

FALL 2021

ERLC CURRENT

**This fall we'll explore
ERLC's identify and
reflect on serving,
welcoming, joyful and
accepting**

#erlccheckin

Check in this fall and ERLC will
donate \$5 to Open Doors for Youth

MAGAZINE OF



Elk River
LUTHERAN

ERLC Current

The magazine of Elk River Lutheran Church

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Mission

Trusting in God's grace, an accepting, joyful community,
serving God and neighbor.

Pastor's Message

Dear Members and Friends of Elk River Lutheran,

I continue to be amazed at all we have accomplished in the last eighteen months since the pandemic began. As we look toward the launch of our 2021-2022 church program year, I think it's important to pause and celebrate some of these wins:



Wins from the Past 18 Months

We've gathered for worship indoors, outdoors, and online - Prior to March of 2020 Elk River Lutheran had never done online worship and in my time here we planned one outdoor service (which got rained out!), and now we do both on a weekly basis. We have learned that *gathering and worshiping together* is much more important than the *way* we gather and *how* we worship.



The Church is financially solvent - It's been eighteen months since we physically passed an offering plate in worship and yet you've continued to be faithful in your giving to the church. While some members have struggled financially and not been able to give as much as they would like, others have stepped up to give more. While some churches are closing their doors because of a lack of funds, we have been able to expand our reach, including giving more to CAER (our local food shelf) than ever before. Thank you!

We have tried new things - The pandemic forced us to think creatively, which has birthed many special events: Sacred Wit, Out and About worship, a pet blessing, the Chopped Cooking Challenge, a video Christmas Program, Beer & Hymns by the river, S'Mores Sunday, Bless my Ride, and so many more!



We have welcomed new people - I have been amazed at the reach of our online worship services and how we've been able to connect with people all over the country, including many in our community who have since showed up in person. I'm grateful that the warm welcome of Elk River Lutheran lives on.

While this last eighteen months has been challenging for our church, it's also been an opportunity to innovate and to live into uncertainty and change, all while holding onto hope and excitement for the future. I know we can and will make the most of this coming year and this ERLC Current shares an exciting variety of opportunities and ways for us to connect in the months ahead.

Join Us for Worship

Worship continues to be central to our life together and this fall we invite you to join us for worship each Sunday morning:

8:30AM Traditional Worship Indoors

10:30AM Contemporary Worship Outdoors & Online



On Sunday, September 12 we kick off a new worship series, **#erlccheckin**. This series and this fall will be a time when we “checkin” with each other and gather for worship in-person (indoors or outdoors) or online. Each Sunday we’ll embrace and explore an aspect of who we are as a church and how God is calling us to live out our faith. You’ll be invited to “checkin” on social media with the hashtag **#erlccheckin** and every time you do Elk River Lutheran Church will donate \$5 to Open Doors for Youth, a wonderful local nonprofit.

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Staffing Transition

Most of you will know that our Director of Children, Youth, and Family, Lisa Sampson, has resigned and taken a position at another church. While I am sad to be facing another CYF Ministry staff transition, I am grateful that our Intern Pastor, Jeremy Hallquist, will be able to step into that role for this fall. Jeremy officially completes his internship on September 13 and our plan had been for him to transition back into his part-time role of Minister of Congregational Care and Discipleship. With Lisa leaving, we have now reimagined his position and made it full time, so that he can lead CYF ministry at least through the end of 2021.

Many have been curious and asked what Jeremy will be doing in the long term and if he can stay on at Elk River Lutheran as a second pastor, and the simple answer is that we don't know. By the end of this year, he will have completed the final steps in preparation to become a pastor and will be eligible for call (meaning he's available to interview to be a pastor at a church). Within the ELCA this process is controlled by the synods, and since Jeremy has gone through seminary with the Southwest Minnesota Synod, they will have the first say on where he interviews. It may be possible for Jeremy to come to Elk River Lutheran as a second pastor, but for that to happen he would need to feel a sense of call and interest in staying here, we would need to create an ordained pastor position for him, and both the Minneapolis Area Synod and the Southwest Minnesota Synod would need to sign off on it. So please pray for Jeremy and our church as we discern our futures.

CYF Programming

The ongoing pandemic is forcing us to get creative with church programming, and that is especially true for our children who remain unvaccinated. Jeremy and I are working together to plan CYF programming that will meet the unique challenges of this time and help families learn and grow in faith together. On page 9 of this publication, you can read more about specific plans. Our overall goals are to incorporate CYF ministry with the overall life of the congregation, provide regular opportunities for kids to connect and grow in faith (especially around worship), and host special high-impact outdoor events.

Building

In the fall of 2019, we completed a capital campaign to make enhancements to our building and property, because we want our building to be as welcoming as our people. On page 22 you can read more about the work our Building Committee is doing to make those plans a reality, including opportunities to learn more and make your voice heard.



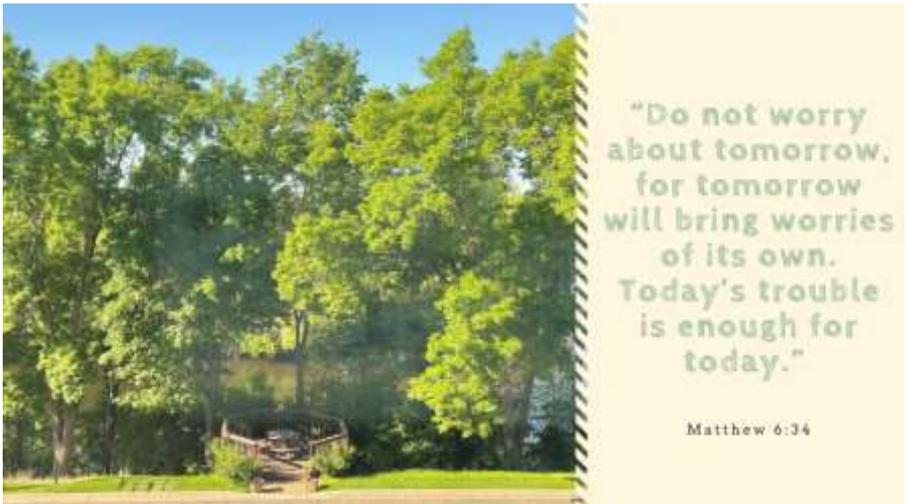
A Call for Faithful Flexibility

As you will see in this publication, we are doing our best to plan for a wonderful fall of ministry together, but this fall will require an extra level of what I'd like to call "faithful flexibility." Some of our planned events will likely need to be changed or postponed due to inclement weather or pandemic concerns, so I ask for your patience and I encourage you to stay tuned for our regular emails and updates.

One time Jesus encouraged his disciples with these words, which I think are a good fit for us today: *"Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today."* (Matthew 6:34)

We'll take this fall one day at a time and give thanks for each opportunity that we have to gather together in-person or online. Thank you for reading this letter and the rest of this publication. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Nathan



Children, Youth & Family Ministries

FALL KICK OFF – ALL KIDS REGARDLESS OF AGE

September 22nd, 6pm Fall Kickoff. We will have a fall kickoff for all youth programming the night of the 22nd. We will have pizza, games and an opportunity to connect with other members. See you there!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:

Greetings Sunday School Families,

What a crazy year to try and create something new! We, as a staff, want to ensure that we provide the best possible programming for you and your family throughout the fall. With COVID numbers on the rise, and with the reality that children are unable to be vaccinated we know that keeping your kids safe must be part of our highest priority. We also realize that you as parents want a safe place for your kids to connect to faith and life within the church.

You may notice that at the 10:30 am service we have opted to provide snacks, crafts, games, and activities geared towards the theme of worship or events in the life of the church. We will have a weekly activity page in our worship bulletin and opportunities to participate during or after worship throughout the month. As our volunteer base continues to grow, our aim would be to provide games, a small lesson or science project, and a chance to talk about what we learned in worship.



A few other activities to keep in the back of your mind.

September 22nd, 6pm Fall Kickoff. We will have a fall kickoff for all youth programming the night of the 22nd. We will have pizza, games, and an opportunity to connect with other members. See you there!

October 3rd, 10:30 am will be our **CYF Sunday**. During worship and immediately following we will have games, activities, and snacks.

October 16th, 1-3 pm. Fall Fling Thing. We will be meeting at a local apple orchard for a chance to meet up with ERLC Families. Watch the bulletin for more details.

December 19th, 8:30 am and 10:30 am. A Totally Hybrid Christmas! Our **2021 Christmas pageant** will be at both worship services! Whether you want to come in person, or you would like to participate via video we would love to have you as a part of this day. We hope you join us for this great event.

Keep your eyes on the bulletin for more opportunities coming in the next few months!



Our hope is that you find a place that meets your needs this year, and continues to help you grow in faith, and as a family. If you are interested in helping us create this program or find new opportunities to think creatively about the 2022 year, please contact Intern Jeremy. We look forward to serving alongside your family this year!

Respectfully, Jeremy Hallquist
Intern Pastor

CONFIRMATION/ HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Greetings Confirmands, High Schoolers, and Parents! We are thrilled to kickoff our 2021/22 school year with a bang. Wednesday evening has typically been a stalwart of the Youth Ministry program at Elk River Lutheran and our hope is that we continue that tradition. We will begin each Wednesday night with a large group lesson and then break off into small groups for games, food, conversation, and much more. **We invite you to join us Sept 15th for Parent Orientation and then a fun night of games and food on the 22nd.** We look forward to seeing you at youth group this year!

SEPTEMBER

Sept 15	Confirmation Parent Orientation	6:30 PM
Sept 22	CYF Fall Kickoff	6 PM
Sept 29	Confirmation/High School Youth Group	6:30 PM

OCTOBER

Oct 6	Confirmation/High School Youth Group	6:30 PM
Oct 13	Confirmation/High School Fun Night	6:30 PM
Oct 20	No Confirmation MEA Break	
Oct 27	Confirmation/High School Youth Group	6:30 PM

NOVEMBER

Nov 3	Confirmation/ High School Youth Group	6:30 PM
Nov 10	Confirmation/ High School Youth Group	6:30 PM
Nov 17	Confirmation/ High School Youth Group	6:30 PM
Nov 24	NO Confirmation/HS for Thanksgiving Weekend	

DECEMBER

Dec 1	Confirmation/ High School Youth Group	6:30 PM
Dec 8	Christmas Dinner Church - Confirmation/High School invited	6 PM- 7 PM
Dec 15	Confirmation / High School - Christmas End of the Year Party	6:30 PM
Dec 22	NO Confirmation/HS	
Dec 29	NO Confirmation/HS	

SAVE THE DATE

9TH GRADE CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Sunday, October 3rd, 11:30 pm to 3:00 pm we will be doing a mini-retreat to work on our faith statements and working together to get out of an escape room! We hope you will join us for a chance to reconnect!

CYF Sunday: On Sunday, October 3rd we will be having a special CYF Sunday. We will have crafts, games, and special treats available during worship. We hope you will join us at 10:30 am! We look forward to seeing you there!

Confirmation Sunday will be October 31st, 2021, for those 9th graders who wish to be confirmed this year. We will get more information out to families in the next few weeks as we finalize the specifics. Please reach out to Intern Jeremy for more specific questions.



Club 456: November 21st, 2021. 6:30-8:00 pm. Join us for a night of games, laughter, and fun! We will meet at ERLC at 6:30 pm and then head out from there! The cost for the event is \$10.

2022 ELCA Youth Gathering:

July 24-28th, 2022. The ELCA National Youth Gathering will be held in Minneapolis and we would love to see you go! Join us for an informational meeting on Sept 15th at 6:30 pm. We will have more information for you as parents and for students as part of our Confirmation Orientation.



Music Ministry



ERLC's Musical Offerings this Fall

After a year and a half of music videos, virtual worship services, and socially distanced interactions, the Music Ministry promises a renewed energy to come together and make music as a church community again. As the program year begins, ERLC is offering opportunities for you to come back to music-making with your friends and family. Although COVID19 is still around us, we will be able to creatively come play and sing together these next two months.



Music Sunday, Sept 26th!

It has become a tradition now to do a "Music Sunday" during our first month together in the program year. The Riverside Ringers, Choir, Worship Band, and other soloists will prepare to lead the traditional and contemporary services. From Sept 7th to 23rd, these three ensembles will be rehearsing every week. See the calendar in this newsletter to see when they're rehearsing. Anyone interested in trying out these groups is very welcome to come for a visit.



Guitars, Singers, and Bells, Oh My!

During the summer both the Choir and the Riverside Ringers got together for some social interaction and music-making. After Music Sunday, they, along with the Worship Band, will start a regular rehearsal schedule. All three ensembles are open to new members. See the calendar for their rehearsal schedules after Music Sunday.

Introducing our new Staff Pianist!

We welcome Lisa Griffin as our staff pianist this year! Lisa has been a resident of Elk River for 21 years. She is very proud to be joining the staff of ERLC after 26 years as the Contemporary Worship Music Director at Augustana Lutheran in West St. Paul. She has also been the accompanist for several choirs in the Elk River-Rogers-Zimmerman school district for the past 10 years, as well as the accompanist for the Land of Lakes Choirboys from 2001 to 2013. She and her husband Nick have been married for 24 years. Their daughter Madeleine is a grad student at the University of Oregon- Eugene. She is very enthusiastic to finally become a member of the church community in Elk River.



Beer & Hymns

COVID19 didn't keep the Beer & Hymn'ers down this summer. After enjoying B&H in the lower parking lot this summer, we'll continue singing our favorite hymns in different venues this Fall. This month, we'll take ourselves to Riverview Landing and join the residences of Guardian Angels on their riverside patio. And in October, we're excited to go back to Pour. We missed filling their rafters with our voices. Make sure to keep your eye out for news on those events as we get closer to the dates.





Honk, I Mean Sing!

There are many reasons why music is so good for us. One of them is to "announce our place in the family of things". Like geese, honking at each other while they fly overhead through heavy mists of an autumn sky, we too call to each other through our singing. As we sing each song in our worship services, our voices not only sing to God but they say "hey, I am here with you". How comforting it is to hear the voice of the people you love around you. How encouraging it is when they boldly raise our voices, knowing you, who are next to them, will raise yours too. Sing to announce your place in our family of things.

~ Taylor

Taylor Quinn is the Director of Music Ministry and Worship at Elk River Lutheran Church. If you would like to serve ERLC's faith family with your musical abilities, contact him. There's always room for you in our music ministry.

A word of COVID19 and the Music Ministry: As COVID19 persists and national, regional, and our church's guidelines adjust to help us stay healthy and safe, the music ministry will still continue offering these opportunities to serve. The opportunities won't change but the ways in which they happen may. It'll be important to keep the music going as we navigate through this odd time in our life together.

Adult Faith Formation



Faith and Climate Change:

Join us on October 10th at 12:00pm for a conversation around Faith and Climate Change by renowned Meteorologist Paul Douglas. Paul Douglass is a nationally-respected meteorologist, with 40 years of broadcast television and radio experience. You may know him best for his work on KARE-TV, WCCO, and his columns in the

Minneapolis Star Tribune.

On October 10th, we have asked Paul to share some of his insights on Climate Science, Climate Change, and how we as people of faith think about these conversations through the lens of our faithful understanding. Paul recently partnered with the Evangelical Environmental Network to write a book called “Caring for Creation: The Evangelical’s Guide to Climate Change and a Healthy Environment.” Their goal: frame short-term pollution and longer-term climate risk in a way that better resonates with conservatives and Evangelicals. There’s more information on Paul’s most recent book at caringforcreationbook.com.

We hope you will join us as we think about the impact of climate change in our own community and find ways to take action towards a healthier future for our children’s children. If you have any questions please feel free to email or call Intern Pastor Jeremy.

Meals on Wheels



What is Meals on Wheels?: Nutritious meals delivered to those who are homebound and cannot prepare meals regularly for themselves.

Meals on Wheels is part of Elk River Senior Dining and is administered by Catholic Charities Dioceses of St Cloud. Elk River Lutheran Church volunteers 2 months a year (February and September) to deliver the meals (Monday – Friday)

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to drive for *Meals on Wheels* in September. We currently have all of our slots filled for the month and are incredibly grateful for everyone jumping in to help out people in our community! If you missed out on the chance to jump in, please know that we will have another chance to volunteer for February!

Worship Volunteer Schedule

Traditional Service with Communion

8:30 Worship

Role	Sep 12	Sep 19	Sep 26
Greeter	Cazett, Jane Cazett, Chuck	Hahn, Stan Hahn, Diane	Johnson, Mark Johnson, Fran
Usher		Campbell, John Campbell, Debbie	Shellum, Ed Shellum, Deb
Scripture Reader	Granros, Vicki	Nielsen, Linda	Cook, Larry
Powerpoint Operator	Ziner, Dale	Auel, John	
Soundboard Operator	Boese, Steve	Auel, John	
Sunday morning Communion Setup/Clean up		Wolcenski, Ryan	Simpson, Vicki
Mid-Week Communion Set-Up	Rosati, Jodi	Schmidt, Shirley	Schulstad-Werk, Lorie

Please contact Taylor Quinn if you are unable to volunteer during your scheduled time.

Contemporary Service with Communion

10:30 Contemporary Service

Role	Sep 12	Sep 19	Sep 26
Set Up	Bock, Rick Bock, Nancy Homer, Kelli Homer, Adam	Glasoe, Matt Katzner, David Pouliot, Greg Rotz, Matt	Bock, Rick Bock, Nancy Homer, Kelli Homer, Adam
Tear Down	Bock, Rick Bock, Nancy Homer, Kelli Homer, Adam	Glasoe, Matt Katzner, David Pouliot, Greg Rotz, Matt	Bock, Rick Bock, Nancy Homer, Kelli Homer, Adam
Scripture Reader	Hennig, Kara	Hippe, Martha	Hallquist, Weston
Usher	Ayres, Viv Ayres, Jim	Schrock, Krista Wagner, Myles	Chur, Sarah
Switcher Operator	Homer, Adam	Schrock, Jeff	Rotz, Matt
Powerpoint Operator	Homer, Katherine	Wagner, Mason	Rotz, Adrienne
Soundboard Operator	Howland, Justin	Rotz, Emily	Auel, John

Please contact Taylor Quinn if you are unable to volunteer during your scheduled time.

New Member Invitation



Invitation to Join Elk River Lutheran Church

Our next *New Member Sunday* will be October 10.

During this day, we will receive new members at both the 8:30am and 10:30am services. Then there will be an orientation between the services at 9:30am. During orientation, we will introduce you to the staff and various ministries of ERLC. We will speak on Lutheran beliefs, the history of ERLC, what it means to be a member of the church, and the importance of finding your place here. One of our primary goals is for you to make meaningful connections with other new members and current members. We hope that you can attend all this day, but even if you can't, let us know your interest in joining.

Also part of the joining process includes some paperwork: short bio telling us about yourself, "Request for Membership" form, and a time & talent form so we can help you get integrated into the life here at ERLC.

Please let us know of your interest in joining by indicating so on your worship registration sheet, or by contacting Linda in the church office (linda@elkriverlutheran.org or 763-595-1216).

Building Committee Update

Hello to everyone from the Capital Building Committee. The Capital Building Committee started meeting earlier this summer to begin the planning process for the building projects contained in the 2019 Capital Campaign. Our committee members are: Sarah Carlson, Martha Hippe, Adam Horner (Chairperson), Pastor Nathan, John Natwick, Greg Pouliot, Krista Schrock, and Ron Stricker.



We are excited to share what the Capital Building Committee has been up to and hope everyone is as excited as we are to get moving on the project. Over the past two months the group has developed a project scope statement, met with the Elk River City Planner, developed a timeline for the first stage of the project, and presented to the Church Council. The committee is also evaluating our existing building systems (roof, HVAC, etc.) to see which areas may need to be addressed before or during the capital project.

The committee created and agreed upon the following scope statement. The purpose of the scope statement is to communicate to everyone what it is we, the Capital Building

Committee, will be doing and why we are undertaking this building project.

Scope Statement:

To make our building and surrounding as welcoming as our people, a building committee has been chartered to implement the components of the ERLC 2020 Capital Campaign. To accomplish this goal, the Building Committee will engage church staff, committees, council, and congregation to make the best use of our \$400,000 budget. The Building Committee will oversee architects & construction in accordance with the approved design and budget.

Construction items include:

- **~\$200,000 for sanctuary remodel/enhancements**
 - Install stained glass window gifted to us by the ELCA in 2014.
 - Total replacement of current audio and video systems.
 - Rotate sanctuary 90 degrees to help provide a greater sense of community in worship and allow fellowship hall to better serve as overflow.
- **~\$100,000 for outdoor beautification and signage**
 - Enhance front landscaping. Reconfigure signage.
 - Integrate new patio/gathering space into front landscape.
 - Reconfigure drive-through front parking for easier drop-off and pick-up.

- **~\$100,000 for main entrance improvements**
 - Construct a large vestibule bump-out on the east side to create a brighter, more spacious, more obvious, and more welcoming front entrance.
- **\$50,000 for deferred maintenance/facility reserve fund + \$41,500 from the existing Maintenance Fund**
 - These capital campaign funds and the church's existing maintenance fund can be utilized to address maintenance items during the building process without affecting the building project or our ministries.

Timeline Development:

The Building Committee has started working on a timeline for the overall project. We see there being four phases: Planning, Engagement, Pre-construction, and Construction. The committee is currently working on the Planning phase and will be transitioning to the Engagement phase in the coming weeks.

- **Planning** – layout an overall schedule organizing the team, planning for the Engagement phase, and performing some of the preparation leg work to complete the design concept.
- **Engagement** – the Building Committee will be meeting with the different stakeholder groups to review the preliminary concept developed for the capital campaign to gather final inputs for the final concept. The information gathered during the listening sessions will be used by the architect to update the concept drawings

before larger congregational meetings are held to discuss the final concept prior to starting the pre-construction phase.

- **Pre-construction** – see the plans developed into construction documents, bidding, permitting, etc. leading up to the request for final congregational approval of the construction plan.
- **Construction** – the actual construction phase during which the approved plans are implemented.

The Capital Building Committee is moving into the Engagement Phase. Over the next few months, the Capital Building Committee will be meeting with various groups within the congregation to review the original concept and to gather additional inputs to be used in developing the final design concept with the architect. Once a final concept has been created the Capital Building Committee is planning to hold a series of congregational meetings to review the concept with a goal to get consensus and approval of the concept so we can move into the pre-construction phase of the project. Based on the current schedule, the congregational meetings will most likely be held in January 2022.

Watch the newsletter in the coming months for additional updates and feel free to contact any one of the Capital Building Committee members with your questions. We love to share what we are doing and to hear your thoughts on the project.

Respectfully Submitted, Adam Horner

SEPTEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue
29	30	31
5 Worship, 8:30a & 10:30a 9:30a Fellowship	6 Office Closed – Labor Day	7 9a Quilting 6p Choir
12 Serving Worship, 8:30a & 10:30a 9:30a Fellowship	13 Jeremy's Internship Complete 	14 9a Quilting 6p Choir 7p Building Committee
19 Welcoming Worship, 8:30a & 10:30a 9:30a Fellowship 1:30p 1:30p B&H @ GA Riverview Landing	20 6:30p Women's Bible Study	21 9a Quilting 6p Choir & Riversdie Ringers 6:30p Council
26 Joyful (Music Sunday) Worship, 8:30a & 10:30a 9:30a Fellowship 2p	27	28 9a Quilting 6p Riverside Ringers

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 5p Choir Dinner	2	3	4 8a Men's Bible Study
8 3p Worship/ Music 6p Worship Band 6p Riverside Ringers	9	10	11 8a Men's Bible Study
15 6p Worship Band 6p Riverside Ringers 6:30p Confirmation Parent Orientation	16	17	18 8a Men's Bible Study
22 6p Worship Band 6p CYF Fall Kickoff	23 10a Genealogy	24	25 8a Men's Bible Study
29 6p Worship Band 6:30 Conf/HS	30 6pm Choir	1	2

OCTOBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue
26	27	28
3 Accepting (CYF Sunday) Worship, 8:30a & 10:30a 9:30a Fellowship 11:30 9 th Conf Retreat	4	5 9a Quilting 6p Riverside Ringers
10 New Member Sunday Worship, 8:30a & 10:30a 9:30a Fellowship 9:30a Nm Orientation 12Noon- Paul Douglas	11	12 9a Quilting 6p Riverside Ringers 7p Building Committee
17 Worship, 8:30a & 10:30a 9:30a Fellowship	18 6:30p Women's Bible Study	19 9a Quilting 6:30p B&H @ Pour 6:30p Council
24 Worship, 8:30a & 10:30a 9:30a Fellowship	25	26 9a Quilting 6p Riverside Ringers
31 Confirmation Sunday Worship, 8:30a & 10:30a 9:30a Fellowship	1	2

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	1	2 8a Men's Bible Study
6 6p Worship Band 6:30 Conf/HS	7 6pm Choir	8	9 8a Men's Bible Study
13 3p Worship / Music 6p Worship Band 6:30 Conf/HS Fun	14 10a Genealogy 6pm Choir	15	16 8a Men's Bible Study 1-3p Fall Fling Thing Family Event
20 6p Worship Band NO Conf/HS -MEA Break	21 6pm Choir	22	23 8a Men's Bible Study
27 6p Worship Band 6:30 Conf/HS	28 6pm Choir	29	30 8a Men's Bible Study
3	4	5	6

Financial Update

	2021 Budget Year to Date (through July)	2021 Actual Year to Date (through July)
Income (General Giving)	\$279,444.50	\$295,156.44
Expenses	\$279,388.95	\$293,049.35
Net Ordinary Income	\$55.55	\$2,107.09



STAFF

If you have specific questions or needs,
please feel free to contact any of the church staff:

Pastor Nathan Mugaas

763-242-8347

pastornathan@elkriverlutheran
.org

Intern Pastor Jeremy Hallquist

612-201-6382

jeremy@elkriverlutheran.org

Linda Nielsen

Office Manager

612-845-7335

linda@elkriverlutheran.org

Taylor Quinn

*Director of Music Ministry
and Worship*

816-519-2719

taylor@elkriverlutheran.org

Lori Sundman

Bookkeeper

763-595-1216

ERLCBookkeeper@gmail.com

Brian Harding, Custodian

Lisa Griffin, Staff Pianist

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

President:	Sarah Chur	Kari Christianson
Vice President:	Ron Stricker	Mark Johnson
Secretary:	Sue Hales	Dave Katzner
Treasurer:	John Auel	Jennifer Stanley

CHURCH OFFICE

(763) 595-1216

729 Main Street, Elk River MN 55330

elkriverlutheran.info@gmail.com

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9 am – 4 pm; Fri Closed

www.elkriverlutheran.org



Trusting in God's grace, an accepting,
joyful community, serving God & neighbor.

729 Main St

Elk River, MN 55330

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