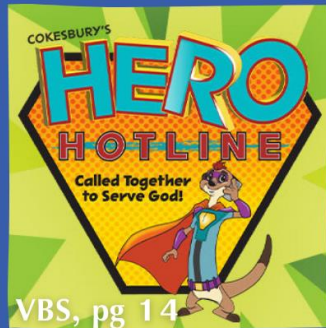
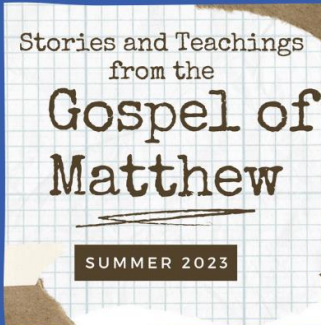


ERLC CURRENT

S U M M E R 2 0 2 3



Guest Speaker, pg 11



Guest Preacher, pg 11

M A G A Z I N E O F



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 Nathan's Message

Dear Members and Friends of Elk River Lutheran,

As this newsletter goes out I am preparing for my upcoming sabbatical. I will be on sabbatical leave from June 5 through September 5. A sabbatical is meant to be a time of rest and renewal, where the pastor can focus on their personal growth and relationships.

Sabbatical policies, like Elk River Lutheran's, acknowledge the toll the busy, on-call nature of church work takes on a pastor and their family, and provides this intentional time of sabbatical as a counterbalance.



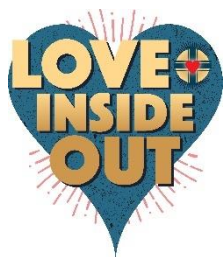
I am very excited and grateful for this opportunity. The theme for my sabbatical is a little strange (but you've known me long enough now to know that it's probably fitting). It is Stand-Up and Preach. I will spend intentional time with my family, including an 8000-mile road trip visiting family and friends, practice stand-up comedy, and explore the strategies, benefits, limitations and pitfalls of comedy in preaching.



For the study of comedy, I plan to read a number of books that explore comedy and specifically comedy in preaching (yes, such books do exist!). I'll also be interviewing a number of funny pastors about their experience with using humor in preaching. You can find more specific details on our website under "Updates."

<https://www.elkriverlutheran.org/pastor-nathan-sabbatical.html>

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.



I am so grateful for these years of life and ministry together at Elk River Lutheran. We've done a lot in this time, including defining our place as a prominent downtown neighbor, tagging ourselves as the church "Powered by LOVE," combining a meal and worship into Dinner Church, taking on a couple of successful capital appeals, moving worship online and navigating a global pandemic, and completing a major building project. I'm not taking credit for any of these things, because we did them together, which is what has made this time such a joy.



Besides these major happenings there are thousands of smaller, more personal, experiences. I thank you for welcoming me as pastor into your lives during some of your greatest moments of joy and some of your greatest heartaches. Serving here has been, and continues to be, a privilege, and now I thank you for this time to step away.

My last Sunday before sabbatical will be June 4th, which will also be our formal Dedication and Celebration of our Sanctuary building project. Please join us for this celebration.



Pastor Anne and the rest of the staff will be stepping up to fill in for my absence this summer and we will also have the opportunity to welcome several interesting and gifted guest preachers. Summer is typically a less demanding season at the church, and I hope that will be the case this year.

I look forward to coming back in the fall revitalized and ready for many more years together as we continue to live out this mission together:

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

With Gratitude,
Pastor Nathan Mugaas



Pastor Anne's Message

Hello Dear Church! Can you believe it's finally summer? I'm so grateful that this long winter has ended, and we have the color green back in our landscapes.



All the new growth brings new life and hope for the future. I'm thankful for the new energy that pulses through our attitudes and relationships as well. In times like these, it's easy to remember that God is constantly at work in our lives; that God is working on each of us to help us be more kind, loving and helpful.

"There has never been the slightest doubt in my mind that the God who started this great work in you would keep at it and bring it to a flourishing finish on the very day Christ Jesus appears" (Phillippians 1:6, Msg translation).

But as summer continues on, there's no doubt that we'll see trials once again. Drought, fires and storms seem to rage in the summer. It's times like these that are difficult to imagine that God is creating anything new. But we can be sure that though God does not cause hardship for people, God is certainly present and working towards creating something good from whatever we are going through.

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love God" (Romans 8:28, NIV)



I am looking forward to walking with you all through whatever you are going through. While Pastor Nathan is on his sabbatical, I have no doubt that this community of faith will continue to care for one another in love and commitment. It's a joy to walk with you this summer and beyond.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Anne Schaefer



President's Report

As we head into the summer at Elk River Lutheran Church (ERLC), we will be missing a key piece of our ministry with Pastor Nathan on sabbatical from June 5 to September 5. Pastor Nathan will be back, he is required to be. We are going to need to rally around Pastor Anne who will be taking on the summer as solo pastor at ERLC. There will be some guest pastors and speakers throughout the summer that will help out as well.

The best way to rally around Pastor Anne:

- Fill the church and streaming services (Facebook or YouTube) for both 8:30 and 10:30 worship services each Sunday,
- Volunteer your time at the worship services,
- Get involved in and volunteer at summertime activities at ERLC.

Summer activities include:

- Summer Festival Camp
- Wednesday evenings with CYF at Wild Wednesdays
- The Elk River Farmers Market July 27 and August 7
- Vacation Bible School August 6 – 9.

Please take the time to respond favorably to emails and texts from ERLC requesting volunteers at worship services and activities this summer. If you are not on email or text lists for volunteering your time, please fill out connection cards at worship service indicating your willingness to serve, or alternately you can inform Linda in the office (linda@elkriverlutheran.org) your willingness to serve.

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



Sanctuary Dedication and Celebration

Join us for worship at 8:30AM & 10:30AM on Sunday, June 4 as we hold a formal service of Dedication for the new Sanctuary and a celebration of the completion of this building project.

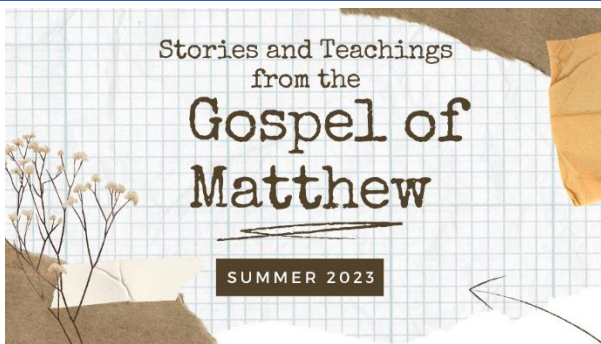
We'll recognize the hard work and dedication of the ERLC Building Committee, thank Terra Construction, and hear a word of celebration from the Minneapolis Area Synod. This will take place at each service with a special celebration reception between services.

This is also Pastor Nathan's last Sunday prior to sabbatical, so he will preach, and there will be a special service of sending for him and his family.



Summer Preaching Schedule

Normally, Pastor Nathan helps plan great sermon series that include passages from the Bible to use during worship on Sundays. This summer, however, we'll be doing



something different and following the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) that is used across multiple denominations and thousands of Christian congregations all over the world. You may find that friends and relatives may be studying the same text in their congregations. Ask them about it - just one more way to share the love of Christ in your lives.

If you're curious about the upcoming texts, they can be found online here: <https://www.dailylectio.net/calendar>. We will only be reading the Gospel passages.

JUNE

- 4 - Pastor Nathan Mugaas
- 11 - Aubrey Thonvold, Executive Director of Reconciling Works
- 18 - Pastor Anne Schaefer
- 25 - Pastor Joanne Sorenson, Founder of "IN OUR HANDS"

JULY

- 2 - Pastor Anne Schaefer
- 9 - Pastor Linda Campbell, retired pastor and member of ERLC
- 16 - Katie Hendrikson, seminary friend of Pastor Anne
- 23 - Pastor Anne Schaefer
- 30 - Pastor Joanne Sorenson, Founder of "IN OUR HANDS"

AUGUST

- 6 - Pastor Anne Schaefer
- 13 - Nick Tangen, Director of Faith and Neighboring Practices at Minneapolis Area Synod
- 20 - Bishop Mark Hanson, former Presiding Bishop of the ELCA
- 27 - Pastor Cedric Olson, retired pastor and member of ERLC

SEPTEMBER

- 3 - Pastor Anne Schaefer

Music and Worship Ministry

Another program year has passed and now we're on to summer. I have a brief summary of my plans for the next three months, but before I get to that I want to thank the ERLC musicians and worship service volunteers for a great 2022-2023. The Apostle Paul was very correct in comparing the church to a body in 1 Corinthians 12. Every musician and worship service volunteer generously gave their time, talent, and skill. Our "body" couldn't thrive without them. Because of them we are ERLC, and without them, we couldn't be who we are today: *an accepting faith community that trusts in God's grace and serves Them and our neighbors with joy, love, and open arms.* Each musician and volunteer embodies those character traits and I'm deeply grateful to continue to work alongside them in our mission.



Here's the summary of my plans for the summer. Since the program year is done, I'll have a different focus for the music ministry. I'll be using the time to plan the 2023-2024 program while maintaining the music for our weekly services, leading the service music, and coordinating worship service volunteers. Pastor Anne and I will continue to lead monthly worship services at Riverview Landing. And there'll be music for VBS. Other than that, it'll be a light summer for the music ministry. I wish you all a great time in the sun.

Taylor Quinn



Children, Youth & Family Ministries

Wild Wednesdays for Youth and Children*

Join Pastor Anne for some hangout activities this summer! We'll play some games, eat some snacks and build relationships. All of these events will be at ERLC. Most of the events will not have any cost associated with them, and friends are always welcome!

June 14th:	Students entering grades 9-12
June 21st:	Students entering grades 7-8
June 28th:	Students entering grades 4-6
July 26th:	Students entering grades 4-6
August 16th:	Students entering grades 9-12
August 23rd:	Students entering grades 7-8
August 30th:	Students entering grades 4-6



*Specific times will be announced as events are scheduled

Farmer's Market Fun for Kids!

Join ERLC at the Farmer's Market on July 27th or August 17th! We'll have games and the bounce house set up for the community from 3pm - 7pm. We'd love for people to help make this happen, so please let Pastor Anne know if you're available!

Sharing the love of Jesus, one family at a time!



VBS

Registration for VBS is open! We'd love to welcome ANY person 3 years old through 5th Grade to join us for Vacation Bible School at ERLC. Please note that all people need to be potty trained to participate.

Our theme for the week is Hero Hotline: Called Together to Serve God. We will have fun singing songs, playing games and learning about how God has called us to love people in the world.



We NEED help to make this a great week!

Help could come now (to plan activities or build sets) or later (to be hands-on during the VBS week). Please let Pastor Anne know if you can make some time to help. This is a treasured tradition of ERLC, and your help will ensure that it is done well!

VBS SCHEDULE

Sunday, August 6th, 10:30am - 1:00pm (includes worship and lunch*)

Monday, August 7th, 5:30pm - 8pm (includes dinner*)

Tuesday, August 8th, 5:30pm - 8pm (includes dinner*)

Wednesday, August 9th, 5:30pm - 8pm (includes dinner*)

*We will collect a free will offering for the meals. Families are welcome to stay for the meal and then leave or volunteer during the VBS activities.

Cost is only \$15 per person, and you can register on our website (www.elkriverlutheran.org/vbs) or by scanning here.



Scholarships are available - just reach out to Pastor Anne BEFORE you register.

All friends and neighbors are welcome! Let Pastor Anne know if you have any questions!

Summer Camp

Bible Camp is awesome! Surrounded by fun, music, games and silliness, students forge deep connections with each other and God through the camp experience.

Summer Festival Camp: *A camp that operates at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN. Students stay in dorms and eat in the*



college cafeteria, play on the college campus and even swim in the college pool!

Cost: \$290

Dates: *There are two options depending on your grade level.*

- Students entering grades 8 - 12: July 9-12
- Students entering grades 6 - 8: July 16-19.

Students entering 8th grade are welcome to come to either camp week.

Register: Find the link on our CYF Webpage
(QR Code to CYF Webpage)



Summer Festival Camp is able to keep costs down since they don't have to care for a camp property all year, and they also don't keep a large staff. Because of this, we need to bring AT LEAST one other adult to each week. Please consider helping me at camp! You would get your own dorm room! Please contact Pastor Anne for more info.

Luther Crest: *A camp nestled in Alexandria with cabins, land and water activities. Students connect with each other and God by unplugging and engaging in the great outdoors!*



There are multiple options for dates, but space is filling up very quickly.

Dates:

- Students entering grades 2-4: \$529
 - July 18-21 or July 25-28
- Students entering grades 3-5: \$834
 - June 25-30, July 16-21, July 23-28, July 30-Aug 4

Register: <https://luthercrest.org/>

Looking Ahead to the Fall

Confirmation:

- Students in grades 7, 8, or 9 for the 2023-2024 school year should register for our Confirmation Program.
- Confirmation will continue to meet from 6:30-7:30 on Wednesday evenings.
- Students in 9th grade will confirm their faith at a special Confirmation Service on Sunday, October 29th at 10:30am.
- Students in Grades 7-9 can register for Confirmation on our website.

CYF Fall Dates:

- **September 13th:** Confirmation Parent Meeting
- **September 20th:** First night of Confirmation and High School Youth Group
- **September 24th:** First Kids Connect of the Program Year!
- **October 29th:** Confirmation Service



Partnering people together to build a community that cares for each other!

We have many people within our ERLC Community that could use a listening ear, a caring heart, or someone to reach the lightbulb, bring a meal, or sweep a sidewalk. We will partner people together to share God's grace with each other.



Talk Team

People gifted at listening and showing empathy.



Task Team

People who want to help out with small household duties

We are celebrating the 23 people who trained and are willing to be part of our new **Neighbor to Neighbor** ministry! These people are equipped and ready to bring communion, a listening ear or a helping hand to anyone who needs it! Thanks be to God for their willingness to be Jesus out in the world.

Neighbor to Neighbor continued...



If you (or someone you know) are unable to get to church on Sundays due to health or physical limitations, please let Pastor Anne know. We would be glad to send a neighbor out to your home to bring you communion and the love of your ERLC community. You matter to us! No one would ever come by unannounced; we will always call first to set up a good time to visit.

**“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”
(Matthew 18:20).**

Financial Report

We can be proud of the commitment we, this church called Elk River Lutheran Church, have made to this community. We provide so many new and on-going opportunities to the benefit of our neighbors and membership.

We meet our commitments to the Synod, the community and to our members.

	April Actual	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income (General Offering)	\$43,722.09	\$159,221.41	\$172,150.40
Expenses	\$38,328.81	\$195,917.75	\$172,151.44
Profit / Loss	\$ 5,393.28	(\$36,696.34)	(\$1.04)

Currently we are behind in our financial support. Compounding this, we have seen some unusual expenses, making for a concerning bottom line. We ask you to catch up on your pledge, giving ERLC the financial support, which is so vital to our collective mission.

Mark Johnson
Treasurer



June		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
28	29	30
4 Sanctuary Dedication & Pr Nathan's Blessing for Sabbatical	5 10am Hospitality	6 9am Quilting 10am Text Study
11 Aubrey Thonvold, ReconcilingWorks guest speaker	12	13 9am Quilting 10am Text Study
18 	19  6:30pm Women's Monthly Bible Study	20 9am Quilting 10am Text Study 6:30pm Council
25 Pastor Joanne Sorenson, guest preacher	26	27 9am Quilting 10am Text Study


Sunday Schedule:

8:30 – Traditional

2023			
Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 10am Genealogy Group	2 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns-ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera)	3 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom)
7	8 Last Day of School ISD728	9 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns-ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera)	10 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom)
14 3pm Worship/Music Team Mtg Wild Wednesday Grate 9-12	15 10am Worship @ Guardian Angels, Riverview Landing 3-7pm Farmers Market	16 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns-ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera)	17 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom)
21 Wild Wednesday Grade 7-8	22 3-7pm Farmers Market	23 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns-ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera)	24 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom)
28 Wild Wednesday Grade 4-6	29 3-7pm Farmers Market	30 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns-ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera)	1

9:30 – Fellowship Hour

10:30 – Contemporary

July		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
25	26	27
2	3	4 Church Office Closed 
9 Pastor Linda Campbell, guest preacher	10 10am Hospitality Mtg	11 9am Quilting 10am Text Study
Summer Festival Camp: 9-12 Grades		
16 Katie Hendrikson, guest speaker	17 6:30pm Women's Monthly Bible Study	18 9am Quilting 10am Text Study 6:30pm Council
Summer Festival Camp: 6-8 Grades		
23 30 Pastor Joanne Sorenson, guest preacher	24 31	25 9am Quilting 10am Text Study 1

Sunday Schedule:

8:30 – Traditional

2023			
Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom)
5	6 10am Genealogy Group 3-7pm Farmers Market	7 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns-ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera)	8 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom)
12 3pm Worship / Music Team	13 3-7pm Farmers Market	14 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns-ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera)	15 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom)
Camp: 9-12			
19	20 10am Worship at GA Riverview Landing 3-7pm Farmers Market	21 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns-ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera)	22 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom)
Camp: 6-8			
26 Wild Wednesday Grade 4-6	27 3-7pm Farmers Market – ERLC Bounce House	28 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns-ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera)	29 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom)
2	3	4	5

9:30 – Fellowship Hour

10:30 – Contemporary

August		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
30	31	1 9am Quilting 10am Text Study
6	7 10am Hospitality	8 9am Quilting 10am Text Study
Vacation Bible School		
13 Nick Tangen, Mpls Area Synod, guest speaker	14	15 9am Quilting 10am Text Study 6:30pm Council
20 Bishop Mark Hanson guest preacher	21 <i>ERLC Current Submissions Due</i> 6:30pm Women's Monthly Bible Study	22 9am Quilting 10am Text Study
27 Pastor Cedric Olson, guest preacher	28	29 9am Quilting 10am Text Study

Sunday Schedule:

8:30 – Traditional

2023			
Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3 3-7pm Farmers Market	4 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns-ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera)	5 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom)
9 3pm Worship / Music Team	10 3-7pm Farmers Market	11 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns-ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera)	12 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom)
VBS			
16 Wild Wednesday Grade 9-12	17 3-7pm Farmers Market – ERLC Bounce House	18 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns-ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera)	19 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom)
23 Wild Wednesday Grade 7-8	24 3-7pm Farmers Market	25 9am Men's Breakfast (Coborns-ER) /Women's Coffee (Panera)	26 8am Men's Bible Study (Zoom)
30 Wild Wednesday Grade 4-6	31 3-7pm Farmers Market	1	2

9:30 – Fellowship Hour

10:30 – Contemporary

Coming this Fall



Elk River LUTHERAN ELCA
Fall Kick Off

Sunday Sept 10
Joyful - Pr Nathan Returns

Sunday Sept 17
Grace - CYF Rollout

Sunday Sept 24
Accepting

Sunday Oct 1
Welcoming - Music Sunday

Sunday Oct 8
Serving

Join us as we begin our 2023 fall focusing on our mission:
Trusting in God's grace, an accepting, joyful community, serving God and neighbor.



Save the Date

**CONFIRMATION
SUNDAY**

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

OCTOBER 29, 2023 • 10:30 AM
ELK RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH

STAFF

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

Pastor Nathan Mugaas

On Sabbatical

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Clara Anderson, Emma Anderson,

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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