

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

September/October, 2021



the *Voices* of english lutheran

the SEASON of PENTECOST

CALL COMMITTEE

The Call Committee has met three times. We have elected Pete Bemis and Greg Fenton as Co-Chairs and Denise Strudthoff as Secretary. Our first meeting included training with the Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Libby Howe. Her training included a request for prayer with each meeting, reviewed the process to follow, and stressed the confidentiality the Call Committee must uphold. Subsequent meetings were to review all documents such as the Ministry Site Profile and our congregations Reflections on Ministry and Context. This included the review of the survey that was completed to include input and direction from the congregation.

The Call Committee would like to thank Caden Pohnl for showing a willingness to serve, even if briefly. Caden has chosen to withdraw from the committee in order to accept an employment opportunity overseas. Taylor Ledvina has been selected by the Vision Board to replace Caden. Taylor is the 30 year old daughter of Terri and Richie Johnson and has been an active member of ELC since she was in Sunday School.

Our next step is to develop a list of approximately 10 questions for the formal interview and to then coordinate with Pastor Howe for prospective candidate interviews.

REFLECTIONS ON LIFE, COVID AND HOPE

Romans 5:5 "Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."

I've been thinking about hope and expectations lately. Earlier this year, we were hoping for a widely accessible vaccine. The vaccine gave us the hope for a COVID-free summer, and we had it-for a while. Now, with the Delta Variant and a return to masking, that hope appears to be dashed.

It is not as if we weren't warned. Epidemiologists cautioned us months ago that COVID-19 could evolve into a form that resists the vaccine, partly or totally. So far that hasn't happened: vaccines, though not perfect, are mostly protecting us from COVID Delta, or at least its most serious effects.

But COVID has turned a full return to normal into a partial return to restrictions, including masks. Hope in most

anything: a vaccine, a spouse, a government, is bound to be a disappointment, sooner or later. Vaccines have breakthrough infections, marriages can be different than we expect, and governments can fail to do things which increase the common good. Because we are imperfect creatures, our creations, our relationships, and our institutions are all imperfect.

So our hope is imperfect, at least our hope in earthly things. Hope in God, according to Paul, does NOT disappoint us, because God's love is perfect. The Holy Spirit pours that perfect love into us, day by day, hour by hour, making us more loving-more perfect- every day. That is why we have hope in God. It is the only hope that cannot fail us.

Good Lord, give us the courage and the love to spread your hope in this imperfect world. Amen.

Pastor Glen Bickford

IN CHRIST

We Welcome, Worship & Work

IN THE WORLD



Worship Times

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 9:30 a.m. through Sept.

Watch for October update.

GIFTS, MEMORIALS AND PASTORAL ACTS

UNDESIGNATED

In Memory of: Don Ubbelohde
by Mark and Carol Solyst

In Memory of: Darlene Dayton by
Karen Guptill, Kent and Mary Sween,
family and friends

In Memory of: Marian Reichgelt
by Ruth Olson, family and friends

In Memory of: Shirley Johnson
by Ruth Olson

In Memory of: Karen Sampson
by John and Gloria Sampson, Ruth
Kuntz, Howard and Nancy Mills, Ruth
Olson, family and friends

In Memory of: Doris Bendiksen by
Mark and Carol Solyst, Mike and Marge
Buncak, Bill and Karen Newburg

In Honor of: John Monson's Birthday
by Lou Wuensch

BAPTISMS

07/11 Eamon Thomas, son of Greg
and Laura Cochrane

07/17Iris Kaylynn, daughter of
Olivier and Kay Jensen

07/17River Everett Arvin, son of
Olivier and Kay Jensen

07/18Nora Kathryn, daughter of
Andrew and Megan Barth

08/01Hendrik William, son of Da-
vid and Brittani Buchner

MARRIAGES

08/07Kennedy Johnson and Ian
Cochran

DEATHS

08/02Terry Griffel

08/09Ruth Anderson

Bishop Installation Service at ENGLISH LUTHERAN

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 AT 4:00 P.M.

English Lutheran has been asked to host the La Crosse Area Synod Bishop Installation on Sunday, September 26. The event will be live streamed for all congregations to view. *Watch for the link.*

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need volunteers to make desserts and be in the building throughout the day to assist with this event.

Please follow the link to view and sign up for volunteer opportunities or call the church office to sign up.

Contact Niki Pohnl if you have any questions.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C45ADAD29A4F4C07-lacrosse>

CHOIR REHEARSALS STARTING IN SEPTEMBER

V.I.P. (Voices In Praise, adult choir)

Weekly rehearsals starting

September 8 at 5:30-6:30 p.m.

The rehearsals will be outside in the Bell Tower Courtyard.

Please contact: Brittany at brittanythummel22@gmail.com

or the church office for more information.

Both Handbell Choirs (English Ringers)

Weekly rehearsals starting

September 29

Beginning bell group 5:00 -5:45 p.m. in the choir room.

This is a great way to experience bell playing for the first time.

Advanced group 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Please contact: Jim at jim@firstlu.org.

VOCAL GIFTS

We are looking for individuals who would like to share their vocal gifts by leading the *Holden Evening Prayer liturgy*.

This service is every Saturday at 5:00 p.m.

If you are interested or would like more information, please email Trevor at

trevor@englishlutheran.org.

HVAC Improvement Project

As you may know, improvements are in the works for the building heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) system. The HVAC system's job is to maintain the indoor air quality and comfort for the people inside despite the outdoor weather conditions. The system consists of: equipment that can adjust the air temperature and humidity controls that tell the equipment when and how long to operate and people that set the controls schedule and temperature setpoints.

In November 2019 after the narthex equipment failed, we decided rather than replace the equipment we'd consider a broader HVAC improvement project. The pandemic gave us a lot of time to consider our options (maybe too much time!) and in mid-July, orders were placed with Winona Controls for the new narthex and sanctuary air conditioning (AC) equipment, new building controls, and new portable air cleaners for the classrooms totaling over \$180,000. These upgrades are targeted at improving building

indoor air quality, improving equipment efficiency, lowering energy costs, improving system controllability, and in the case of the narthex: replacing failed equipment.

The classroom portable air cleaners will be ready in mid September and the sanctuary system will be ready in the second week of October. Unfortunately, the narthex system is now delayed and won't ship until October. The building controls will also be updated this fall as everything progresses.

Note, the sanctuary upgrade requires removing the landscaping directly east of the sacristy to make room for new outdoor units. So expect to see changes in that area in the coming weeks, and improvements in building air-quality and comfort this fall.

A special thanks to Kathy Slindee, Arnie Berg, and the Property Committee for their support and guidance with the project. Please contact Rick Heiden with any questions.

Rick Heiden



CHURCH OFFICE

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INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

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PASTOR

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BUILDING MAINTENANCE

Dane Melby
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Reopening Team Update

The COVID-19 pandemic has continued to evolve, but not in the direction we have all prayed for at this time. Because COVID19 is still present in the community and our HVAC updates have been delayed due to production, we will move forward cautiously with our fall programs. Important safety precautions will include:

- Sunday worship service will remain as one service at 9:30 a.m. through September. October schedule is yet to be determined.
- Masks will be required for worship, groups, classes, and meetings inside the building.
- Fellowship will be **outside** after

Sunday worship as weather permits.

- Rally Sunday and Sunday morning educational programs for all ages will begin in October.

Statistics are changing weekly. The team meets again on September 21, at which time they will look at how COVID19 is impacting the community and the local schools, and determine how to safely move forward with October programming. As always, our ultimate goal is to keep our members safe, no matter what age they are.

Watch the website, weekly announcements, and weekly bulletin for updates. Thank you for your patience. Stay safe!

Seekers Bible Study

Begins September 9
Meets every Thursday
9:39 to 11:00 a.m.
Room 106 or via Zoom as required.

OCTOBER: The Little Known, the Apocrypha; and the Exciting New, The Chosen

- October 7 - Pastor Glenn Bickford - The Apocrypha from the Christian View
- October 14 - Rabbi Brian Serle, Congregation Sons of Abraham The Apocrypha from the Jewish View
- October 21 & 28 - Episodes 1 & 2 of *The Chosen*, the new video series retelling of the story of Jesus that is exciting people around the globe. Viewing will be followed by discussion.

NOVEMBER: The Problem of Evil

- November 4 - The Philosophy of Evil - presenter, Prof. Eric Kraemer, retired Professor of Philosophy University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
- November 11 - The Theology of Evil

- presenter, Rev. Mark Jolivette, retired ELCA pastor and Navy Chaplain
- November 18 - A Contemporary Perspective of Evil - presenter, Prof. Richard Kyte, Director of the D. B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership and Endowed Professor of Ethics at Viterbo University

DECEMBER: Old World Spirituality, Hanukkah and Nativity

- December 2 - Old World Spirituality - presenter, Rabbi Brian Serle, Congregation Sons of Abraham
- December 9 - Hanukkah - presenter, Rabbi Brian Serle, Congregation Sons of Abraham
- December 16 - The Nativity - from The Chosen with discussion. Christmas refreshments.

We hope to see you at church, or on the screen!

Janet Melby

Block Party!

Celebrate a new beginning!
Sunday September 12
11:00 - 1:00 p.m.
ELC parking lot

Inflatables, games, food,
and music by the band
Moon Chicken!

7th-9th Grade Confirmation

We invite all 7th-9th grade age students to join our confirmation program where we explore different aspects of our faith through classes and interesting electives.

Orientation
September 8 at 6:00 p.m.
Classes begin
September 15 at 6:15 p.m.

Visit our website or contact Niki Pohnl for schedules, forms, or for more information.

Register your children in one of the following ways:

- through the church website
- by contacting Niki Pohnl in the church office
- by following the registration link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1HYuUxyT1VmALaRuZeDk6-2iXnbsbP7-XXqlsGEPvI/edit>

10th Grade
Rite of Confirmation
Sunday, Oct. 31, 10:45 a.m.



P.A.C.K. is Back

4th, 5th and 6th GRADES

Come to our monthly nights to have a snack, play games, share a devotion and enjoy spending time with each other at church.

FRESH START BINGO

• Friday, Sept. 24 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

GOD MAKES US NEW - PUMPKIN CARVING

• Friday, Oct. 22 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

FUTURE DATES

- Friday, Nov. 12 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Friday, Dec. 10 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Other Youth and Family Events

TRUNK OR TREAT

• Saturday, Oct. 23

High School Youth Events

FELLOWSHIP and DEVOTIONS

- Tuesday, Sept. 7 and Sept. 21
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

I know this time is weird but I didn't want to wait to get together!

- Sundays, Oct. 3 and Oct. 17
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

ELC LOCK-IN

- Friday, Oct. 8 and Saturday, Oct. 9

YOUTH GATHERING INFO SESSION

- Tuesday, Oct. 5
7:00 p.m. **on Zoom**
- * Sunday, Oct. 10
12:00 p.m. **in person**



A Call to Pastoral Ministry

I am happy to share that I am beginning studies at Luther Seminary the end of September. I have been admitted to their Distance Learning Master of Divinity program to pursue a call to pastoral ministry. I want to reassure families and youth that I'm staying at English Lutheran while I study! I made my desire to begin the candidacy process known at my interview and I am committed to making it work.

I am also *very* excited to be moving forward with a fun and activity-filled fall as noted on the left. Mark your calendars!

God's peace,
Kristen Arends

Sunday School Update - Calling all children 2 years - 6th grade!

MILESTONE WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

COVID19 restrictions will determine we meet in person or via Zoom.

- | | |
|---|--|
| • 3rd Grade - Wednesday,
September 15, 6:00 p.m. | • 6th Grade - Wednesday,
September 29, 6:00 p.m. |
| • 5th Grade - Wednesday,
September 22, 6:00 p.m. | • 2nd Grade - Wednesday,
October 6, 6:00 p.m. |
| • 4th Grade - Sunday,
September 26, 10:30 a.m. | • 1st Grade - Sunday,
October 10, 9:45 a.m. |
| | • Kindergarten - Sunday,
October 17, at 9:45 a.m. |

RALLY DAY - October 3

This is the day families gather together between services to hear about our Sunday School program, see where your Sunday School room is, and meet our wonderful volunteer teachers.



REGISTER your children in one of the following ways:

- through the church website
- by contacting Niki Pohnl in the church office
- by following the registration link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1QPVRjAk5Bp6V7FzHe9gXUrZeVQmbwoJVj0tIgieF3k/edit>

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

September/October

the SEASON of PENTECOST

OUR VISION

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

full of life

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Welcome

DANE MELBY
Building Maintenance Coordinator

Dane recently relocated from Madison, where he spent years working as a server in everything from greasy spoons to fine dining. He also spent a number of years with the Overture Center box office. Following a stint as a seasonal facilities worker at Goose Island, Dane is pleased to bring a service approach to the Building Maintenance Coordinator position here at English Lutheran Church. Do not hesitate to communicate issues and needs to Dane. He begins full time on August 29 and

will primarily be working Sunday-Thursday. Dane adds, "If you need extra ballast on your fishing boat, he is available!". Welcome Dane!



NEW MEMBERS

Are you or someone you know interested in becoming a member at English or simply want to learn a bit more about our church?

New Member Orientation and
Faith Workshop
Sunday, September 19
11:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

A light lunch will be provided.

New members will be received
at the service of their choice
September 25 and 26.

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

