

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

August - October, 2020



the *Voices* of english lutheran

the SEASON of PENTECOST



FARE THEE WELL ENGLISH
by Vicar Eric G. Miller

Some famous writer said "Parting is such sweet sorrow" (I can't recall the person who said this.). However, the sentiments are true to form.

Ten months ago, I arrived in your fair city not knowing what to expect from neighbors or church members or whom ever. But I accepted the challenge to learn and to impart both knowledge and understanding of the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The culture shock of coming from a large city to a smaller one required much to get used to. But the kind-
continues on page 4

AMEN

and GOD'S SPEED

After forty-four years of serving my Lord as a pastor of Christ's church, it is time for me to step away from congregational leadership. I thank you, the people of English Lutheran Church, for your partnership in the gospel these past twenty-one years. You are a marvelous community of faithful saints and it has been my joy to serve with you.



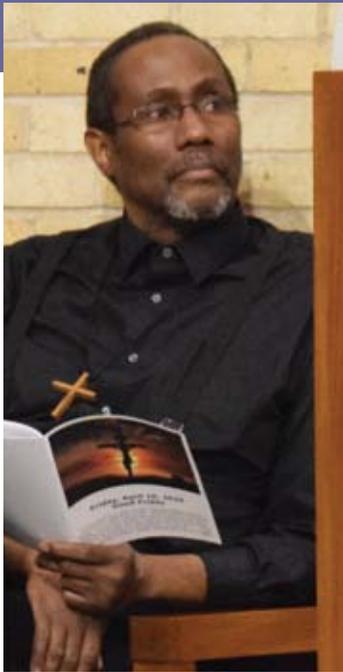
On April 13, 1976, I received a call from First Lutheran Church of Marshall, Minnesota to serve as their pastor. According to that Letter of Call, it was my responsibility to provide "spiritual leadership and pastoral care necessary for the establishment, growth, development, and welfare of Christ's holy church." In other words, ministry is never about the pastor. Ministry is always about the Gospel and Christ's Church. To restate the point more crassly, it is not about me – it is about Jesus.

Therefore, I am confident in the future of English Lutheran Church. God has blessed this congregation with a wonderful staff, outstanding lay leadership, and people who are both faithful and generous. Furthermore, the Holy Spirit guides and strengthens the church as long as the church is willing to ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance.

continues on page 4

IN CHRIST
We Welcome, Worship & Work
IN THE WORLD

Worship SUMMER



AUGUST 9 Vicar Eric's last Sunday

Be sure to tune in that morning at 10:45 to hear Eric's last message and to witness a pre-recorded Sending Ritual from the internship committee.



AUGUST 23 Pastor Mark's last Sunday

The 10:45 live-streamed service will feature Pastor Mark's final message. The service will be filled with Pastor Mark's favorite hymns, readings, some memories and special guests. Parts of the service will be pre recorded as well as live.

AUGUST 30 The River Service

Because of the La Crosse Parks and Recreation's current guidelines, we will not be meeting at Riverside Park this year. Instead, the River Service will be brought to your home! The service will be pre-recorded at the river and aired at 10:45 on the 30th. Pastor Becky will deliver a message and Eddie Kim will play his keyboard. Hopefully there will be a baptism among other items to make this a meaningful river worship experience.



Farewell Gathering

After the 10:45 live-stream, there will be a social distance style party for Pastor Mark at English Lutheran. *Look for more information regarding the party on the website and the E-voice.*

Letting His Light Shine

Pastor Mark Solyst's RETIREMENT CELEBRATION (a walk-by event)

August 23, 2020
1-4 p.m.
at English Lutheran

Displays of memories, photos, video
Special music
Please bring any well-wishes, cards, etc. as you walk by Pastor Mark to say your farewells to him and his family.

Worship AUTUMN

WORSHIP AFTER LABOR DAY

At their July meeting, The Worship Council discussed, “What does worship look like in the fall?” The decision was made to keep the 10:45 worship service live streamed.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Possible half hour Sunday School online experience just before worship. The Sunday school themes would tie into the same scriptures and message as the 10:45 service. The hope is this would create a family worship/Sunday school experience. The committee feels that by keeping one live stream experience each Sunday, this will help everyone stay connected by worshiping together.



VIDEO EQUIPMENT

Sim Sound will be soon installing most of the video equipment in the sanctuary. There is a delay on one piece of equipment though. The delayed piece is the “switcher”. The switcher allows the person operating the equipment to switch between the four different camera angles. Once the first round of equipment is installed, the on-line worship view will be from one stationary camera most likely one directed to the front of the sanctuary. As soon as the switcher arrives, the camera operator will be able to vary the angles and capture other aspects of the morning such as side shots and close ups of the musicians.



As soon as the switcher arrives, the camera operator will be able to vary the angles and capture other aspects of the morning such as side shots and close ups of the musicians.

Individuals may take an above the line charitable deduction of \$300 for 2020 even though they do not itemize their deductions (Schedule A).

<https://www.cdscpa.com/above-the-line-charitable-contribution/>

CHURCH OFFICE

main phone 784-9335
direct line..... 784-8876

SENIOR PASTOR

Pastor Mark Solystext 205
pastormark@englishlutheran.org

PASTOR

Pastor Becky Goche.....ext 301
pastorbecky@englishlutheran.org

DIRECTOR of CARING MINISTRIES

Irene TenEyck.....ext 304
irene@englishlutheran.org

DIRECTOR of DISCIPLESHIP

Niki Pohnlext 204
niki@englishlutheran.org

DIRECTOR of MUSIC

Trevor DuPeyext 303
trevor@englishlutheran.org

BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR

Jim Knutson..... 498-8829
jdknutso@smumn.edu

ORGANIST/PIANIST

Eddie Kim
Luke Thering

OFFICE MANAGER

Jennifer Jonesext 201
jennifer@englishlutheran.org

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Carol Robertsonext 202
carol@englishlutheran.org



Fare Thee Well continued ... *from front page*

ness of the citizens and church members was more than I expected and I enjoyed the lifestyle of the people I came in contact with while here at English Lutheran Church and the city of La Crosse, WI.

Although, big cities do have a lot to offer, it is the mid to smaller cities that give that true hometown feel. And I will remember that for years to come. Seeing how many members of this congregation lived within walking distance and on any given day most of the members would stop by to check in on the staff; was a delight for me to see. For it showed that the church held an important place in the heart of this congregation. During the Covid-19 pandemic I felt the hurt that all of you shared when you couldn't come to your beloved English. I too shared in that sorrowful feeling. Yet, your hope that this pandemic would not destroy your desire to return to service and the missed Holy Communion allowed me to see that the word family has a stronger meaning than bloodlines that connect people into a particular group.

I see that and I embraced that same feeling. I hope that I have imparted some good feelings as well, that no matter the skin tone or heritage, that we see each other as children of the God. That we do not allow tainted politics to destroy our belief in Jesus's Greatest Commandment" Love God with all your heart and love your neighbor as you love yourself". (Mark 12:28-31)

I will forever think of the youth as my own little squad here in La Crosse, from the Floppy Narwhals (you know who you are!) to the

Tenth-grade retreats to Wisconsin Dells (Oh! what a time we had singing about the Holy Spirit and connecting with God.) to going to Sugar Creek in the winter and exploring frozen ponds and the like. All concentrating on God and nature and connecting to one another through lessons about the Holy Trinity. I will also remember my wise elders with whom I discuss the creed with and what is the deeper meaning of those creeds. And of course, the pastoral care in which I had the proud moments of sharing one on one with those who just needed someone to stop and listen and talk with them.

Being your Vicar is just more than learning how to run a church or how to sharpen your Lutheran theology. Its about being with people no matter who they may be or where they come from. Its about learning and sharing experiences that bring together God's children to worship and praise God. As I depart I will take these memories with me and I hope that you will remember Vicar "Skittles" Eric G. Miller. "For parting is truly such sweet sorrow!"

Peace and blessings!!



Amen continued ... *from front page*

Over the years of ministry, I have sinned both by my actions and my failure to act. If I hurt you in any way in the course of my ministry, I am truly sorry and ask your forgiveness.

In order to provide an opportunity for your new pastor to thrive in her/his ministry, it is necessary that I refrain from pastoral acts for the people of English Lutheran Church. Specifically, I am not available to officiate at your weddings and funerals. Please do not ask Pastor Becky or the staff of our church "if it would be okay if Pastor Solyst does thus and so." That question puts our current staff in an uncomfortable and untenable situation.

Once I retire, I will worship at other congregations in the Coulee Region. I love English Lutheran and I especially love the people of our congregation, but it is important for me to worship elsewhere for a season.

I love you as my sisters and brothers in Christ and want you to grow in faith, love and obedience to Jesus Christ. Scripture both proclaims the love and forgiveness of God (John 3:16) and is "useful for teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). I pray that I have been faithful in both of these tasks.

Yours, in Christ,
Pastor Mark
Solyst

*Soli Deo
Gloria*

Intern Update

PASTOR LAUREN CARLSON



Vicar Lauren served as our intern from August 2009 to August 2010. She came to us from Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. Lauren's husband, Pastor

Paul Carlson, served two congregations near Soldier's Grove. After ordination, Pastor Lauren served a church in Norfolk, Virginia. For the last five years, they have served together as pastors of Calvary Lutheran Church in Morganton, North Carolina. They have two children, Henry and Finley.

Pastor Lauren Carlson
Calvary Lutheran Church
119 No King St.
Morganton, NC 28655-3426
lrcarlson27@gmail.com

PASTOR BONNIE KLOS



Vicar Bonnie served as our intern from August 2013 to August 2014. She came to us from Our Savior's Lutheran Church in West Salem and Luther Theological

Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. Pastor Bonnie remains in her first call, St. Paul Lutheran Church in Port Huron, Michigan. With 40 deaths, Covid-19 has hit Port Huron hard. Pastor Bonnie and Dale have three adult children, Emily, Molly and Adam.

Pastor Bonnie Klos
St. Paul Lutheran Church
3790 West Water Street
Port Huron, Michigan 48060
bonnieklos@gmail.com

PASTOR DAN HANSON



Vicar Dan served as our intern from August 2014 to August 2015. He came to us from Iowa and Luther Seminary in St. Paul. Pastor Dan remains in his first call, St. Paul Lutheran Church,

Hampton, Iowa. Pastor Dan and Aimee were married in September, 2017. Aimee is bi-lingual and teaches English and provides social services for Hispanic speaking residents in the Hampton area.

Pastor Daniel Hanson
St. Paul Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 443
Hampton, Iowa 50441
pastordansplc@gmail.com

PASTOR ALLYSON BOWMAN



Vicar Ally served as our intern from August 2015 to August 2016. She came to us from Owatonna, Minnesota and Luther Seminary in St. Paul. Pastor Ally is in her

first call at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Le Center, Minnesota. Pastor Ally married Tim Bowman shortly after her internship and Pastor Tim serves Christ the King Lutheran Church in Mankato, Minnesota.

Pastor Allyson Bowman
St. Paul Lutheran Church
232 West Minnesota St.
Le Center, Minnesota 56057
allybowman86@gmail.com

PASTOR LUCAS HOLSTEN



Vicar Lucas served as our intern from September 2016 to August 2017. He came to us from Stillwater, Minnesota and

Luther Seminary in St. Paul. Pastor Lucas serves as Associate Pastor of St. John Lutheran Church in Jamestown, North Dakota. Pastor Lucas married Rachel shortly after his internship. Rachel serves as the fulltime youth director for a Presbyterian Church in Jamestown.

Pastor Lucas Holsten
St. John Lutheran Church
424 First Avenue South
Jamestown, North Dakota 58402
Lucas.w.holsten@gmail.com

CHAD RADEMACHER



Vicar Chad served as our intern from August 2018 to August 2019. He came to us from Ankeny, Iowa and Luther Seminary in St. Paul. Chad will be ordained and be-

gin his ministry at Holy Trinity Lutheran in Sidney, Nebraska August 1. Chad and Sarah have two children, Lily and Ethan.

Chad Rademacher
2305 San Marino Rd.
Sidney, NE 69162
crademacher001@luthersem.edu

ERIC MILLER



Vicar Eric currently serves as our intern at English Lutheran Church. He came from Fort Lauderdale, Florida and Luther Seminary. Vicar Eric is a second career seminarian

with twenty years' experience as a funeral director. Vicar Eric's Candidacy Committee in the St. Paul Synod of the ELCA recently certified Eric for ordination, which means he is now available for call. Vicar Eric will complete his internship in August and hopes to interview for call yet this fall.

Vicar Eric Miller
English Lutheran Church
1509 King Street
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601
emiller003@luthersem.edu

FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL



Each Council has a staff person who serves as liaison for their council and Kerri

Jahnke, our former director of Youth & Family Ministries, served in that capacity for Fellowship Council. During this interim time, I will be serving as staff liaison for Fellowship Council. I look forward to working with Vicki Dahl and Karena Amundson, members of the council.

Because of Covid-19, restrictions have prevented us from gathering in groups. River Service and the Block Party cannot be held as they have in the past. On our radar is how we ease back into small groups and move on to the larger gatherings. It has been difficult in the last few months to share our life in Christ with our fellow English Lutheran brothers and sisters and we hope to facilitate new ways to enjoy fellowship with each other. Small group meetings whether it be for discussions or simply enjoying a cup of coffee are a way to start the process.

As the council's mission statement says, our purpose is to facilitate fun, friendship, and caring so that all members gain a sense of belonging and commitment to one another.

Yours in Christ,
Carol Robertson

EVANGELISM COUNCIL

COVID-19 and all its associated implications, especially of no longer meeting in person, have had an impact on what the Evangelism Council has been doing. Below are a few updates.

New Member Orientation

At this time there are no plans to hold a New Member Orientation. In the past, we have typically identified those interested in joining English Lutheran from information collected during our worship services or at the Welcome Center. While people continue to worship with us online, there is more anonymity since viewers do not need to subscribe or register to watch our worship services.

Block Party Canceled

With so many unknowns of when we may be able to safely gather together again in large groups, the pastors and staff recommended that the Block Party, normally held in conjunction with Rally Day in September, be canceled this year.



Community Conversations

The Community Conversations Steering Committee met on June 23 to plan the upcoming year's programs. The Committee discussed having online-only programs for the first three months (September, October and November) and then re-evaluate the rest of the year including whether to offer food or not, beginning in January, 2021. Topics for each month and the logistics of how this will all take place are still in the works. With the retirement of Pastor Mark in August, future leadership of the Steering Committee has not yet been determined.

Members of the Evangelism Council and its Marketing Team are: Erica Parsneau (Chair), Julie Harkema, Kari Heckman, Angie Kupietz, Vicki Markussen, Kristin Mull, Carol Solyst, Mary Lea Yeoman, and Pastor Becky Goche. If you are interested in learning more about the Evangelism Council and what it does or are interested in serving with them, please contact Pastor Becky Goche at pastorbecky@englishlutheran.org or phone 608.784.9335, ext. 301.

DISCIPLESHIP COUNCIL

Sunday School

Sunday School will be for the WHOLE family through December, complete with devotions, reflections, and family bonding opportunities. Information and supplies needed will be available in September.

Milestone Workshops: The workshops will be especially important this year as we find new ways to support the children in the congregation reach their faith milestones. We are still mindful that last year's 5th graders have not made their First Communion and we continue to talk about the safest way to make this milestone happen for them.

Christmas Program

We are not planning to have a Christmas Program in December because we know we will attract a much larger crowd than allowed to gather by that time based on the current COVID restrictions. We will revisit this decision the first week of November.



Confirmation

Classes will resume in early September for 7th-8th-9th grades. These will most likely take place over Zoom, Google Classroom or Forms, or take home assignments through November. Confirmation electives will still be required as will worship notes. Tenth grade confirmands will be confirmed on Reformation Sunday, October 25. We will be in touch with each grade with specifics on their goals and requirements for this school year.

Adult Education

Weekly educational opportunities for high school through adults of any age will be readily available through our YouTube channel, our website, and mailings just as if we were in the building. We do not want you to miss any opportunity to grow on your continued faith journey.

Block Party

Kicking off our Fall Faith Formation has always been an important part of our ministry. Although we will not be able to hold the event this year, specific details on our programming will be sent to our church families to participate in as a family.

MINISTRY COUNCIL New Staff Liaison



With the transitions that have taken place and will continue to take place at English this summer, the Ministry Council has a new staff liaison. Irene TenEyck, the Director of Caring Ministries, will take over this role for Pastor Becky Goche who has served as liaison for the past two years.

Irene has been a part of this Council for over a year already with her work directing the English Lutheran Care Ministers and her help in coordinating the Death Cafes. Her background as a social worker, chaplain, and professor, plus her passion to minister to our home-bound members, as well as our neighbors beyond the church walls make her a great asset to the Ministry Council.

In addition to Irene, other Ministry Council members include Mary Fitzpatrick, Sue Johnson, Niki Pohnl, Mary Sween, and Bob and Kathy Weeks. If you are interested in learning more about the Ministry Council and what it does or are interested in serving with them, please contact Irene TenEyck at Irene@englishlutheran.org or phone 608.784.9335, ext. 304.

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

Quilters

- in memory of June Holy
by Lorraine and Denise Ganey

Undesignated

- in memory of Ilone Underheim
by Lou Wuensch
- in memory of Kevin Zoerb
by Boyd and Marla Engbloom,
Lou Wuensch, Kent and Mary
Sween, Ruth Kuntz, Ruth
Olson, Kurt and Barb Oettel,
Sarah and Pat Lamke, friends
and family
- in memory of Duane Munyon
by Howard and Nancy Mills
- in memory of Arthur Berg
by Howard and Nancy Mills
- in honor of Kerri Jahnke
by Karen Guptill

Baptisms

07/05 Olivia Ella, Teya Elin,
and Arden Eira Bardot, children
of Tyler and Maida (Swenson)
Fortune

Marriages

01/18 Carl Rausch and
Kelly Voegele

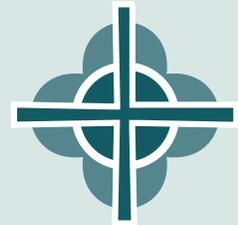
Deaths

We extend the sympathy of the
Gospel to the following:

- Troy Knoepke, husband of
Coleen, died on Jan. 29
- Kevin Zoerb, son of John and
sister of Linda died on Feb. 22
- Pat Sullivan, wife of Bob, died
on April 4
- Derek Iverson, husband of
Marci, died on May 28
- Terry Welch, son of Mercedes,
died on June 28

New Members 02/09

- Clar and Marcia Brodt
- Larry and Helen Coleman
- Joan Everson
- Merrill Gardner
- David and Caroline Gregerson
and their children Conrad,
Frances and Isabelle
- Sharon Moline



Seekers Bible Study

We held our planning meeting on June 6 via Zoom with myself, Janet Melby, Diane Midland, Ron Rogers and Mike Schnitzius in attendance. We were hoping to have Seekers at church, but as time goes by, we believe the fall schedule for Seekers will be with Zoom.

Kathy Slindee has been our host via Zoom. She has sent out the invitations and we have had anywhere from six to nine people zooming in for Seekers conversation.

Our schedule is as follows:

Thursdays 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

September 11 - October 15

Mike Schnitzius will be presenting "Discipline for the Inner Life."

October 22

Nothing scheduled at this time.

October 29

Janet Melby is working on tentatively having Rabbi Brian Serle talk to us about immigration or immigrants.

November

We are hoping to have some speakers talk to us about the minority populations and progress towards equality.

We discussed that this has been primarily a Bible study group and that some of our October and November studies may not be everyone's liking. We would invite feedback regarding the proposed subject matter.

November 26

Thanksgiving

December 3 - 10

Begin and continue Advent Study

December 17

Advent Study continued and our annual Christmas Party. It might be virtual.

Joan Allen

Mission Support - Helping our neighbors during Covid-19 as a larger church

"Christians live not in themselves, but in Christ and in their neighbor. Otherwise they are not Christians. They live in Christ through faith, in their neighbor through love."
Martin Luther, "The Freedom of a Christian"
(Luther's Works, vol. 31, p.371)

In this unprecedented time, God's love has been a stalwart in the storm. At English Lutheran our congregational members continue to respond to the Grace of our Lord through action. We thank all of you who have been able to continue to give through your church offerings as well as donate to many community organizations who are assisting those most affected by the Coronavirus. Many are feeling financial hardships and your generosity is greatly appreciated. As many of you may know, in addition to the ongoing ministries, ELC also responded at the beginning of this crisis with a ministry of providing face masks to our most vulnerable members. A dedicated group of sewers made 670 masks that were distributed to ELC members as well as community members (240 were delivered to church members, 60 given to Outreach, 170 distributed to family, friends, and neighbors, and 200 to nursing homes) Thank you to those who did the sewing, but also a thank you to Pastor Mark who personally delivered them.

Pastor Mark reported: "People were very appreciative of receiving masks especially early in the pandemic. Masks were initially hard to come by and our masks gave people the freedom to go out in public. Almost everybody wanted to talk when I delivered the mask. They were tired of being alone and felt separated from their church community. One person said, "The mask made me feel like I was connected to my English Lutheran family." "Please thank the women (sic) who sewed the masks for us." "My, this mask is pretty." "I can't wait to get back to worship at English Lutheran - I will wear this mask."

Although the masks responded to a practical need, a major benefit was an excuse to contact members who may not have been able to access our online worship services and devotionals. People were already feeling isolated and the mask reminded them they were not alone. The mask may have pointed them to English Lutheran but in a subtle way, the mask pointed them to God and Jesus' promise "I am with you always to the end of the age."



In spite of the restrictions of Covid-19, ELC's community ministry goes on. ELC continues to show God's love through financial support to individuals and organizations in our community.

These financial ministries during the past few months included:

- Financial assistance to an individual with an unexpected medical bill
- Financial assistance to finish the Warming Center's Go Fund Me for meals and supplies during COVID
- Financial gift to Aptiv during COVID
- An ongoing community ministry of ELC is a fund which provides assistance to individuals in need. With the office closed due to Covid-19 restrictions, there has not been a way for people to apply for this assistance. So, to help meet some of the need in the community each staff person was recently invited to choose a charity to receive a donation. The recipients of this effort were Big Brothers Big Sisters, Habitat for Humanity Faith Build, La Crosse Symphony Orchestra Play It Forward, The Center: LGBTQ, New Horizons Women's Shelter, ELCA World Hunger, YMCA Youth Sports Programs, Sleep in Heavenly Peace and St. Clare Health Mission.

So, ELC continues to share God's love and grace through mission and action.

But, ELC is also part of the larger church – the ELCA. The ELCA is also responding through action during this time of crisis and your weekly offerings support these ministries too.

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) is responding to this pandemic here in the United States and around the world. Since January 2020, LDR has supported 45 responses in 34 countries around the world, plus five global responses, that address a wide range of needs, from supplying personal protective equipment and medical equipment; to provision of food and other necessary supplies; to water, sanitization and hygiene and awareness education. Additionally, 28 synods and three social ministry organizations have received LDR support for congregational feeding ministries, such as food pantries, hot meal delivery and meal distribution. Both locally and globally we are fulfilling the words of Martin Luther as we ***live in Christ through faith, in our neighbor through love.***

How you can help:

- Pray – Let us pray for the people who have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need.
- Give – "Contribute to Lutheran Disaster Response
- Connect – Reach out to friends, family, and neighbors with words of encouragement and love.

ELCA SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES – BRINGING CHRIST TO OUR TROOPS

In this issue of the *Voice* we continue to highlight ministries of the ELCA that may be unfamiliar to many of us at English Lutheran Church. In this issue we are privileged to hear from one of our members (Pastor Mark Jolivet) who served as a Navy chaplain for 30 years. Here is his story:

In the ELCA we have a category historically called “specialized ministries”, ministries connected to but not focused on parish ministry. We certainly know of the great work of hospital chaplains, for instance, and under the Office of Federal Chaplaincies, our denomination supplies parish pastors in good standing to the ministries of the military, the Veteran’s Administrations and to federal prisons. By far the largest group is those who serve as military chaplains.

I had a 30 year career in the Navy, where USN chaplains also serve the whole of the Sea Services, including the Marine Corps and the Coast Guard. Our unofficial Navy Chaplain Corps motto was “Cooperation without Compromise”, which means we represented a wide religious constituency without forgetting our specific religious roots. I shared worship and Holy Communion with Episcopalians in 1982 as soon as our denominations allowed; I led general Protestant services on large bases, and conducted just plain chapel services on small ships and out in the field with Marines, worship shaped by my own traditions but open to everyone, including for the Eucharist. I have even been privileged to help play guitar and lead music for Catholic mass.

The First Amendment to our Constitution is huge, allowing freedoms of speech, press, assembly and petition of the government for grievances, but the first part is what undergirds this special ministry; we cannot prohibit the free exercise of religion or abridge those rights, which subsequent court decisions has interpreted as the need for accommodation of religious practice which does not undermine the morale and good order of the military. Lutherans do very well in these settings, in part because we have the vicar/intern year of experience, plus we are required to have three years of parish ministry before going into uniform. We have a much larger view of God’s kingdom than do many of the more fundamentalist traditions.

To serve all people, we do many things; we help Jewish personnel get kosher food items for their holy days and connected when possible with shore communities for Passover. We help Muslims get food after the Ramadan daily fast is over. We provide rosaries and Books of Mormon. There are Imams, rabbis, Buddhist leaders, Mormon and Christian Science chaplains as well as the more traditional Christian groups. My circle of prayer grew widely as I worked with a large variety of religious leaders, plus the sailors and marines I came to serve.

One special Navy tradition is that baptisms for ship’s personnel or their dependents is done in the upturned bell of the ship. It’s a holy way of taking the military symbol and using it for God’s good. As fewer of our nation’s people embrace a specific religious heritage, the military chaplaincy is really often pure evangelism, letting

people know of a God who cares personally for them, and through Jesus offers forgiveness, pure acceptance, and a community of struggling believers to support our growth. When offered a personal prayer, I seldom ever had anyone turn me down. Eighty five percent of the military is of college age, 18-23, so in some ways it is another form of campus ministry.

Navy chaplains go where the people are, meaning on ship we go into every space allowed from the boiler rooms to the signal towers. Most often people cannot come to us, so we got right to them. The walking-about ministry of presence is my most particular favorite part of military chaplaincy. We work out together, hike together, huddle in tents together, and get inserted right into the middle of our marine’s lives. We get to know family stories and background so quickly. It is a rich and deep joy to bring God’s presence to those who are far from home and near to danger.

Rev. Dr. Mark Jolivet
Captain, Chaplain, USN (Ret.)



School Kit Project 2020

An education is a life-changer. It opens doors, affirms dreams, and improves lives. Often, for kids in developing countries, getting an education hinges on getting supplies. Because we value education for all, we are again working to help collect school supplies for Lutheran World Relief to distribute among needy children. Last year, our 615 school kits went to communities in Nicaragua.

This year, because of the changes we have had to make to adapt to Covid-19 concerns, we have not set a specific goal – though we do have over 700 backpacks - mostly sewn by Sue Marsolek. We are counting on the generosity of ELC to step up and help us fill as many of these backpacks as we can, while keeping our members safe. Each school kit contains, 4 notebooks, 5 pens, 5 pencils, a box of crayons, a scissors, pencil sharpener, eraser, and a ruler. (Details on these items can be found at <https://lwr.org/downloads/school-kit-assembly-instructions>)

LWR has indicated that, due to the Pandemic-driven economic slow-down, the need for school kits is greater this year. There is also concern that, because churches continue to be closed and service projects suspended, donations of school supplies may be lower. We are hoping, that despite the changes and limitations this year, we can still step up and fill a lot of backpacks with needed school items.

School supplies can be dropped off at English on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to noon till August 12. A small team of packers will meet each week to sort supplies and fill the backpacks.

If you have concerns or questions, please contact Bob and Kathy Weeks or Irene TenEyck.



Cheryl and Susan



Supplies awaiting the Blessing



Big Group of Helpers

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Aug. - Oct. , 2020
the SEASON of PENTECOST

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

In Memory of **TERRY WELCH**

Our custodian, Terry Welch, who has served our congregation since 1986, died Sunday, June 28, 2020, peacefully in his sleep. Terry was a beloved member of our staff and our congregation. Our staff deeply feels the loss of Terry's passing as is the case for many in our congregation and our community. Terry was known all over town with his lawn and snow business, bowling league, and was a fixture at many local sports events. Please include his mother, Mercedes, and his family in your prayers. If you'd like to send the family a card, you may call the church office for Mercedes' address, or mail it to the church and we will be sure to get it to them. May God bless Terry's memory among us all.

A family funeral service will be live streamed, Thursday, July 30 at 11:00 a.m. A link will be provided on www.englishlutheran.org.

