ann Kvale took on the role of Children's Ministry Coordinator earlier this spring.



Since joining English Lutheran about a year ago, Ann has become involved in English Ringers, VIP Choir and has been a cantor during worship. As a former educator and a life-long Lutheran this role is a great fit. She has enjoyed getting to know Sunday School teachers and students this spring and is currently working on VBS plans for this summer.

Ann looks forward to getting to know students and families better in the future.

**Skylight**  
*continued from front page*

Narthex, progress to the Sanctuary and ideally will be completed in two weeks.

**Following worship on Sunday June 4,  
we will need help clearing seating  
and other objects from below the  
skylights in both areas.**

**On Sunday June 11, worship will  
be held at the La Crosse Center as  
a part of the Synod Assembly. As  
needed, other worship services will  
take place in the Fellowship Hall.**

For your safety, during construction please access the church via the King Street (B & C) entrances and do your best to avoid the parking lot.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience during this project. We look forward to completion and the new light we will have shining on us in worship, welcome and fellowship.

Mike Buncak



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Luke Thering

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## May/June

Easter and Pentecost

### 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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### DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

Jarod Griswold is from the Mankato area in Minnesota and is the new Director of Faith Formation!



Having worked at camps in the past gives him a background in outdoor ministry. Jarod graduated from UW-La Crosse with a B.S. in Recreation Management with an outdoor emphasis.

He has always believed that all have the potential to continue learning and expanding upon their current beliefs. With past experience in LOM (Lutheran Outdoor Ministry) and working in a camping setting, Jarod is well equipped with skills to best help and allow the youth to continue growing in their spiritual lives. He looks to guide the middle and high schoolers to participate within the community and volunteer in different capacities within the larger La Crosse area.

While at church, Jarod can be found in his office or running around everywhere to ensure events and other programs are running smoothly as possible. In his free time, he can be found biking, hammocking, doing photography, and visiting the local breweries and coffee shops.

### KITCHEN COORDINATOR

Hello, my name is Alisha Merwin. Three years ago, I was asked if I would bring my baby daughter Ciarra up from Prairie du Chien, WI, to English Lutheran to participate in the Christmas program. She unknowingly did a wonderful job lying in Mary's (Avery Farmer's) arms. As I watched the program and the personnel coordinating the event, I was able to see family, dedication, and compassion from all members.



I moved to the La Crosse area about two years ago. I knew that I wanted to be a member of the English Lutheran family and jumped at the opportunity to volunteer my time toward the church.

In my spare time, I enjoy the outdoors, traveling, learning new things, but especially spending time with my daughter and anything that involves my family.

I spent 25 years working in all areas of the law enforcement field, but my heart has always been in comforting people with creations from the kitchen. I come from a big family and believe that the kitchen is community. It's where conversations start, learning begins, and traditions are formed. As the new kitchen coordinator, I am honored to provide you and your families nourishment, and hope you enjoy the comfort that comes on your plate.

