

ERLC CURRENT

FALL 2023



Sept 10 - Joyful

Sept 17 - Grace

Sept 24 - Accepting

Oct 1 - Welcoming

Oct 8 - Serving

MAGAZINE OF



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,

As I finish up my sabbatical, I want to invite you all "Back To Elk River Lutheran." This is the title of our fall sermon series and ironically many of you have been around this summer and it's me, the pastor, who is just now coming back! But we also know that several of our members have not been back to church in a while, so if that's you, please hear this as an invitation back to worship, life, and community here at Elk River Lutheran. There's never been a better time to come back, because even the pastor hasn't been around for three months!

This newsletter tells the story of many opportunities to get involved in the life and ministry of the church. While I have so appreciated this time of sabbatical, I really have missed my church family. Maybe you've missed it too. So please read, consider, and I hope you'll join us back here one day soon.

I am, of course, also looking forward to spending this time with my family. Many times, throughout my almost seven years at Elk River Lutheran, they've seen me pulled away to meetings or pastoral needs that arise. So, to have this uninterrupted time will be a gift.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Nathan Mugaas



Pastor Anne's Message

Autumn Greetings, dear Church! Happy 1-year anniversary to us and our partnership in God's Work in and through ERLC! I am shocked at how quickly this past year has flown. My ordination was September 1st of 2022, and my formal letter of call began here on September 25. So much to be thankful for in the past year, and I am excited about what is coming in the seasons ahead.

It never ceases to amaze me how good the season of autumn feels. I welcome the cooler temperatures, the kids returning to a bit of order, and the reminder of beauty among the dying leaves. And, of course, the beginning of the program year at ERLC is always something to celebrate!

We have a lot of good things coming our way in the months ahead. We get to welcome Pastor Nathan back from sabbatical, begin our regular gatherings of children and youth, launch another round of LIFE groups, host incredible performers for CYF Night, walk 9th graders through their Confirmation Service, embrace a new grief group, and have many fellowship opportunities! Indeed there will be much to be thankful for by Thanksgiving.



Looking ahead brings great anticipation and joy, but I'd be remiss if I didn't spend some time giving thanks for this past summer. In addition to getting to engage with fantastic guest preachers all summer, we hosted a fun and engaging VBS program, had regular fun gatherings with our 4th-12th graders, sent many teenagers to camp, and brought 64 people to watch the Minnesota Twins win a

game against Detroit! We also joined the hosts of heaven in rejoicing over three baptisms, and we celebrated two weddings. I feel truly grateful for this time together.



My gratitude goes deeper when I think about the love, care and support the ERLC community has shown to me and my family as we have mourned three separate deaths in my family this summer. It has been a difficult time for our family, but your prayers and compassion have sustained us and shown us yet another way to be Jesus in this time and place. THANK YOU.

As we move forward in the calendar year, I give thanks for days past and look ahead with great anticipation. May the coming change of seasons bring you fresh starts, clean slates, and renewed hope.

~ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Romans 15:13

Grace and peace,
Pastor Anne Schaefer



President's Report

As we move into fall at Elk River Lutheran Church (ERLC), I would like to reflect on our summer a bit. I first would like to thank Pastor Anne and the staff for their hard work while Pastor Nathan has been gone on sabbatical. It hasn't been easy but it feels to me like we really have not skipped a beat.

We had some really fun activities for Children, Youth and Families (CYF) including Wild Wednesdays, summer camp, Vacation Bible School (VBS), and a Twins baseball game where we had the opportunity to sing the national anthem. VBS was especially moving for me as we had 20+ volunteers and 20+ children for the four-day event and this event was a huge success. Thank you to all of the volunteers at VBS and at events throughout the summer as we couldn't do these activities without you.



On September 5, I would like to be the first to welcome Pastor Nathan back from his summer sabbatical. From the accounts I have heard, it was good summer for Pastor Nathan and family as they embarked on a long road trip and for Nathan himself on other personal growth activities. I believe Nathan's sabbatical came at a great time for him after a very busy year at ERLC last

year and for Pastor Anne which really allowed her to assert herself as a focal point in our organization. With staff back at full strength this fall, I am excited to see what we will do next at ERLC.

One of the things the Council has been working on is starting a *Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice (DEI & SJ) task force* at ERLC. This task force will be updating ERLC's



Reconciling in Christ (RIC) commitment which is due by January 2025. January 2025 seems far away, but there are many things to do to make this happen between now and then. We don't see this as a temporary task force and this group will be looking for other future opportunities for strengthening areas of DEI & SJ at ERLC. We continue to look for a diverse group of individuals to serve on this task force. If you find this topic important to you and would like to volunteer, please contact Pastor Anne.

We also look forward to the 2023/2024 CYF year which kicks off on September 17. CYF nights will continue to be held once every month on Wednesdays and there will also continue to be story/learning time for the kids during the regular worship services. Middle and High Schoolers still have the opportunity for weekly gatherings on Wednesday evenings as well. For more information see the Children, Youth and Family Ministries section starting on page 16

We thank the Lord for the gifts of your time, prayer, kindness, friendship, understanding, forgiveness, and love. May God bless and walk with us as we seek to serve him.

Blessings,

David Katzner
Council President





BACK TO ELK RIVER LUTHERAN

FALL 2023 SERIES OVERVIEW

We're inviting everyone to come **Back To Elk River Lutheran** this fall as we kick off a new program year here at the church. Whether you came to worship every Sunday all summer or haven't been here in years, we hope you'll come back this fall. If it has been a while, don't worry, you're in good company, because even Pastor Nathan hasn't been here in three months! What a great time to reconnect with this joyful, accepting community as we serve God and our neighbors.

*For the next 5 weeks, we will be living into
and celebrating our Elk River Lutheran mission statement*

September 10 - Joyful
September 17 - Grace
September 24 - Accepting
October 1 - Welcoming
October 8 - Serving

www.elkriverlutheran.org

Music Ministry



MUSIC MINISTRY

CHOIR

Rehearsals - Thursdays,
6 to 7:30 pm

Featured on Oct 1st
(Music Sunday), Oct
29th (Confirmation
Sunday), Nov 19th

WORSHIP BAND

Rehearsals - Mondays,
6:30 to 9:30 pm

Featured on Oct 1st
(Music Sunday), Oct
29th (Confirmation
Sunday), Nov 19th

RIVERSIDE RINGERS

Rehearsals - Tuesdays, 6
to 7 pm

Featured on Oct 1st
(Music Sunday), Nov 5th
(All Saints), Nov 26th
(Advent 1)

HYMN SINGS

- Guardian Angels By the Lake, Sept 11th, 10:30 am
- Guardian Angels Riverview Landing, Oct 2nd, 2 pm
- Autumn HymnFest, Oct 18th, 6 pm

INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE

Rehearsals - Wednesdays, 6 to 7:30 pm

Featured on Oct 1st (Music Sunday)

MUSIC SUNDAY, OCT 1st

Both services are filled with
music from our talented
musicians

- Featuring...
- Riverside Ringers
 - Worship Band
 - Instrumental Ensemble
 - ERLC Choir
 - Vicki Granros
 - River's Edge Quartet
 - and more.

Family Musicians at CYF Sunday, Sept 17th

Enjoy music led and performed by our musical families

Featuring...

- Levi and Libby Ethen
- Asher, Bennett, and Noelle Johnson
- The Howland/Granros Family
- Rotz Family Jam Band
- Grace and Kerry Livingston
- Nevaeh Katzner and the Katzner Family
- The Horners

Greetings from the music guy. I hope all of your summers went well. It was peaceful here in my office. I needed some professional downtime, whittling down my extensive task list and thinking about the next program year. It was much needed and well-appreciated. It was a peaceful summer on the chancel as well. I am extremely grateful for all the musicians who signed up to lead music with me and Lisa. It was so nice having you there on Sunday morning without a week of rehearsals. You came, you led, and we all enjoyed it. Thank you. You are a gift.

With no rehearsals to lead and no special events to make happen, I really did enjoy time thinking about the music ministry and putting together plans for each ensemble. All four of them will start right after Labor Day: Riverside Ringers Handbell Choir, Instrumental Ensemble, ERLC Choir, and the Worship Band. They'll be participating in our worship services throughout the fall AND their first performances will be on Oct 1st, Music Sunday. So make sure you come to worship that day to see them along with more of our talented musicians. Beer & Hymns was missed last year, so I also scheduled a few hymn sings. I'll be hosting two at Guardian Angels' locations, one on Sept 11th at By the Lake and the other on Oct 2nd at Riverview Landing. I'll also host an Autumn HymnFest on Oct 18th outside the church. It'll be fall-themed with campfires and a hay wagon. I'm kind of excited about that one. I've always dreamed about leading a hymn sing from a hay wagon. 😊

This year I'm adding a new liturgy to our services. We regularly do liturgical settings from the ELW, the *Liturgy of Welcome*, the *Chicago Folk Service*, etc. So, for the sake of variety and faith enrichment, I'll introduce *Of the Land and Seasons* on Oct 22nd. It's a quarterly liturgy that "celebrates the cycle of agricultural seasons". It'll give us a moment in our 'regular scheduled program' to reflect on each season as we live in it. For one Sunday in the fall, winter, spring, and summer, we'll sing and pray about "planting the word, nurturing growth in grace, and being good stewards of the gifts of the Spirit, as well as of the land." One thing this less-busy summer has afforded me was a chance to make the music ministry more robust and this is one way to do that. I hope you all enjoy it.

So, that's what I've been working on this summer. I have to admit my brain is ready to think less and start making music with everyone. See you all fine folks soon.

Taylor Quinn



Worship Volunteers

A Note for Worship Volunteers: Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the worship services this summer. I appreciate your commitment to communicating with me and blocking out your dates. All you did was very helpful throughout the whole summer.

You all have been scheduled until November and will get an email notification 3 weeks before it's your time to serve. Please confirm when you get that notification. Also, please block out dates when you get the chance. Every month I'll send out a request to block out your dates. That's a perfect time to do that.

I gotta tell you that we have a healthy roster of scripture readers, greeters, and ushers for both services. However, we need more soundboard operators, PowerPoint operators, Communion servers, and Communion Set Up/Clean Up on Sunday mornings. If you would like to help in any of these roles, let me know. I'd be happy to train you and put you on the roster.

Thanks again to all of you. It is so nice having you serve at our services. You are a blessing.

Taylor

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Traditional Service with Communion

Role	Sep 3	Sep 10	Sep 17	Sep 24
Greeter	Armagost, Babs Armagost, Alec	Jackson, Marianne Jackson, Jerry	Johnson, Mark Johnson, Fran	Cazett, Jane Cazett, Chuck
Usher	Krumwiede, Sandy Krumwiede, Bob	Lemire, Amanda Simpson, Vicki	Cazett, Jane Cazett, Chuck	Jackson, Marianne Jackson, Jerry
Scripture Reader	Schulstad-Werk, Lorie	Rud, Dixie	Hansen, Christine	Lemire, Amanda
Communion Servers	Natwick, John Natwick, Conni Ziner, Dale	Barthel, Mary Barthel, John	Campbell, John Simpson, Vicki	Olson, Marlys Olson, Cedric
Sunday Morning Communion Prep and Clean Up	Hansen, Christine	Rud, Dixie	Haugen, Julie Marie	Burandt, Barb
Mid-Week Communion Filler	Hansen, Christine	Rosati, Jodi	Rose, Paula	Bock, Nancy
Powerpoint Operator	Hansen, Christine	Boese, Hannah	Glasoe, Chase	Auel, Sarah
Soundboard Operator	Campbell, Nick	Auel, John	Rotz, Emily	Auel, John
Switcher Operator	Campbell, Nick	Campbell, Nick	Campbell, Nick	Campbell, Nick

Contemporary Service with Communion

Role	Sep 3	Sep 10	Sep 17	Sep 24
Greeter	Day, Zoey Day, Mandy	Hagberg, Michelle Sackmeister, Vicki	Johnson, Rachel Johnson, Clara	Davies, Lee Davies, Peg
Usher	Ayres, Viv Ayres, Jim	Bock, Rick Bock, Nancy	Livingston, Kerry Livingston, Joe	Day, Zoey Klemenhausen, Tracie
Scripture Reader	Howland, Justin	Rotz, Adrienne	Maher, Harry	Natwick, Conni
Communion Server	Livingston, Kerry Livingston, Joe Livingston, Grace	Wingard, Tom Wingard, LuAnn	Dalnes, Cathy Day, Zoey	Chur, Sarah Katzner, David
Communion Prep and Clean Up	Palmer, Gail		Hansen, Christine	Day, Zoey
Powerpoint Operator	Horner, Katherine	Schrock, Krista	Rotz, Adrienne	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

OCTOBER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Traditional Service with Communion

Role	Oct 1	Oct 8	Oct 15	Oct 22	Oct 29
Greeter	Simpson, Vicki Simpson, Jim	Olson, Marlys Olson, Cedric	Schulstad-Werk, Lorie Werk, Tom	Fasanello, Deb Fasanello, Dave	Emerick, Sharon Hulse, Chuck
Usher	Shellum, Ed Shellum, Deb	Schulstad-Werk, Lorie Werk, Tom	Wolff, Brandon	Thurmer, Renee Traaseth, Wayne	Rinerson, Sharon Rinerson, Roger
Scripture Reader	Boese, Hannah	Granros, Vicki	Wolff, Brandon	Ziner, Dale	Cook, Larry
Communion Servers	Hansen, Christine Natwick, Conni	Armagost, Babs Schansberg, Diana	Christianson, Milo Christianson, Kari		Shellum, Ed Shellum, Deb
Sunday Morning Communion Prep and Clean Up	Schulstad-Werk, Lorie		Barthel, Mary	Burandt, Barb	Simpson, Vicki
Mid-Week Communion Filler	Simpson, Vicki	Olson, Marlys	Simpson, Vicki	Schmidt, Shirley	Lundquist, Jana
Powerpoint Operator	Pruchnik, Elliot	Ethen, Levi	Campbell, Nick	Anderson, Emma	Auel, Sarah
Soundboard Operator	Johnson, Bennett	Auel, John	Rotz, Emily	Auel, John	Stanley, Jenny
Switcher Operator	Campbell, Nick	Campbell, Nick	Campbell, Nick	Campbell, Nick	Campbell, Nick

Contemporary Service with Communion

Role	Oct 1	Oct 8	Oct 15	Oct 22	Oct 29
Greeter	Brown, Chris Brown, Amy	Ayres, Viv Kyro, Pat	Carlson, Tyler Carlson, Sarah	Hippe, Martha Klemenhausen, Tracie	Donnelly, Paula Donnelly, Pat
Usher	Ayres, Viv Ayres, Jim	Schwarze, Mark Schwarze, Amelia	Johnson, Rachel Johnson, Clara	Hagberg, Michelle Nelson, Dan	Bossany, Lisa Nelson, Dan
Scripture Reader	Ayres, Jim	Hennig, Kara	Carlson, Tyler	Dalnes, Cathy	Donnelly, Paula
Communion Server	Horner, Katherine Horner, Audrey	Hagberg, Michelle Hennig, Kara	Bossany, Lisa Davies, Peg	Donnelly, Paula Donnelly, Pat	Livingston, Kerry Livingston, Joe
Communion Prep and Clean Up	Bock, Nancy	Hippe, Martha	Pouliot, Debby	Day, Zoey	Hippe, Martha
Powerpoint Operator	Auel, Sarah	Horner, Katherine	Livingston, Grace	Sandvig, Chloe	Auel, Sarah
Soundboard Operator	Johnson, Bennett	Schrock, Jeff	Rotz, Emily	Auel, John	Schrock, Jeff
Switcher Operator	Campbell, Nick	Campbell, Nick	Campbell, Nick	Campbell, Nick	Campbell, Nick

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NOVEMBER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Traditional Service with Communion

Role	Nov 5	Nov 12	Nov 19	Nov 26
Greeter	Hahn, Stan Hahn, Diane	Cook, Jean Lemire, Amanda	Shellum, Ed Shellum, Deb	Krumwiede, Sandy Krumwiede, Bob
Usher	Pruchnik, Elliot Weidner, Herm	Rud, Dixie Ziner, Dale	Johnson, Mark Johnson, Fran	Rinerson, Sharon Rinerson, Roger
Scripture Reader	Stanley-Wornson, Cale	Natwick, Conni	Cook, Larry	Boese, Christy
Communion Servers	Shellum, Ed Shellum, Deb	Barthel, Mary Barthel, John	Campbell, John Simpson, Vicki	Stanley, Jenny Stanley-Wornson, Cale
Sunday Morning Communion Prep and Clean Up	Simpson, Vicki	Rud, Dixie	Haugen, Julie Marie	Rose, Paula
Mid-Week Communion Filler	Haugen, Julie Marie	Stanley, Jenny	Lundquist, Jana	Bock, Nancy
Powerpoint Operator	Ziner, Dale	Boese, Hannah	Glasoe, Chase	Auel, Sarah
Soundboard Operator	Johnson, Bennett	Auel, John	Rotz, Emily	Campbell, Nick
Switcher Operator	Campbell, Nick	Campbell, Nick	Campbell, Nick	Campbell, Nick

Contemporary Service with Communion

Role	Nov 5	Nov 12	Nov 19	Nov 26
Greeter	Livingston, Kerry Palmer, Gail	Bossany, Lisa Hansen, Christine	Auel, Sarah Auel, John	Schrock, Krista Wagner, Myles
Usher	Bossany, Lisa Schaefer, Anthony	Donnelly, Paula Donnelly, Pat	Schrock, Krista Schrock, Jeff	Hippe, Martha Howland, Shari
Scripture Reader	Hansen, Christine	Rotz, Emily	Livingston, Kerry	Ayres, Jim
Communion Server	Zehringer, Vance Zehringer, Betty	Pouliot, Greg Pouliot, Debby	Day, Zoey Hippe, Martha	Schrock, Krista Schrock, Jeff
Communion Prep and Clean Up	Bock, Nancy	Hippe, Martha	Hansen, Christine	Day, Zoey
Powerpoint Operator	Johnson, Asher	Schrock, Krista	Rotz, Adrienne	Anderson, Emma
Soundboard Operator	Johnson, Bennett	Auel, John	Rotz, Emily	Howland, Justin
Switcher Operator	Campbell, Nick	Campbell, Nick	Campbell, Nick	Campbell, Nick

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Children, Youth & Family Ministries

CYF Nights

October 11, November 8, and December 13

Calling **all children, youth and family**...Come join us at our monthly CYF Nights to connect with God and each other over important topics that affect us all. These all-age events include a meal together (free will offering); large group games, singing with Taylor and a presentation; and then concludes with age-defined small groups for discussion and fellowship. The camaraderie and connections have been both fun and meaningful! YOU are welcome here!

Kids Connect

All students, preschool through 6th grade, are invited to engage in fun and age-appropriate activities most Sundays during the middle of the worship service. Students will leave the sanctuary and gather in the Fellowship Hall during the reading and sermon time to have their own lesson, Bible reading and prayer. It's a great time to learn about God and make new friends! Watch for the invitation to come during both worship services on Sundays.



Club 4-5-6

Students in grades 4, 5 and 6 are invited to occasional gatherings for games and activities! Some events we'll play games and other times we'll do a service project, but all of our gatherings will include lots of yummy food! The next Club event is Friday, October 6th from 6:30-9pm! Watch the emails and announcements for a link to RSVP!



**Our October 11th CYF Night
is an event that you won't want to miss!**

Join us as we welcome **JUSTmove** as they entertain us with hip hop, rap and the spoken word. Dave Scherer and Joe Davis have extensive experience in performing and leading congregations through anti-racism work. You are guaranteed to have a good time regardless of what is next on your playlist!

Wed, Oct 11 @ 6pm

CYF NIGHT

Fellowship - Learning - Fun For All Ages

JUSTmove

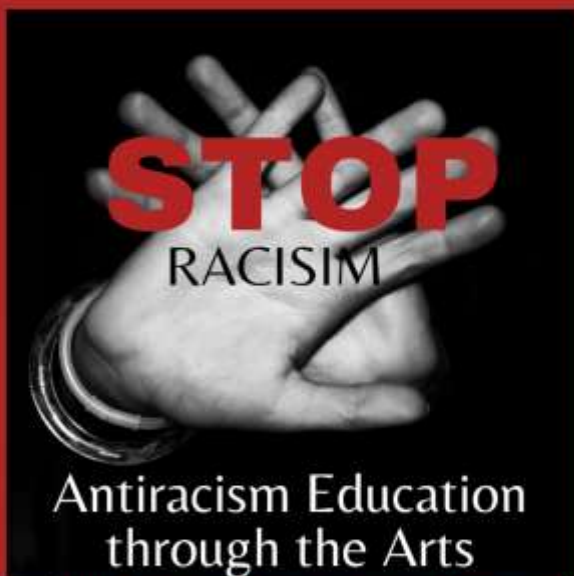
If we can't talk about racism in our churches, where can we talk about it?



David Scherer



Joe Davis



Joe and Dave use music, poetry and storytelling to inspire people into deeper conversations about race and culture

Supper | Large Group Time | Small Groups

Elk River Lutheran Church - 729 Main St - Elk River

Confirmation

In Baptism, God says, “I love you no matter what!” In Confirmation, we learn how to love God back! Pastor Nathan will lead our weekly **Wednesday gatherings for students in 7th and 8th grades** and will spend time discussing difficult questions about faith, God, the Church and the world in which we live...plus, there is always room for fun!

Parents, please register your students on our website so we have the appropriate contact information. There will be a meeting for both parents and the 7-9th graders on Wednesday, September 13th from 6:30-7:30pm. We will discuss the curriculum and plans for a winter retreat!

Parent Meeting
on Wednesday
September 13th
at 6:30pm

Students in Grades 7-9
should come as well

9th grade students! This is a momentous time for you as you make the final preparations to confirm your faith at the Confirmation Service on Sunday, October 29th, 10:30am. Please register on our website so that we know you are ready to affirm your baptismal promises and publicly declare your commitment to Jesus. For September 20-October 25th, please plan to come to weekly high school events (6:30-7:30), and then stay after to talk about writing a faith statement and other details regarding the Confirmation Service. We will wrap up by 8pm.



High School

Our Youth Room is getting new furniture! Students in grades 9-12 are invited to come get comfortable as we dive into what it means to be a follower of Jesus in our real worlds. We will spend Wednesdays studying the Bible, doing service projects, and just having fun together! We meet most Wednesdays during the school year from 6:30-7:30. Our first night together will be September 20th. Watch the announcements for specific details!



A promotional graphic for a 'Blessing of the Backpacks' event. The background is a chalkboard with white text. On the right side, there is a red backpack filled with school supplies, including pens, pencils, and a calculator. In front of the backpack is a mesh pencil holder filled with orange pencils and a red apple. The text on the left reads: 'Blessing of the BACKPACKS and the SCHOOL YEAR! Sunday, Sept 17th 8:30 and 10:30'. At the bottom, a semi-transparent grey box contains the text: 'Students, Teachers and School Staff Bring your backpack and school bags'.



Christmas Program

A long standing tradition at ERLC is the children's Christmas Program! Save the date for Sunday, December 10th to watch the kids take the stage during both services! Details about how to participate will come out in early November.



DEI and Social Justice Task Force

ERLC Church Council is proud and excited to announce the creation of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) and Social Justice task force. The task force will comprise of 5-7 people. Regarding the Task Force, below are the overall roles and immediate tasks:



1. Rewrite our RIC Affirmation Statement and to come alongside Council to determine an annual monetary commitment to Reconciling Works. Those are both new requirements to maintain our RIC status.
2. Think bigger..... help to set a course for DEI and SJ within our congregation. Search for ideas and ways to celebrate, educate and engage as a congregation around these important topics. Help to chart a course for the future of DEI and SJ at ERL for years to come.

The time commitment for the task force is September 2023 through January 2025. With meetings approximately once every 2-3 months, for approximately 60 to 90 minutes. The TF will report and work directly with the council. Jeff Schrock has volunteered to be the council liaison for the task force.

Please reach out to Pastor Anne if you have an interest in joining this task force or if you have any questions.

Jeff Schrock



Quilting 10th Anniversary

September 24, 2013 the quilting group met for the first time and tied their first quilt. Pastor Cynthia Gankow-Wold mentioned to Pastor Phyllis Scroggins that she should start a quilting group for Lutheran World Relief. Phyllis volunteered and put out a sign up sheet for interested quilters.

September 24, 2023 we celebrate 10 years of quilting and 10 years of our wonderful congregation supporting us with: fabric, sheets, thread, irons, cutting mats and table, scissors, rotary cutters, some sewing machines and cabinets, a batting roller, an extended topper for ironing board, and cash donations for supplies, batting and shipping. At this time we have made:

- Lutheran World Relief: over 700 quilts; plus 362 School Bags
- CAER: 50 bags
- Lutheran Social Services-MN Refugee Services: 10 Quilts (started in 2023)
- Graduating Seniors: 25 quilts

The LWR quilts and school kits have been shipped to all parts of the world. In 2023, we expanded our reach locally by giving 2 quilts a month to Lutheran Social Service Refugee Program.

A factory blanket will keep you warm, but an LWR quilt will also warm a person's heart and nurture their spirit.

We appreciate and thank our congregation.

Sue Hecker & Linda Felska



Generosity Team

The **Generosity Team** is a new team with old roots. The Generosity Team replaces the Stewardship Committee. The decision to change the name was based on a recognition that the term “stewardship,” which has a long, historic meaning in our church, may not be as easily understood by new members or by others unfamiliar with the term. By contrast, the word “generosity” likely has a more universal meaning for most people, and may therefore be more easily understood.

The name change also comes with a somewhat different change of focus. In the past, we have largely focused on a period of time, usually in the fall, when we conduct an annual stewardship campaign. We will continue to give special attention to this period. However, we will also begin to give more attention to the rest of the year by continually recognizing the many ways members of this congregation contribute to the ministry of Elk River Lutheran Church with their gifts of time, talent and money, and by continually lifting up the idea that generosity is at the heart of what it means to be a Christian.



Thanks for Your Generosity!

Members of the Generosity Team are Chuck Anderson, Linda Campbell, Kari Christianson, Milo Christianson, Julie Marie Haugen, Jennifer Stanley and Pastor Nathan.

Grief Group

We are grateful to welcome a new ministry here at ERLC: GROWING THROUGH LOSS. This ministry will meet weekly for five weeks looking at loss. Grief knows no bounds and has no time limits. Whether you've lost a friend or family member to death, divorce, or abandonment, or if you've lost a job or physical ability, this ministry is for you.



Each evening begins at 6:30pm with a guest speaker followed by facilitated small groups. You are welcome to come and listen to the speaker; small group participation is optional. The evening ends at 8:30pm. Each session is complete in itself. You are welcome to attend one or all sessions. No pre-registration and no fee. Open to the public; feel free to invite someone who may benefit from this experience! For further information please call or email Pastor Anne Schaefer. Keep watch in the announcements for Fall dates to be set.

Neighbor to Neighbor

Our Neighbor-to-Neighbor program helps people to feel connected to one another despite being limited due to mobility or transportation needs. We help to



partner people with a passion for conversation or helping others with those who desire more interaction with others or help with small household projects. All of our existing neighbor-partnerships have been quite beneficial for both parties.

If you or your family members are interested in welcoming someone into your home, please let Pastor Anne know! If you have a passion for bringing communion or conversation to others, or if you are good at small household tasks, let Pastor Anne know you'd like to be put on a neighbor team.

Life Groups

Interested in meeting new people or creating new friendships at ERLC? You're in luck! We are launching a new round of **Life Groups in October**. These small groups will be given a set of



discussion questions each week. Most of the time, the questions pertain to the previous week's sermon which gives you a chance to have more conversation about a faith-based topic. These groups are often held in people's homes, but they can be held at the church building as well. The groups meet weekly based on the availability of all the group members. Keep an eye on the announcements for information on how to sign up for a LIFE Group!

Meals on Wheels

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).



ARE YOU OUR NEXT NEW MEMBER?

Join Our Church!

To do so, we ask that you attend a New Member Orientation class and complete our new member forms found at the top of elkriverlutheran.org/forms.

At the New Member Class, you'll learn more about the vision, history and ministries of Elk River Lutheran Church, and ways that you can find your place here.

To sign up, let us know on the connection form with your bulletin or send an email to linda@elkriverlutheran.org.

Sunday, Nov 12, 9:30am

New Member Orientation

Sunday, Nov 19

New Member Sunday with Fellowship

Forms can be sent to linda@elkriverlutheran.org



CIVIL RIGHTS PILGRIMAGE ATLANTA MONTGOMERY SELMA BIRMINGHAM

YOU can walk in the steps of history!!

Informational Meeting:

October 8 at 9:30am

Pastor Joanne Sorenson of *In Our Hands* will discuss dates, costs, payment schedule, itinerary, photos.



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>

Financial Report – Summer 2023

Your Council and I thank you, the people of Elk River Lutheran Church, for your generosity. Your financial support is vital to the mission of ERLC and our Synod.

The Council has been monitoring our church offering income and our expenses. The chart below shows a mixed bag, with actual income being somewhat less than budgeted, and expenses outpacing our budget. We expect the gap to close somewhat over the next couple of months, however, some modest cost cutting may be required.




	July Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income (General Offering)	\$41,231.76	\$278,123.70	\$301,262.75
Expenses	\$40,441.31	\$340,823.29	\$301,263.40
Profit / Loss	\$ 790.45	(\$62,698.59)	(\$ 0.65)

We were fortunate to receive some federal financial reimbursement due to our retaining employees through the pandemic. The Council is considering options for this money, including Benevolence payment to the Synod, an Audit of our accounting system, a deferred maintenance fund, and additional Reserve Funding.

As you can see in this publication, ERLC is a vibrant faith community with so much happening at all levels. We hope this community will support our ministry together, not only with our financial giving, but also with our treasure of time and talents.



Mark Johnson
Treasurer

September		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
27	28	29
3	4 Labor Day (Office Closed) 	5 9am Quilting 10am Text Study 6pm Riverside Ringers
10 Joyful – Pastor Nathan’s Back 11:45am Worship/Music Team Meeting	11 10am Hospitality Meeting 10:30am Hymn Sing (GA by the Lake)	12 9am Quilting 10am Text Study 6pm Riverside Ringers
17 Grace– CYF Sunday 	18 6pm Worship Band 6:30pm Women’s Monthly Bible Study	19 9am Quilting 10am Text Study 6pm Riverside Ringers 6:30pm Council
24 Accepting Quilting 10th Anniversary 	25 6pm Worship Band	26 9am Quilting 10am Text Study 6pm Riverside Ringers

Sunday Schedule:

8:30 – Traditional

2023			
Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns-ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera)	2 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom)
6	7 10am Genealogy Group 6pm Choir	8 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns-ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera)	9 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom)
13 6:30pm Parent Meeting for Confirmation and High School	14 6pm Choir	15 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns-ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera)	16 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom)
20 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm High School Youth	21 10am Worship @ Guardian Angels, Riverview Landing 6pm Choir	22 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns-ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera)	23 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom)
27 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm High School Youth	28 6pm Choir	29 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns-ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera)	30 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom)


9:30 – Fellowship Hour

10:30 – Contemporary

October		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
1 Welcoming – Music Sunday 	2 10am Hospitality Meeting 2pm Hymn Sing (GA Riverview Landing)	3 9am Quilting 10am Text Study 6pm Riverside Ringers
8 Serving 9:30am Civil Rights Info Meeting 11:45am Worship/Music Team Meeting	9	10 9am Quilting 10am Text Study 6pm Riverside Ringers
15 Life Groups Start 	16 6pm Worship Band 6:30pm Women's Monthly Bible Study	17 9am Quilting 10am Text Study 6pm Riverside Ringers 6:30pm Council
22	23 6pm Worship Band	24 9am Quilting 10am Text Study 6pm Riverside Ringers
29 9th Grade Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation (10:30am) 	30	31 9am Quilting 10am Text Study 6pm Riverside Ringers

Sunday Schedule:

8:30 – Traditional

2023			
Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm High School Youth	5 10am Genealogy Group	6 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns- ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera) 6pm Club 4-5-6	7 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom)
11 6pm CYF Night	12 6pm Choir	13 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns- ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera)	14 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom)
18 NO Conf or HS Youth 6pm Autumn HymnFest 	19 10am Worship at GA Riverview Landing 6pm Choir	20 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns- ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera)	21 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom)
25 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm High School Youth	26 6pm Choir	27 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns- ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera) 2-6pm Downtown Trick or Treat 6pm-7pm Trunk or Treat	28 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom)
1	2	3	4


9:30 – Fellowship Hour

10:30 – Contemporary

November		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
29	30	31
5 <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i> 	6 10am Hospitality	7 9am Quilting 10am Text Study 6pm Riverside Ringers
12 Thank You Sunday 9:30am New Member Orientation 11:45am Worship/Music Team Meeting	13	14 9am Quilting 10am Text Study 6pm Riverside Ringers
19 <i>New Member Sunday</i> <i>Pie Sunday</i> <i>Generosity Sunday</i>	20 6:30pm Women's Monthly Bible Study	21 9am Quilting 10am Text Study 6pm Riverside Ringers 6:30pm Council
26 First Sunday of Advent	27 6pm Worship Band	28 9am Quilting 10am Text Study 6pm Riverside Ringers

Sunday Schedule:

8:30 – Traditional

			2023
Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm High School Youth	2 10am Genealogy Group 6pm Choir	3 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns-ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera)	4 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom)
8 6pm CYF Night	9 6pm Choir	10 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns-ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera)	11 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom)
15 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm High School Youth	16 10am Worship at GA Riverview Landing 6pm Choir	17 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns-ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera)	18 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom) 10am Decorate Sanctuary for Harvest Sunday
22 NO Confirmation or High School Youth	23 Thanksgiving Church Office Closed 	24 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns-ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera)	25 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom) 10am Decorate Sanctuary for Advent
29 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm High School Youth	30 6pm Choir	1	2

9:30 – Fellowship Hour

10:30 – Contemporary

Coming in December



Christmas Eve Worship Schedule

Wednesday, December 20
Early Candlelight Service - 6:30pm

Sunday, December 24
Family Service - 10:30am

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

A white silhouette of a nativity scene is set against a dark blue background. It shows Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus in a manger, with a bright yellow star above them. The scene is framed by a simple white outline of a stable.

Elk River
LUTHERAN

STAFF

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

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CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

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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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