



Elk River LUTHERAN

Elk River Lutheran Church – ELCA

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2015

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Pastor's Message

The Meaning is in the Waiting.

Advent literally means arrival. Advent has been observed for centuries; most people today acknowledge it only with a blank look. For the vast majority of us, December flies by in a flurry of activities, and what is called "the holiday season" turns out to be the most stressful time of the year.

It is also a time of contrasting emotions, we are eager, yet frazzled, sentimental, yet indifferent, one minute we are excited with the idea of getting together with family and friends; the next we feel utterly lonely. How many of us share the longing of the ancient prophets, who awaited the Messiah with such aching intensity that they forsake his arrival thousands of years before he is born? Mother Teresa commented that the first person to welcome the Christ Child was John the Baptist, who leapt for joy on recognizing him, though both of them were still in their mother's wombs. We are on the other hand are distracted and don't hear the small voice within, yet alone listening to it.

The Meaning is in the Waiting is this year's Advent theme. We think of waiting as a passive activity but it is an active one. If we want to appreciate Advent fully, we need to relearn how to wait. To rediscover the art of savoring the future of staying in the present. Come discover how to wait.

Thank you for your ongoing support to the Mission and Ministries of ERLC. I am honored to be serving as your Interim Pastor at this time in your history.

Happy 6th Anniversary.

Pastor Michelene

President's Message

Advent is a time of joyful preparation for the wonderful time when the Son of God came to earth to live as a person among regular people. I think of the Magi, who only knew that they needed to follow the star and deliver their gifts to the Son of God. They trusted the spirit to guide them thru whatever unknowns that they encountered, in order to bring their gifts to the baby Jesus. As I reflect on the journey here at Elk River Lutheran Church, I can see the parallels to the Magi's journey. We see the bright star, which to me, is the fact that we are the only ELCA church in Elk River. But I now have a better appreciation of the Magi's journey. Some scholars say that the Wise Men were 60, 40, & 20 years of age. That is symbolic of every generation working together. What appears to be a simple trek has hills and valleys and sometimes potholes (we are in Minnesota after all). I can only imagine that there were discussions on that journey - about how come, since we are following the Lord's instruction, there have to be this many challenges? But the Magi stayed true to their mission and delivered their gifts to Baby Jesus. As we go thru Advent, in our faith walk at Elk River Lutheran Church, I believe we need to reflect on how we are carrying out the mission God has given us. And though we think it should be simple, I believe God is challenging us to push ourselves in our faith walk rather than stay in the comfort zone. Our challenge is being an ELCA church in changing times (the 21st century) and we must join our hands and hearts and find our niche in Elk River that serves the current needs of our area. The Magi brought 3 gifts - gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The symbols are thought to be money, perfume and oil. I would challenge you to contemplate what your gift will be?

- Money, which is simply that,
- Perfume which is outreach that gives smiles, hope and confidence,
- Oil, which is a substance that does work and keeps engines running smoothly.

As you move forward thru advent, what will your gift to Baby Jesus thru Elk River Lutheran Church be?

God's grace and spirit be with you on your journey.

Kim Hauger
ERLC Council President



Christmas Eve Services

3:00 p.m.
Family Friendly
Candlelight
service with
Communion

5:30 p.m.
Family Friendly
Candlelight
service with
Communion

10:00 p.m.
Traditional
Candlelight
service with
Communion

Thank You!!

A special **THANK YOU** to Julie Nathe and her staff at 101 Market for making poinsettias available and for decorating the planters outside – they are beautiful!

TO ALL OUR WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS – HUGE THANKS!

For all our volunteer participants from communion set up, clean up, servers and stewards, to lectors, ushers, greeters, acolytes, music participants and hospitality treat coordinators, providers and servers: You are the ones who help make our worship services special!

You are a Blessing to this congregation for the time and talents you choose to share with us.

THANK YOU! Have a wonderful Holiday Season.

Treasurer's Report

The books are all in order as we come to the end of the year.

Our Benevolence to the Synod for October is \$2,566.51

Our total Benevolence to the Synod (Jan – Oct) is \$30,201.59

October 2015 Operating Income (General Giving): \$28,194.50

October 2015 Operating Expenses: - \$32,269.37

October Deficit -\$4,074.87

Total Year to date (January – October 2015) Operating (General Giving) Income: \$284,125.66

Total Operating Expenses (January – October 2015): -\$364,563.61

Total Deficit (January – October 2015) (-\$80,437.95)

In the midst of our deficit Elk River Lutheran Church continue to give 10% of its undesignated gift to help others: Benevolence, Lutheran Social Services (LSS), Lutheran World Relief (LWR), CAER, and the Minneapolis Synod

The Financial Statements are posted on the bulletin board next to the elevator on the upper level if anyone would like to see a breakdown.

We have a wonderfully generous Church family. So as the year draws to an end, I ask that you prayerfully consider helping, as you can, reduce this deficit. I still truly believe that we are very blessed, and **THANK YOU** for your continued support. May God Bless your holidays ahead,

Diane Harding
ERLC Council Treasurer

Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

As we are preparing for the coming of the Christ child it is so fun to watch the magic of this season in the eyes of a child. It is a time of celebration for all of us. One-way to bring a little more understand to the youngest children is to have a birthday party for Jesus. When my kids were young, and now I will start with my grandchildren, we would always bake and decorate a cake for baby Jesus and eat it on Christmas Eve. It became a regular part of our celebration. Take time to relax and enjoy the season. Merry Christmas everyone and I hope to see all of you at the Christmas pageant.



Are you looking for a time when you can enjoy Christmas shopping without your little ones? Or how about a date night or a little "me" time. Do we have a deal for you! On December 11, from 6-9p.m. the youth of ERLC will be offering parents a night off so you can have some fun!

We will have crafts, movies and snack for your children to enjoy. Please sign up in the cafe area so we can plan ahead. A free will donation will be collected and put towards summer camp funds.



Christmas Pageant

Please join us in celebrating our Christmas pageant at both services on December 13 at 8:15am and 10:30am. This play will bring some Christmas joy to your heart!

In closing our High school youth participated in a sleep out event to bring awareness to the Homeless youth in our area. It was quite an experience for them. They were sleeping in cars and the temperature that night dropped to 13 degrees above zero. They all came away with a greater appreciation for what they have. We also want to thank the Elk River police for stopping that night while on patrol to do a safety check on the kids. The police do this on a regular basis with the homeless in the area. We are blessed to have Open Doors for Youth in Elk River. It is a drop-in resource center serving youth 16 -21 who are experiencing homeless or housing instability. They are always looking for gas gift cards or financial contributions. To learn more about this program and how you can make a difference, call them at 763-441-1473 or contact them at opendoorsforyouth.org.

Announcements



The Giving Tree

In the spirit of the season, Elk River Lutheran Church, Hannah Monet Babneau, and the Land of Lakes Choir Boys will be collecting new socks, winter hats, gloves, scarves, gift cards, etc. to be donated to families in need.

Bring in any gift cards, new mittens, hats, socks, scarves, etc. and place them on our Giving Tree through the month December.

Need comes in all sizes; items of any size, color and fabric are welcomed.

Donations will be distributed to Open Doors, CAER, and Buffalo High school (for Buffalo Homeless Shelter)

We will accept donations through the end of December.

ERLC will be caroling during Santa in the Park on December 12, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Join the Fun!

Contact Taylor (816) 519-2719 or Laura (763) 232-4274



Hospitality

The Hospitality Ministry team will be meeting in December at Rockwoods for dinner to celebrate the Holiday Season. This will be December 8 at 5:30 pm. Anyone interested in joining our ministry team, please come and get to know what our team is all about.

On December 13, ERL Sunday School children will be presenting their Christmas program. We are planning to serve sugar cookies that day. If you are on to serve that day, please make note of this.

Sunday December 20th will be Heritage Treat Sunday. There will be a sign up sheet in the fellowship area or in the Cafe'. Please consider bringing your favorite heritage treat to share. Persons assigned to bring and serve that day will only be asked to serve, unless you want to bring a heritage treat.

A reminder again to "snow birds" let Pam Black know when you will be gone.

I know the new format for Sunday Morning rotations continues to have a few glitches. A hard copy of the rotation will be in the Cafe', so if you need one please pick one up. Loren is sending emails to anyone with an email address and then sends hard copies to the rest. Please check you email for the rotation schedule.

the
Land of Lakes Choirboys
invite you to join us for



A Christmas Tea

12.13.15
two o'clock

729 MAIN STREET NW ELK RIVER, MN

ladies lunch, decadent desserts, magical music



For tickets call 763-213-8105 or reserve online at

WWW.LOLCB.ORG

\$30 Individual \$200 Table of 8 \$15 Little Ladies

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>29</p> <p>8:15am - Traditional Worship</p> <p>9:30am - Christian w/Lutheran</p> <p>9:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>10:30am - Contemporary</p>	<p>30</p> <p>5:30pm - Women's Bible Study</p> <p>6:30pm - Facilities Meeting @</p> <p>6:30pm - Finance/Stewardship</p> <p>7pm - Men's Bible Study @</p>	<p>1</p> <p>7:30am - BNI @ Fellowship</p> <p>9:30am - Bible Study @ Room</p> <p>1:30pm - Staff Meeting</p> <p>6pm - Prep Choir @ Community</p> <p>6:30pm - Concert Choir @</p> <p>6:30pm - New Members Team</p> <p>6:30pm - Training Choir @</p> <p>7pm - Performance: Prep and</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:30am - Opportunity Plus @</p> <p>2pm - ISD728 Workshop @</p> <p>5pm - Finance/Stewardship</p> <p>6:30pm - Confirmation</p> <p>6:30pm - ERLC Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>6:30pm - Praise Team</p> <p>7:30pm - High School Program</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7pm - Men's Chorus @</p> <p>7pm - The Way Out (AA) @</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:30pm - Small Group:</p> <p>8am - Men's Bible Study</p> <p>9am - Concert Choir @</p> <p>9am - Training Choir @</p> <p>10:30am - Performance: Prep</p> <p>12:15pm - Officer Meeting @</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8am - Men's Bible Study</p> <p>Community Christmas</p> <p>8am - Men's Bible Study</p> <p>12pm - Training Choir @</p> <p>12:15pm - Training Choir Parent</p> <p>1pm - Christmas Caroling</p> <p>2:30pm - Dares Funeral Lunch @</p> <p>2:30pm - Performance: Training</p> <p>7:30pm - Concert: Concert Choir</p>
<p>6</p> <p>ERLC 6th Anniversary</p> <p>8:15am - Traditional Worship</p> <p>9:30am - Christian w/Lutheran</p> <p>9:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>10:30am - Contemporary</p> <p>2pm - LOLCB Board Mtg. @</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:30am - BNI @ Fellowship</p> <p>9:30am - Bible Study @ Room</p> <p>1:30pm - Staff Meeting</p> <p>5:30pm - Hospitality Meeting -</p> <p>6pm - Prep Choir @ Community</p> <p>6:30pm - Concert Choir @</p> <p>6:30pm - CSO Meeting @</p> <p>6:30pm - CSO Meeting @</p> <p>6:30pm - Training Choir @</p> <p>8pm - Staff Meeting @ Board</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:30am - BNI @ Fellowship</p> <p>9:30am - Bible Study @ Room</p> <p>1:30pm - Staff Meeting</p> <p>5:30pm - HS Youth Christmas</p> <p>6pm - Executive Council @ Board</p> <p>6pm - Prep Choir @ Community</p> <p>6:30pm - Training and Concert</p> <p>7pm - Council Meeting @ Room</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:30am - Opportunity Plus @</p> <p>10am - ISD728 Workshop @</p> <p>6pm - Worship Committee @</p> <p>6:30pm - Confirmation</p> <p>6:30pm - ERLC Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>6:30pm - Praise Team</p> <p>7:30pm - High School Program</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7pm - Men's Chorus @</p> <p>7pm - The Way Out (AA) @</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6pm - Parents Night Out</p> <p>7:30pm - Concert: Concert Choir</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Community Christmas</p> <p>8am - Men's Bible Study</p> <p>12pm - Training Choir @</p> <p>12:15pm - Training Choir Parent</p> <p>1pm - Christmas Caroling</p> <p>2:30pm - Dares Funeral Lunch @</p> <p>2:30pm - Performance: Training</p> <p>7:30pm - Concert: Concert Choir</p>
<p>13</p> <p>8:15am - Christmas Program / 9am - Church Service: Concert</p> <p>10:30am - Christmas Program</p> <p>2pm - Christmas Tea @</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:30pm - Finance/Stewardship</p> <p>7pm - Men's Bible Study @</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:30am - BNI @ Fellowship</p> <p>9:30am - Bible Study @ Room</p> <p>1:30pm - Staff Meeting</p> <p>6pm - Executive Council @ Board</p> <p>6pm - Prep Choir @ Community</p> <p>6:30pm - Training and Concert</p> <p>7pm - Council Meeting @ Room</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:30am - ISD728 Workshop @</p> <p>7:30am - Opportunity Plus @</p> <p>6:30pm - Confirmation</p> <p>6:30pm - ERLC Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>6:30pm - Praise Team</p> <p>7:30pm - HS Youth Christmas</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7pm - Men's Chorus @</p> <p>7pm - The Way Out (AA) @</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:30pm - Small Group:</p> <p>7pm - Annual Christmas Concert</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8am - Men's Bible Study</p> <p>12:30pm - LOLCB Staff Meeting</p> <p>7pm - Annual Christmas Concert</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Heritage Treats</p> <p>Taylor's Birthday :)</p> <p>8:15am - Traditional Worship</p> <p>9:30am - Christian w/Lutheran</p> <p>9:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>10:30am - Contemporary</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:30pm - Finance/Stewardship</p> <p>7pm - Men's Bible Study @</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:30am - BNI @ Fellowship</p> <p>9:30am - Bible Study @ Room</p> <p>1:30pm - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:30am - Opportunity Plus @</p> <p>6:30pm - ERLC Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>6:30pm - Praise Team</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Christmas Eve</p> <p>3pm - Christmas Eve Service</p> <p>5:30pm - Christmas Eve</p> <p>10pm - Christmas Eve Service</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Day After Christmas Day</p> <p>8am - Men's Bible Study</p>
<p>27</p> <p>8:15am - Traditional Worship</p> <p>9:30am - Christian w/Lutheran</p> <p>9:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>10:30am - Contemporary</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7pm - Men's Bible Study @</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:30am - BNI @ Fellowship</p> <p>9:30am - Bible Study @ Room</p> <p>1:30pm - Staff Meeting</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:30am - Opportunity Plus @</p>	<p>31</p> <p>New Year's Eve</p> <p>7pm - The Way Out (AA) @</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>



Elk River

LUTHERAN

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