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May - June, 2021



the *Voices* of english lutheran

the SEASON of Easter and Pentecost

THE JOY OF HELLO

by Pastor Becky Goche

“Hello, Pastor Becky!” These simple words have never brought me as much joy as they did the first Tuesday in April. This was our first time back leading worship for the residents at Hillview Health Care Center.

I was shocked that the man who shouted hello from across the room, remembered my name after not seeing me for over one year. I could see his eyes dancing with the smile that was hidden beneath his mask. In fact, the residents were bubbling with joy because this was their first worship service together since the pandemic began.

The resurrection text for Easter Sunday from John 20:1-18 seemed appropriate for the day. In her sermon, Irene wove a story around how we, like Mary Magdalene, have been filled with grief over all that has been lost. This is especially poignant

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STRATEGIC PLAN

By Karl Green
Vision Board President

Greeting English Lutheran Members - Happy Spring and Happy Easter – Christ is Risen indeed!

There is something about seventy degree days in the beginning of April that fill me with optimism and joy. It is also with optimism and joy that I bring you all an update on English Lutheran Church’s Strategic Plan.

You may recall, this process began in February 2020 with a program with the Church’s Joint Council. During this meeting we reviewed a considerable amount of information regarding social conditions affecting the Church in America today, as well as English Lutheran church’s membership and attendance. The groups were then asked to brainstorm about various issues facing the Church.

Following considerable discussion, the group assembled categories that seemed to capture the essence of the topics. These categories were termed “Critical Success Factors” and point to the fundamental efforts the Church needs to implement/continue to be a vibrant faith community.

These four critical success factors are:

- Collective Faith of the Congregation
- Belonging to a Family of Faith
- Community Engagement
- Inspiring Worship

These four critical success factors helped guide the Vision Board’s ideas on programing efforts we should consider to help ensure we are addressing each of these critical issues.

While COVID has certainly created

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IN CHRIST

We Welcome, Worship & Work

IN THE WORLD

TRANSITION TEAM WORK CONTINUES

The transition team consisting of Kathy Hageseth, Greg Pritchett, Jennifer Carr, Dennis Naumann, Julie Kriewald and Pastor Glen met on April 8 and will continue to meet (usually weekly) until the Ministry Site Profile (MSP- our church resume) is done.

Now that it is possible to meet in the church, there will be opportunities for in-person congregational input regarding the next pastor (the nature of which yet to be determined by the transition team). There will also be a survey coming out soon that will allow members to prioritize what are the most important ministry tasks for that next pastor to focus on.

Once a draft of the MSP is completed, it is sent to the Vision Board for its approval. The Vision Board may have input, request changes, and determine such aspects as the compensation package for the profile. Once the MSP process is nearing completion, the Call Committee can be called by elec-

tion of members, trained and formed.

The Call Committee then receives rostered leader profiles (RLPs) of candidates from the synod and if any candidate is considered strongly, the committee will interview that candidate. If no suitable candidates are found in the first batch of candidates, a second or third batch will be sent by the Synod, until a final candidate is found. I would not expect a shortage of candidates for English.

Difficulties can occur anytime in the process, such as a desired candidate's spouse being unable to find a job in the area. It is not unusual for the interim period to last up to two years, though generally it is less than that for a church such as English Lutheran. Candidates can come from Lacrosse Area Synod or from other synods across the country, and even from other denominations if the Bishop Boerger approves.

Pastor Glen Bickford

Joy of Hello ...from front page

for those who haven't been able to see their loved ones. And then Jesus, the ever present gardener of our lives, shows up and calls us by name. While I cannot imagine the joy that filled Mary's heart when she saw Jesus again, I know the joy that filled mine seeing the familiar faces and hearing the residents' hellos. I also felt sadness because of those who had died and were no longer there.

Our experience at Hillview may be a taste of what is to come when we return to in-person worship at English. That day is not long off! Of course, just like worship was different at Hillview for safety – limited number of residents, spaced 6-feet apart, all wearing masks, no singing – so, too, worship will look different at English. While I and probably many of you continue to grieve all that has been lost, I look forward to the joy that will come when we are able to gather together, in-person and worship!



GIFTS, MEMORIALS AND PASTORAL ACTS

UNDESIGNATED

In Memory of: Darlene Dayton

by Ruth Olson, Sharon Odahl, Lou Wuensch, Dennis and Lois Peterson, Howard and Nancy Mills

In Memory of Lorraine Ganey

by Ruth Kuntz, Howard and Nancy Mills, Sharon Odahl, Dennis and Lois Peterson, Steve and Vicki Stromberg, Kay Taylor, Lou Wuensch, and family and friends

THE QUILTERS

In Memory of: Lorraine Ganey

by Candice Brieske, James and Claudette Giblin, Karen Guptill, Dave and Judi Konop, Dan and Jill McGarvey, Steve and Linnea Mueller, Gary and Beth Munding,

Bill and Karen Newburg, Ruth Olson, Shirley Ryan, Donna Schulz, Kent and Mary Sween, Cathy Swartz, and family and friends

BAPTISMS

01/03Joshua Inglett

01/03Brooklyn Elizabeth, daughter of Joshua and Jessica Inglett

04/17Hattie Joyce, daughter of Matthew and Mallory Randall

DEATHS

02/21Darlene Dayton, wife of Bob

02/26Lorraine Ganey, mother of Denise

03/26Gerald "Jerry" Ruff, husband of Vivian Storm



Sugar Creek Bible Camp

“Where all generations encounter Christ, experience God’s grace, and are empowered by the Holy Spirit to go forth in faith.”

The weather is warming and summer camp will be starting in mid-June so now is the time to get signed up for camping programs at Sugar Creek for children and families. There are family camp sessions this year in July and August.

English Lutheran Week at camp is during Week 5: July 11-16.

There are \$100 scholarships available through ELC for students entering 3rd grade and up. To get the scholarship you should provide Niki Pohnl with a copy of your registration form and payment will be sent to camp in your child’s name.

For many of us, some of our most cherished memories are from attending summer camp. Making new friends and sharing meals, Bible studies, worship and outdoor activities in God’s beautiful creation can be both inspirational and life-changing. We encourage you to go to the Sugar Creek Program Brochure link for information about the different summer camps and to complete a registration form. <https://bit.ly/3uAcCAw>

We have also included a link to a wonderful, inspiring article on summer camping from our 2020 Stories of Faith in Action, “Connecting Cultures at Camp,” that highlights an ELCA Outlaw Ranch camp program in South Dakota and their unique bi-cultural family camp experience. <https://bit.ly/31Usnpl>

Susan Johnson
Mike Schnitzius

NEW MEMBERS

Do you or someone you know want to learn more about becoming a member at English?

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION AND FAITH WORKSHOP
Sunday, May 23, 2021
11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

New members will be received at service on Sunday, May 30.

A light lunch (of your choice) will be provided from Pickerman’s Soup and Sandwich Shop.

For questions or to register, please contact Carol Robertson at 608-784-9335 or carol@englishlutheran.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

May - June

the SEASON of LENT & 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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Strategic Plan ... from front page

a detour in the process of developing the Strategic Plan, it did not hinder or prevent the Vision Board's work. We have met regularly over the past year via Zoom to discuss, debate, refine, and ultimately define English Lutheran's direction over the next 2-3 years. This direction was presented to the Joint Council over the last few months in an attempt to garner feedback from each council regarding the variety of efforts suggested by the Vision Board. Last month, the Vision Board held their annual retreat (again – via Zoom) and reviewed the various council's feedback and suggestions. A revised Strategic Plan document was reviewed and finalized.

The last few steps of “officially” accepting this Strategic Plan will be providing the revised document to the various Councils, as well as sharing this document with the congregation once the councils have their final review. I am excited to bring this document to everyone, as I believe it illustrates a thoughtful, purposeful direction for the Church that will be both progressive in its ideas as well as familiar in our approach. I look forward to sharing this with you soon, and implementing these ideas that will bring us continued success as a congregation.

In Christ's Love,
Karl Green, Vision Board President

First Communion Service

May 22

Milestone Sunday

May 23

Vacation Bible School

June 20-24

