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1509 King Street
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November/December, 2023



the *Voices* of english lutheran

The SEASON of ADVENT and CHRISTMAS

Reconciling in Christ

Hello, everyone! Here's an update from the Reconciling in Christ Ministry Team!

We hope that by now, you have heard of the Reconciling in Christ ministry in the ELCA. If you haven't, or have questions, there will be more opportunities for information coming up!

Where are we?

So far, we have made the following steps in our reconciling journey:

- The team has crafted a Reconciling Welcoming Statement, which we will vote to adopt at our congregational meeting in February. The text can be found at www.englishlutheran.org/RIC and we urge you to read it prayerfully.
- The team has hosted conversations with small groups and held listening sessions throughout the last year. We are sorry we could not reach everyone, and we

continued on back page

WHAT WE NEED IS HERE

As I write this column, it appears as though Fall might be truly arriving. We have experienced an 'extended' summer, at least summer-like weather. But now, the temperature is dropping, the trees are turning color, and the change of season is upon us. One of my favorite poems for this time of year is one written by Wendell Berry, called "What We Need is Here."¹

Geese appear high over us,
pass, and the sky closes.
Abandon, as in love or sleep,
Holds them to their way,
Clear in the ancient faith:
what we need is here.
And we pray,
Not for new earth or heaven,
but to be quiet in heart,
and in eye, clear.
What we need is here.

And, we getting closer to the season of Advent; the time of year in which we celebrate the coming of Christ; born as a babe in Bethlehem; God's love made real; Immanuel, God with us.

Dear friends, we so look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus. But Jesus, whose Advent nears, is already here. Jesus Christ is already here. God's love for you has never left, but remains. What we need is here!

I pray that your eyes are clear; and that you are without tears, and that you experience quiet hearts and the peace that comes from Jesus.

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!
Pastor Mark Kvale



¹ Wendell Berry (from poetryfoundation.org)

IN CHRIST
We Welcome, Worship & Work
IN THE WORLD

Special Worship Services

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY November 4 and 5



All Saints Sunday will be celebrated at all services on November 4 and 5. This is a time to remember and give thanks for those who have gone before us, as well as those who are just beginning their new life in Christ through the waters of baptism.

At all worship services, we will light candles and ring bells as the names of those saints who have died over the past year are read. We will also name those who have been baptized at English Lutheran in the past year.

During each service, there will be a time to light a candle for a loved one for those who wish to do so.

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY November 26

Christ the King Sunday is the last Sunday of the church year. It is a time in which we celebrate Jesus Christ, who is Savior and Lord and who reigns forever.

This year we will celebrate Jesus in all the seasons of our lives, and all the seasons of the church year. We will be singing hymns and hearing readings from throughout the church year: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost.

THE SEASON OF ADVENT BEGINS December 3



The new church year kicks off with the Season of Advent on December 3. In Advent, we watch and wait for the coming of Jesus as a baby in a manger –the One who is called Emmanuel –God is with us (Matthew 1:23).

It is our tradition at English to light one candle of the Advent wreath each week, until all the candles are lit on Christmas Eve. We invite you –as families or friends –to help light the candles and lead us in a short prayer at each of our worship services.

If you're interested, please contact Carol at the church office to sign up.

A TIME OF SOLACE SERVICE SUNDAY December 10 at 5:00 p.m.

While the season leading up to Christmas is seen as one of celebration and happiness, this is not the case for everyone. For many of us, this time of year can be difficult because of the losses we have experienced, the people who are missing from our lives, and the hurts we bear. All these combined with the shorter days, can make the nights long and intensify our pain.

In recognition of all this, we offer "A Time of Solace Service." During this service we invite everyone to: a time to listen, a time to pray, a time to sing, and a time to reflect upon the pain we feel, offering it all to Jesus. We find hope and comfort that we are not alone because Jesus is the One whom we call Emmanuel. Jesus is God who is with us.

CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY December 24 and 25



On Christmas Eve we will offer three worship services. At each service we will celebrate communion and sing "Silent Night" as we pass Christ's light on our candles throughout the congregation.

- **Worship at 3:00 p.m.:** This service is geared for families and children and as such will be a bit more interactive, noisy and fun!
- **Worship at 5:00 p.m.:** This service is a traditional service with a processional and the choir leading us in song.
- **Worship at 10:00 p.m.:** As the last service of the day, this Vesper service will provide us time to reflect upon this most holy night through readings and songs.
- **Christmas Day at 9:30 a.m.:** This service is similar to our weekly Sunday services.

Please Note: There will be no services on Saturday, December 23 nor on the morning of December 24.

NEW YEAR'S EVE December 31

There will be one service on New Year's Eve (Sunday, December 31) at 9:30 a.m.

There will be no service on Saturday, December 30.

REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE January 6 and 7, 2024

Services are on Saturday nights at 5:00 p.m., and on Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Sunday school and fellowship are available in between the two Sunday services.

Ministry Council

One of the best ways to prepare for Christmas and celebrate the birth of Jesus is to look beyond ourselves and consider alternative ways of giving. There are countless people throughout the world, including in our own communities, who dwell in the shadows of poverty and destitution. For many, every day is a struggle – for food, clothing, shelter, and even human dignity.

The Giving Tree



This Christmas, the Ministry Council will again be adorning our Giving Tree with alternative giving opportunities. To reach out to families struggling in our community, we will be adopting several families from Emerson Elementary and Hope Restores. Watch the weekly E-Voice for more information.

ELCA Good Gifts



For those interested in assisting people beyond our borders, the Ministry Council is sponsoring gifts

from the ELCA Good Gifts Catalog. The ornaments on the tree will include gifts such as goats, chicks, pigs, bees, and much more. Many people choose to honor a family member or friend when purchasing these gifts.

More information will be provided in the weekly E-Voices after Thanksgiving.

Monday Meals



December 11 ELC will be serving our fourth meal for Trinity Lutheran's Monday Meals.

We have been blessed to have Wednesday Night's Bible Study, Mary Circle, and Ministry Council members help with providing, preparing, and serving the food to 150-200 people. Helping with these meals may be another opportunity for you to serve your church and community.

We are also looking for someone to help coordinate the meals for 2024. Watch for announcements in the weekly E-Voices or contact Kathy Weeks if you are interested.



CHURCH OFFICE

main phone 784-9335

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GIFTS, MEMORIALS AND PASTORAL ACTS

UNDESIGNATED

In Memory of: Cathi Novotney
by Nancy Borgen, Patrick and Sarah
Lamke

In Memory of: Stephanie Stannard
by Nancy Borgen, Chuck and Carmen
Gustafson, Sharon Odahl, and Kent and
Mary Sween

In Memory of: Robert "Bob" Midland
by the Seekers, Diane Midland, Ruth
Olson, Delaney Gilster and Gail Saltz,
Beverly Ryan, Judy Fredrick, Lou
Wuensch, Karen Guptill, and Louise
Sedevie-Lawrynck

In Memory of: Patricia Potts
by Bill and Karen Newburg

In honor of Kent Sween's 90th birth-
day by Jean Davis, Howard and Nancy
Mills, Bill and Karen Newburg, and
Karen Guptill

BAPTISMS

09/17 Arleigh R. Pfaff, adult

10/22 Arabella Ann Atkinson,
daughter of Meagan Troope
and Ken Atkinson

10/22 Davina Love Atkinson,
daughter of Meagan Troope
and Ken Atkinson

DEATHS

08/06 Robert "Bob" Midland

08/17 Barbara Musgjerd

08/28 Patricia Potts

09/07 Thomas Wuttke

09/14 Robert "Bobby" Johnson

NEW MEMBERS, October 15

Don Harkness, JoLynn Jensen,
Lucas and Shelly Passehl, daughters,
Autumn and Olivia,
Arleigh and Laurie Pfaff,
Trevor and Anna Sprague and
children, Evelyn, Emerson, and Wesley.



YOUTH GROUPS

P.A.C.K - for fourth, fifth and sixth grades

Every second Friday: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. unless marked other-
wise.

- November 10: crafts and games
- December 8: Rotary Lights and hot cocoa afterwards



New Sunday Program - seventh -12 grades

Sunday following PACK (second Friday): 9:45 a.m. - 10:00/10:15 a.m.

Confirmation - seventh, eighth and ninth grades

November 1, 8, and 15

December 6 and 13

November 22 - no class

Dec, 20, 27 and Jan. 3 - no class

November 29

Peace and Blessings,

Jared Kronback, Director of Faith Formation

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The PreK – Sixth Grade Sunday School
year is off and running with a great
group of volunteers to teach, assist
and substitute.



Teachers for this year are:

- PreK/K – Kayla Anderson and
Kris Mull
- First/Second Grades – Beth Hall,
Jessica Malpica and Daniel
Gibson- Reinemer
- Third/Fourth Grades – Kirsten
Gabriel and Missy Peppin
- Fifth/Sixth Grades – Ben Stepanek
and Suzanne Falkenberry



Classroom Assistants:

Anna Reinemer, Caleb Farmer,
Avery Farmer and Henry Martin

If there are any other middle school
or high school youth who would
like to help out as assistants,
please contact Ann Kvale at
kidsministry@englishlutheran.org

Substitutes:

Corin Davey, Nicole and Paul Letendre,
Sara Olson, Kari Heckman and Teresa
Clark

Thank you to all!

Thanks, too, for all of you who
have volunteered to adopt a class-
room through the "God's Work Our
Hands" Sunday School class adop-
tion project! Your prayers, treats
and cards are greatly appreciated.

Sunday School

All Saints Day Service Project

Sunday, November 5

Trinity Lutheran Food Pantry

Sunday School students will be collecting paper products for Trinity Lutheran Food Pantry. Toilet paper, paper towels and facial tissues are needed.



A box will be located in the Narthex marked for Trinity Lutheran Food Pantry beginning October 15. Please add your donations to this box.

The cart in the entryway will still be designated for WAFER.
Thank you for your help!

Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 17

10:45 a.m. worship service

All Sunday School students, Grades PreK – Sixth will share words and songs that celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.



Quilts Distributed

October 2022 - October 7, 2023

Bethany Homes	45
Graduating Seniors.....	20
Lutheran World Relief.	116
Boys and Girls Club....	20
New Horizons	20
Sugar Creek	2
Misc.	1
Total	224



Giving Online

Not every member may be able to attend church services regularly. Work and family obligations often get in the way, and now we can even worship online if we're sick or out of town! If you're not getting to church as often, but are still invested in the mission we share, consider online giving. You can give a one-time gift, or set up a weekly or monthly contribution.

Visit www.englishlutheran.org/onlinegiving.html to learn more, or [contact Jennifer in the church office](#) for more information. Online giving is secure and easy for you, and ensures the church has steady income, even through summer and other busy times of the year when we can't always make it to worship.

Hospital Visits

If you will be hospitalized, and would like a pastor to visit, please contact Carol at 608-784-9335 ex 202 or carol@englishlutheran.org to let us know.

HIPAA laws sometimes prohibit us from finding out directly from the hospitals, and we want to make sure we can care for you and pray with you during what may be a difficult time.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

November/December

Advent/Christmas

OUR VISION

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

full of life

608•784•9335

www.englishlutheran.org

Reconciling continued from front page

invite you to continue this step by contacting one of us!

- Pastor Mark has led a series of adult forums on how to read the Bible as a Lutheran, and a look at the verses commonly used to exclude others, as well as the verses used to include people.

What's next?

- Another adult forum is scheduled for Sunday, October 22 nd between services. This meeting will be a listening and conversation opportunity to further explore what it means to become a Reconciling in Christ congregation

within the ELCA. Individual meetings and additional forums will be scheduled as desired.

- Members of the team will continue to be available in the narthex around the services or listening and conversation. Please come talk to us!

- Keep your eyes open for a time when the team can schedule a special guest speaker from a congregation that has already adopted Reconciling in Christ. We are interested to learn how this ministry can expand our welcome and what other changes we might see as a result!

- And ultimately, we will be voting on becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation at our February congregation meeting.

Sincerely,
members of the Reconciling in
Christ Ministry Team,

Peggy Sannerud, Kathy Hageseth,
Jon Hageseth, Lee Johnson,
Deb Daehn Zellmer, Mike Schnitzius,
and Trevor Dupey.

