

ERLC CURRENT

ADVENT 2023



MAGAZINE OF
 **Elk River**
LUTHERAN

ERLC Current

The magazine of Elk River Lutheran Church

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Pastor Nathan's Message

Dear Members and Friends of Elk River Lutheran,

So... have you put up your Christmas decorations yet? Or begun listening to Christmas music? Or are you responsibly waiting until after Thanksgiving or even Advent?



The church season of Advent is nearly upon us. The word Advent comes from the Latin "adventus," meaning "coming." Advent is made up of the four weeks prior to Christmas, and has long been considered a season of waiting for the coming of Jesus, celebrating both the historical birth of Jesus on Christmas and the incarnational presence of God here and now.

This Advent season during worship, as we explore traditional Advent scripture readings, we ask "Why Wait?" God, Emmanuel, is already loose in this world and so as the rest of culture celebrates the joy, togetherness, generosity, and hope of Christmas, so will we!

So get busy decking the halls whenever you feel like it! Let Mariah Carey's Christmas crooning fill your home whenever you're ready! Why wait? This newsletter is full of opportunities to celebrate the joy of the season and God's presence with us. Let's embrace it today!



Grace and Peace,
Pastor Nathan Mugaas

Why Wait?

MEETING JESUS
RIGHT NOW

ADVENT SCHEDULE 2023

The church season of Advent, made up of the four weeks prior to Christmas, has long been considered a season of waiting to celebrate the joyous incarnation of God in our world in the birth of Jesus. This year, as we explore traditional Advent scripture readings, we ask "Why Wait?" God, Emmanuel, is already loose in this world and so as the rest of culture celebrates the joy, togetherness, generosity, and hope of Christmas, so will we!

Nov 26 - Hope Now - Advent 1

Dec 3 - Beginning Now - Advent 2

Dec 10 - Kids' Christmas Program - Advent 3

Dec 17 - Comfort Now - Advent 4

Dec 20 - Early Christmas Service

Dec 24 - Christmas Eve

Dec 31 - Lessons and Carols

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Dec 20 - Early Candlelight Service - 6:30pm

Dec 24 - Christmas Eve

Family Service - 10:30am

Candlelight Service

2:30pm, 4:30pm and 10:00pm

Phone: 763-595-1216

Facebook: ElkRiverLutheran

Youtube: ElkRiverLutheranChurch



www.elkriverlutheran.org

Pastor Anne's Message

Happy Advent, Merry Christmas, and Blessed Epiphany, dear Church. It is a joy to celebrate all of the seasons along with you.

As we carve the turkeys, deck the halls and share in some forced-family-fun, I'm delighted to reflect on the beauty of the last few months. While in the day-to-day chaos of September and October, it was hard not to pause and appreciate all the ways in which God was showing up. We've had a number of funerals here at ERLC where SO MANY people showed up to care for the families and celebrate the hope of resurrection together. Among great sadness was beautiful love and support for one another. I feel awed by the sense of community and the Holy Spirit's comfort in these difficult times.



There is such joy and excitement in reflecting on our 11 confirmands who publicly affirmed their baptismal promises and confirmed their faith on October 29th. These students pulled together to

plan their Confirmation Service, host a trunk or treat, write their faith statements and choose their Life Verses. They displayed great character and commitment to their faith, and they have inspired me to great measures!

Another way I have seen the joy of the Lord is when I got a phone call from one of our members, Steve Lindberg, who shared with me that he won a new roof from Oberg Roofing and Remodeling. I had learned about this giveaway from one of our new members,

Laura Guimont, and I was delighted to hear that Steve won this incredible gift among many, many people vying for it. Steve and Mary Lindberg have been in a battle against cancer for many years, and the



blessing of a new roof couldn't have been better placed. Thanks be to God for all the beautiful ways of caring for people.

While celebrating the beauty buried in the last few months, I look forward to the next few months of God's ministry here at Elk River Lutheran. We will celebrate Christ's Coming at Christmas in many ways including caroling, CYF Night, the kids' Christmas program, more baptisms and so many cookies!



The holidays and the dark months of winter get to be long and challenging for some. Loneliness can dominate even when we're surrounded by people, and restlessness can feel like the norm if we don't care for our mental and emotional wellness.

Please remember to rest, eat well, exercise and get outside as much as possible. Look for ways to connect with others in meaningful ways - like coming to worship, staying for Fellowship Hour, supporting our Youth, or serving with one of our ministry groups. Know that we care for you and are here for you. Reach out to the church office or one of us pastors if we can talk with you, pray with you, or support you in any way. You are not alone - THANKS BE TO GOD!

So much to celebrate in the months gone by, and we look with joy to the coming of the Messiah and the months to come!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Anne Schaefer



BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

of SOLACE and COMFORT



Wednesday

**Dec. 13, 2023
7:00 pm**

**A Community Wide Service for Those
Living with Loss, Depression, Anxiety,
and Struggle!**

ALL ARE WELCOME!



HOLY TRINITY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

763-441-5482
1326 4th Street
Elk River, MN

www.HolyTrinityElkRiver.org

President's Report

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I am thankful for the time I have been able to serve as president of this congregation. I am proud of what we have accomplished together during the past two years including calling Pastor Anne, a building remodel/reconstruction, entering another capital campaign, starting up a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice (DEI & SJ) task force and the variety of Children, Youth and Family (CYF) activities among other things. We have navigated our way since Covid disrupted church as we know it, which has moved more people to do church online. We have also weathered a couple of summertime staff sabbaticals the last two years.

Despite all the positive momentum we have, our expenses have been outpacing income, and we may be required to make cuts in expenses in order to balance our budget as we head into next year. My hope this holiday season is that we can end 2023 on more solid financial ground but also to make any tough financial decisions or adjustments necessary in order to leave the congregation with solid finances heading into 2024. That way our incoming president (whoever that is) and the Council can keep the focus on the ministries of ERLC and the positive impact we are having in the community. The Council as a whole thanks you and appreciates all the financial support that has generously been given to this congregation through the years. We will provide another financial update to the congregation in early December. May we continue and always be trusting in God's grace, an accepting joyful community, serving God and neighbor.

Blessings,
David Katzner
Council President



Music Ministry

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas from the music man. At this time of year, Darryl and I are getting ready to host our annual holiday party. We're cleaning the house, getting supplies filled, and finalizing the menu. It happens early in December so we are fortunate to have the house clean for the rest of the frozen winter. Like the rest of you home-bodies, we'll be cooped there for the next 85,000 months. 😊 The bright side is we'll have Sampson to keep us company.



Here at ERLC, the music ministry is in the midst of rehearsals for our five Christmas Eve services. Each ensemble is getting ready for their respective service time. The Choir is singing at the Early Christmas Eve service on the 20th. On Christmas Eve proper, family ensembles will lead music at 10:30 am, the Worship Band at 2:30 pm, the Instrumental Ensemble at 4:30 pm, and the Riverside Ringers at 10 pm. No matter which service you attend, you'll hear meaningful Christmas music from our talented musicians.

During this season, you also are a musician in the music ministry. Many of you already sang for the Christmas Tree lighting ceremony on November 15th and many of you have already signed up to sing carols at Santa in the Park and Bells & Carols. If you haven't signed up yet, please do. The more the merrier, especially at Santa in the Park.

After all the merry-making of Christmas, we'll have **our Lessons and Carols** services on December 31st. It'll just be me at the piano and readers at the lectern. Like a warm bath at the end of a stressful day, I hope **Lessons and Carols** will wash away your anxieties and calm your souls...just before you rev up again for your New Year's Eve party. Ha!



MUSIC MINISTRY

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2023

CHOIR

Rehearsals - Thursdays,
6 to 7:30 pm

Performances
Dec 20th

WORSHIP BAND

Rehearsals - Mondays,
7:30 to 9:30 pm

Performances
Dec 10th • Dec 24th
(2:30pm)

RIVERSIDE RINGERS

Rehearsals - Tuesdays,
6 to 7 pm

Performances
Nov 26th • Dec 19th •
Dec 24th (10pm)

Family Musicians

Dec 24th (10:30am)

Andersons • Larsons •
Granros/Howland •
Johnsons • Livingstons

INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE

Rehearsals - Sundays or Wednesdays

Performances
Dec 24th (4:30pm)

Caroling

- Dec 2nd, Santa in the Park
- Dec 19th, Bells and Carols

Bells & Carols

Dec 19th, 6 pm, Riverview
Landing

Riverside Ringers and carolers
provide festive Christmas music
for the residents of Riverview
Landing

Lessons and Carols,
Dec 31st



There are a few things to look forward to after the holidays. Many of you loved singing ***“The Lord’s Prayer”*** during services this year, so we’re going to sing it on the first Sunday of every month. We’ll also continue using the seasonal liturgy ***Of the Land and Seasons*** at the traditional service. Be ready for that on Jan 7th. On January 20th plan to join us for a CYF fundraising event featuring the ***Brooklyn Big Band***, a local 18-piece big band that plays classic, standard, and modern jazz music. Also, mark your calendar for our ***RIC Celebration Sunday*** on February 4th.



As you go about your Advent season, I hope peace, joy, comfort, and love find you in the obvious and unexpected places. Take care of yourselves, and, if you can, take care of someone else.

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!

Taylor Quinn



Volunteering!

I don't volunteer. Well, at least, I didn't. Volunteering always felt like an obligation to me, and I don't like being motivated by obligation. One day I was thinking *"If I were to choose to volunteer, what would I like to do? What would bring me joy?"*. I knew almost instantly. I would be on the Hospitality Team. I love hosting and serving food. In fact, I love it so much that I once served grilled hot dogs to anonymous passersby who walked by my yard. "Want a hot dog?" Most of them said yes.

If you were to choose to volunteer at ERLC, what opportunities would bring you joy? Would learning to run the soundboard bring you joy? Or running the PowerPoint? How about serving communion or cleaning it up? If any of those would bring you joy, let me know. I'm looking to add more people to those specific roles.

To those who already volunteer, thank you. I have really appreciated your diligent communication and commitment to serving at our worship services. It's a pleasure getting to know you all and coordinating your schedules. Thank you also for blocking out your dates and stepping in when there are last-minute needs. You are a great group of people.

Taylor



DECEMBER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS**

**Sign Ups will be coming out in the announcements for Christmas Eve Services on Dec 20 and 24

8:30 Traditional Service with Communion

| Role | Dec 3 | Dec 10 | Dec 17 | Dec 31 |
|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Greeter | Hahn, Stan Hahn, Diane | Pruchnik, Elliot Stanley, Jenny | Granros, Vicki Wolff, Brandon | Boese, Christy Rud, Dixie |
| Usher | Campbell, John Campbell, Debbie | Cazett, Jane Cazett, Chuck | Pruchnik, Michal Stanley-Wornson, Cale | Jackson, Marianne Jackson, Jerry |
| Scripture Reader | Campbell, Linda | Barthel, Mary | Olson, Cedric | Rose, Paula |
| Communion Servers | Natwick, John Natwick, Conni | Schulstad-Werk, Lorie Werk, Tom | Acers, Karen Simpson, Vicki | Hovde, Paul Olson, Mariys |
| Sunday Morning Communion Prep and Clean Up | | Hansen, Christine | Haugen, Julie Marie | Burandt, Barb |
| Communion Steward | Haugen, Julie Marie | Simpson, Vicki | Cook, Larry | Simpson, Vicki |
| Mid-Week Communion Filler | | Rosati, Jodi | Rose, Paula | Schmidt, Shirley |
| Powerpoint Operator | Pruchnik, Elliot | Boese, Hannah | Glasoe, Chase | Anderson, Emma |
| Soundboard Operator | Johnson, Bennett | Auel, John | Rotz, Emily | Boese, Henry |
| Switcher Operator | Campbell, Nick | Campbell, Nick | Campbell, Nick | Campbell, Nick |

10:30 Contemporary Service with Communion

| Role | Dec 3 | Dec 10 | Dec 17 | Dec 31 |
|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Greeter | Livingston, Kerry Palmer, Gail | Dalnes, Cathy Schaefer, Anthony | Howland, Shari Sandvig, Nathan | Davies, Lee Davies, Peg |
| Usher | Auel, John Schaefer, Anthony | Schwarze, Mark Schwarze, Amelia | Livingston, Joe Schrock, Jeff | Day, Zoey Klemenhausen, Trade |
| Scripture Reader | Sandvig, Chloe | Johnson, Asher | Chur, Sarah | Schrock, Jeff |
| Communion Server | Dahlheimer, Jodie Livingston, Grace | Wingard, Tom Wingard, LuAnn | Bossany, Lisa Dalnes, Cathy | Chur, Sarah Donnelly, Paula |
| Communion Prep and Clean Up | Bock, Nancy | Hippe, Martha | Hansen, Christine | Day, Zoey |
| Communion Steward | Tschakert, Amanda | Pouliot, Debby | Day, Zoey | Pouliot, Greg |
| Powerpoint Operator | Auel, Sarah | Horner, Katherine | Jenkins, Kevin | Howland, Shari |
| Soundboard Operator | Johnson, Bennett | Schrock, Jeff | Rotz, Emily | Howland, Justin |
| Switcher Operator | Campbell, Nick | Campbell, Nick | Campbell, Nick | Campbell, Nick |

It takes a village to conduct a worship service. If you have a heart for serving, and you would like to be included in the rotation, please contact Taylor Quinn at taylor@elkriverlutheran.org or fill out the Time and Talent Form at the top of elkriverlutheran.org/forms

JANUARY WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

8:30 Traditional Service with Communion

| Role | Jan 7 | Jan 14 | Jan 21 | Jan 28 |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Greeter | Natwick, John Natwick, Conni | Gottschalk, Annika Thurmer, Renee | Campbell, Debbie Emerick, Sharon | Mathison, Doug Mathison, Donna |
| Usher | Krumwiede, Bob Weidner, Herm | Lemire, Amanda Simpson, Vicki | Hulse, Chuck Olson, Cedric | Hovde, Paul Weidner, Herm |
| Scripture Reader | Natwick, John | Armogost, Babs | Schansberg, Diana | Werk, Tom |
| Communion Servers | Armogost, Babs Hansen, Christine | Barthel, John Schansberg, Diana | Christianson, Kari Jackson, Marianne | Stanley, Jenny Stanley-Wornson, Cale |
| Sunday Morning Communion Prep and Clean Up | Stanley, Jenny Stanley-Wornson, Cale | Pruchnik, Michal | Barthel, Mary | Rose, Paula |
| Communion Steward | Haugen, Julie Marie | Cook, Larry | Haugen, Julie Marie | Simpson, Vicki |
| Mid-Week Communion Filler | Simpson, Vicki | Olson, Mariys | Lundquist, Jana | Bock, Nancy |
| Powerpoint Operator | Pruchnik, Elliot | Ethen, Levi | Boese, Hannah | Auel, Sarah |
| Soundboard Operator | Johnson, Bennett | Boese, Henry | Rotz, Emily | Auel, John |
| Switcher Operator | Campbell, Nick | Campbell, Nick | Campbell, Nick | Campbell, Nick |

10:30 Contemporary Service with Communion

| Role | Jan 7 | Jan 14 | Jan 21 | Jan 28 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Greeter | Pouliot, Greg Pouliot, Debby | Hagberg, Michelle Sackmeister, Vicki | Carlson, Tyler Carlson, Sarah | Hippe, Martha Schrock, Krista |
| Usher | Ayres, Viv Ayres, Jim | Donnelly, Paula Donnelly, Pat | Schrock, Krista Schrock, Jeff | Klemenhausen, Trade Nelson, Dan |
| Scripture Reader | Hagberg, Michelle | Rotz, Adrienne | Hippe, Martha | Katzner, Nevaeh |
| Communion Server | Livingston, Kerry Livingston, Joe | Hagberg, Michelle Hennig, Kara | Day, Zoey Hippe, Martha | Donnelly, Pat Schrock, Jeff |
| Communion Prep and Clean Up | Bock, Nancy | Hippe, Martha | Pouliot, Debby | Day, Zoey |
| Communion Steward | Nelson, Dan | Hansen, Christine | Pouliot, Debby | Dalnes, Cathy |
| Powerpoint Operator | Sandvig, Nathaniel | Horner, Katherine | Livingston, Grace | Sandvig, Chloe |
| Soundboard Operator | Auel, John | Schrock, Jeff | Rotz, Emily | Howland, Justin |
| Switcher Operator | Campbell, Nick | Campbell, Nick | Campbell, Nick | Campbell, Nick |

It takes a village to conduct a worship service. If you have a heart for serving, and you would like to be included in the rotation, please contact Taylor Quinn at taylor@elkriverlutheran.org or fill out the Time and Talent Form at the top of elkriverlutheran.org/forms

Children, Youth & Family Ministries

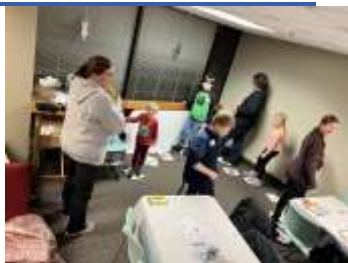
CYF Night

Christmas: December 13: 6-7:45pm

**What a bright time,
it's the right time,
to rock the night away!**

Come join us for our December CYF Night where we will celebrate Christmas in a variety of ways - games, activities, crafts, carols, and (of course) FOOD! We'll begin with a pizza dinner at 6pm (free will offering). Expect fun and energy as we celebrate the birth of Jesus with the whole ERLC family!

**January 24th and April 24th are the next
CYF Nights.
Mark your calendars!**



Kids Christmas Program



CALLING ALL LITTLE ACTORS FOR THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Looking for all PreK - 6th graders who would like to be actors for this year's Christmas Program!

Program: Sunday, Dec 10, both services
Dress rehearsal: Dec 9, 9-10:30 am

Speaking and non-speaking parts are available. Songs will be emailed for students to practice at home.

Reach out to Pastor Anne with questions

Wednesday Programming Schedule for High School and Confirmation Students

Students meet most Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm.

December/January Schedule

12/6 – Regular Confirmation/High School Schedule

12/13 - CYF Night

12/20 – Early Christmas Eve Service

12/27 - Winter Break (No Confirmation or High School)

1/3 – Regular Confirmation/High School Schedule

1/10 - Feed My Starving Children for High School

1/10 – Regular Confirmation Schedule

1/17 - Regular Confirmation/High School Schedule

1/24 - CYF Night – January

Other Special Events

2/14 - 3/27 LENT Dinner Church

4/24 - CYF Night April

5/8 - Last programming night of the school year

High School

High School students continue to gather in the Youth Room on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30. We spend some of our time talking about God, the Bible, and real faith in our real lives. We also spend time serving our neighbors, playing games and growing together as a community. I've been impressed at our teenager's connections and willingness to welcome everyone. High schoolers, come check out this group - friends are always welcome!



High School - FMSC on January 10th



On January 10th, the high school youth schedule will be a little different. Please plan on being to church by 6:15 so that we can leave for **Feed My Starving Children!** We will spend the evening packing meals for hungry

families all over the world. Feel free to bring donations or money to purchase items from their gift shop. We will be back to church around 9:15pm. *Pastor Anne will need a concrete RSVP by January 3.*

We need multiple parents to help chaperone and drive. Please let Pastor Anne know if you are willing and able to help make this event happen.

Youth Mission Trip



Calling all current 9-12th graders who are interested in challenging themselves, growing their faith, and serving God's people of South Dakota! You are invited to experience discipleship through a mission trip to the Sioux Tribe of the Cheyenne Indian Reservation June 16-22nd, 2024. Much of our work will be in learning about the people and serving the community through construction projects. Cost is \$775. There will be fundraisers organized to offset this trip cost. Participation in the fundraisers are required to ensure they are successful for the whole team. **Registration:** elkriverlutheran.org/children-youth-and-family-ministry
Reach out to Pastor Anne if you have any questions!



ERLC HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH PRESENT

FUNDRAISER EVENT

*benefitting the
Youth Mission Trip*

featuring
Brooklyn Big Band

DINNER, ENTERTAINMENT,
DESSERT, SILENT AUCTION

20TH JANUARY, 2024

ELK RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH
729 MAIN ST
ELK RIVER, MN

Roaring 20s Theme

1920'S ATTIRE
ENCOURAGED
BUT NOT REQUIRED

**TICKETS \$30
PURCHASE AT
ELKRIVERLUTHERAN.ORG
BEGINNING DECEMBER 10TH**

Doors open and silent auction commences at 6pm,
Plated dinner service begins at 6:30,
Entertainment begins at 7:30
Silent auction closes at intermission - 8:15pm
Evening concludes and silent auction winners announced at 9pm

Civil Rights Tour



Meals on Wheels

February

Meals on Wheels has a mission of delivering nutritious meals and a smiling face to people that are homebound or cannot prepare meals for themselves.



The meals are prepared at the Guardian Angels Senior Dining Center and are administered by Catholic Charities Diocese of St. Cloud. Elk River Lutheran Church volunteers to deliver the meals the months of September and February, Monday through Friday.

Thank you to all the people that have given their time to deliver meals. We have a sign up sheet out a couple of weeks before the start of our month to deliver. We are grateful to have this opportunity to help others.

If this is something you might be interested in doing, please contact Barb Overbye (612 799 5929) or Linda Felska (763 242 5319).

Neighbor to Neighbor

Our Neighbor to Neighbor ministry continues to thrive with our members serving each other by visiting, checking in, and sharing in communion together. If you would like someone to bring you communion or visit with you through the phone or a personal visit, please let Pastor Anne know. We want everyone to feel connected and valued as a part of our ERLC community. Someone is waiting to connect with you - just say the word!



Get Involved

These are existing ministries within the Elk River Lutheran Community.
You are invited to join these groups.

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>ERLC Quilting Group <i>Tuesdays @ 9AM</i> Lower Level at Church – Quilting Room Mission Quilts are made for Lutheran World Relief. <i>All skill levels welcome.</i></p> | |
| <p>Text Study <i>Tuesdays @ 10AM</i> <i>(Optional Fellowship @9:30AM)</i> Meeting in the Lower-Level Community Room Studying the bible text for the upcoming Sunday Worship along with the preaching pastor. <i>All are welcome . Come once or come every week</i></p> | |
| <p>Men's Breakfast <i>Fridays @ 9AM</i> Coborns, Elk River Food – Fellowship</p> | <p>Women's Coffee <i>Fridays @ 9AM</i> Panera, Elk River Coffee – Food – Fellowship</p> |
| <p>Men's Bible Study <i>Saturdays @ 8AM</i> On Zoom Find a link at: https://www.elkriverlutheran.org/adult-ministries.html</p> | |
| <p>Genealogy Group <i>1st Thursday of the Month</i> <i>10AM – 12 Noon</i> 2nd Floor Conference Room All are welcome even if you haven't joined before. Meeting begins by sharing what each are working on, discoveries, questions, roadblocks and family stories.</p> | <p>Women's Monthly Bible Study <i>3rd Monday of the Month</i> <i>6:30PM</i> Lower Level at the Church – Quilting Room This group follows the Bible Studies of the Women's ELCA magazine Gather</p> |

Endowment Fund

In 2016, through the generosity of the Patten Family, the Elk River Lutheran Church Endowment Fund was established. The Mission Endowment Task Force created the Mission of the ERLC Endowment and the ERLC Mission Endowment Committee was approved by the ERLC Congregation at the 2018 Congregational Meeting.

Grants will be awarded by the ERLC Mission Endowment Committee each year to mission areas that align with the vision of the Endowment's mission. A Mission Endowment Fund Application form and Guidelines are available on the ERLC website along with a brochure. The Mission Endowment Committee meets at least quarterly or more often as needed. A grant of \$1,000 was recently awarded to Lutheran University Nigeria through the Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA. Plans are to host *Financial Peace University* with Dave Ramsey in January of 2024.

The Endowment Fund provides ERLC members and friends with the opportunity to make charitable gifts to ERLC and to have the earnings from those gifts fund future donations for scholarships, community outreach, and ELCA mission work. Please consider donating or leaving a legacy gift to the ERLC Mission Endowment.

Mission Endowment Committee

John Campbell, Paula Donnelly,
Hans DuBois, Kent Larson,
Kerry Livingston, Pastor Nathan
Mugaas and Brad Tesdal



FINANCIAL PEACE *University*

Starting
January 18th
2024

Elk River Lutheran Church, with the financial support of our Mission Endowment Fund, is excited to offer this Financial Peace University class at a discounted rate of *\$60 and provide free childcare during the class.

Financial Peace University is the nine-week class that teaches you the step-by-step plan to win with money and gives you all the tools you need to work it. Once a week for nine weeks, you'll watch a video lesson (each one is about an hour long) and then meet as a group for discussions and activities that drive each lesson home. (Aka, the most transformative part of FPU)

And the results speak for themselves. FPU graduates pay off an average of \$5,300 in debt and save an average of \$2,700 in just 90 days. That's a financial turnaround of \$8,000—all for a few hours of your time over a few months. (Sounds like a no-brainer.)

CLASS DETAILS

- Classes will take place on Thursday evenings at 6:30pm, beginning January 18th and continuing for nine weeks. (Jan 18 - Mar 14)
- *\$60 Registration Fee Includes:
 - Nine Week Financial University Class and Course Workbook
 - One year Financial Peace University Online Access
 - Three Months of Premium Version of EveryDollar Budgeting App
 - Live Group Financial Coaching

*If you attend all 9 weeks of class, the Elk River Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund will refund your original \$60 registration fee!

Sign up now at:



bit.ly/FPU2024ERLC



Message from the Treasurer

Your Council thanks you for your support – support coming in so many ways! Twice in the past 8 months we asked for cash flow assistance. Both times you responded by catching up on pledges, with some exceeding that! It appears our cash flow is resolved for this year.

As our President stated, however, our expenses are outpacing income for the year. We ask you to continue your efforts to match your pledge, giving us the vital financial support for our Mission.

Mark Johnson
Treasurer



THE GENEROUS LIFE



- Quietly Generous
- Generous in Relationships
- Generous Remembering
- Generous with Time
- Financially Generous

For where your
treasure is, there
your heart will be
also.

~ Matthew 6:21

| December | | |
|---|---|--|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday |
| 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 3 8:30am Traditional 9:30am Fellowship 10:30am Contemporary 11:45am Umbrella Mtg | 4 10am Hospitality Meeting 6pm Worship Band | 5 9am Quilting 10am Text Study 6pm Riverside Ringers |
| 10 Christmas Program (both services) 8:30am Traditional 9:30am Fellowship 10:30am Contemporary 1pm Instrumental Ensemble  | 11 10:30am Carol-Sing at Guardian Angels by the Lake 6pm Worship Band | 12 9am Quilting 10am Text Study 6pm Riverside Ringers |
| 17 8:30am Traditional 9:30am Fellowship 10:30am Contemporary 1pm Instrumental Ensemble | 18 6pm Worship Band 6:30pm Women's Monthly Bible Study | 19 9am Quilting 10am Text Study 6pm Bells and Carols 6:30pm Council |
| 24 10:30am Family Christmas Service 2:30pm, 4:30pm & 10PM Candlelight Services | 25 Christmas Day Church Office is Closed  | 26 |
| 31 Lessons and Carols 8:30am Traditional 10:30am Contemporary | 1 | 2 |

| | | | 2023 |
|---|--|--|--|
| Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| 29 | 30 | 1 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns-ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera) | 2 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom) 2-5pm Santa in the Park |
| 6 4:30pm Generosity Team 6pm Instrumental Ensemble 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm High School Youth | 7 10am Genealogy Group 6pm Choir | 8 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns-ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera) | 9 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom) 9am Christmas Program Rehearsal |
| 13 6pm CYF Night 7pm Blue Christmas Service of Solace and Comfort (Holy Trinity) | 14 6pm Choir | 15 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns-ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera) | 16 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom) |
| 20 6:30pm Early Christmas Eve Candlelight Service | 21 10am Worship @ Guardian Angels, RVL | 22 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns-ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera) | 23 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom) |
| 27 | 28 | 29 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns-ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera) | 30 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom) |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |

| January | | |
|---|--|---|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday |
| 31 | 1 Church Office Closed  | 2 9am Quilting 10am Text Study 6pm Riverside Ringers |
| 7 8:30am Traditional 9:30am Fellowship 10:30am Contemporary | 8 10am Hospitality Meeting 2pm Hymn-Sing Guardian Angels RVL | 9 9am Quilting 10am Text Study 6pm Riverside Ringers 6:30pm Mission Endowment Team |
| 14 8:30am Traditional 9:30am Fellowship 10:30am Contemporary | 15 6:30pm Women's Monthly Bible Study 6pm Worship Band | 16 9am Quilting 10am Text Study 6pm Riverside Ringers 6:30pm Council |
| 21 8:30am Traditional 9:30am Congregation Informational Meeting 10:30am Contemporary | 22 6pm Worship Band | 23 9am Quilting 10am Text Study 6pm Riverside Ringers |
| 28 8:30am Traditional 9:30am Annual Meeting 10:30am Contemporary | 29 6pm Worship Band | 30 9am Quilting 10am Text Study |

| 2024 | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| 3 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm High School Youth | 4 10am Genealogy Group 6pm Choir | 5 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns-ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera) 6pm Club 4-5-6 | 6 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom) |
| 10 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm High School Youth | 11 Annual Reports Due 6pm Choir | 12 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns-ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera) | 13 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom) |
| 17 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm High School Youth | 18 10am Worship at GA Riverview Landing 6pm Choir | 19 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns-ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera) | 20 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom) 6pm Brooklyn Big Band Dinner Event |
| 24 6pm CYF Night | 25 6pm Choir | 26 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns-ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera) | 27 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom) |
| 31 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm High School Youth | 1 | 2 | 3 |

Coming in February 2024

RIC Sunday – February 4th



Lent Schedule for 2024



Ash Wednesday Service: February 14 at 6:30pm

Dinner Church - Wednesdays at 6pm:

February 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20

Palm/Passion Sunday: March 23

Maundy Thursday (First Communion) – March 28 at 6:30pm

Good Friday - March 29 at 6:30pm

Easter Sunday – March 31

STAFF

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

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Amy Brown

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

President: David Katzner

Vice President: Kent Larson

Secretary: Matt Glasoe

Treasurer: Mark Johnson

Sue Hales

Julie Marie Haugen

Conni Natwick

Jeff Schrock

Jennifer Stanley

Tom Werk

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www.elkriverlutheran.org



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

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