



Trusting in God's grace,  
An accepting, joyful community,  
Calling and growing followers of Jesus  
Who live in the Spirit,  
serving God and neighbor.

*Elk River Lutheran Church  
July 2015 Newsletter*

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## Pastor's Message

Well it has been a month already and I am having fun getting to know the members and friends of ERLC. Thank you for the warm welcome and your willingness to share your stories with me. When I am in the office, my door is always so stop in and let's talk about whatever is on your mind.

Growing up I was always a curious to know how things functioned. It was only natural that I would pursue a career in science. My first job was in the field cytogenetics, which is a branch of genetics that is concerned with the study of the structure and function of a cell, especially the chromosomes. The grant that I was working under ended and opportunities were limited in the Twin Cities. So I had to explore other career options

My love for the church and calling of The Holy Spirit led me to seminary to prepare for ordained ministry. In seminary, my professors invited us to be curious and wonder what is God up to at this time and place? How is God calling us to be and do?

The discipline of wondering has served me well. And now as an interim I get to wonder a lot with congregations and I would like to wonder with you.

Research has shown that vital transforming congregation has these six common characteristics.

1. They have developed a worship experience that members overwhelmingly affirm as high quality and outstanding.
2. They have developed an open leadership system that is not tightly controlled by a few people
3. They have developed a membership with a thirst for lifelong learning and growth.
4. They have developed a ministry of spiritual formation that fits the complex lifestyle of their members.
5. Membership overwhelmingly affirms quality relationships that create a positive, friendly atmosphere in the church.
6. Members bear witness to a high level of flexibility rather than simply sticking to established ways of doing things.

After discovering this research I could not help but wonder if ERLC sees themselves as a vital transforming congregation or is there something else we need to be doing. Let me know your thoughts on this. Set up a time that we can talk or send me e-mail at [mkverlutz@yahoo.com](mailto:mkverlutz@yahoo.com) looking forward to hearing from you.

Blessing  
Pastor Michelene



## **Candy & Volunteers Needed**

**We are looking for donations  
of Candy, and supplies to  
decorate our float for the  
Sherburne County Parade.**

**We are also looking for  
people to ride on the float  
and/or walk and throw candy  
and hand out flyers.**

**The parade is July 18th  
10am in the morning.**

**If you would like to help or  
have any questions  
please let Loren know  
763-633-1181 or  
loren.green@elkriverlutheran.org**

### **President's Message**

I hope everyone had a wonderful 4<sup>th</sup> of July, family, friends, picnics and the LAKE. We had wonderful services here for the few of us that remained in town.

At the annual meeting you voted to approve reorganizing our year to the calendar year. We begin our new (short) fiscal year with a budget that was approved for July to December. The council members also continue for those six months. We are changing our meeting dates and becoming more efficient with our most valuable commodity – our volunteers time.

Pam Black is spearheading our Hummingbird project – making volunteer spots that can include your entire family in a time frame that fits your schedule. The opportunities are posted on the windows of the sanctuary. Please peruse and see what peaks your interest.

Pastor Michelene continues to challenge us with this question – WHY do we do what we do? I challenge you to take a little self-reflection time be it in the car on the commute, on the lake in the boat, at morning coffee or woodworking project and find your answer to that question. Have you met TWO new people yet?

July is a month off for most teams to enjoy summer. Executive council will now meet before the full council meeting. Both meetings will have a new format to make better use of our time.

On August 12, we will have a **MANDATORY** Umbrella meeting of all teams, council, staff and pastor to plan the fall to Christmas calendar with dates and a general list of upcoming events. Each team will then break out to have their team meeting and plan for their contribution to the events and determine their meeting schedule accordingly. We continue to experience the wonder of God and here his calling to grow followers of Jesus – who live in the Spirit, serving God and neighbor.

Kim Hauger  
ERLC Council President

# Children, Youth & Family

## Elk River Children's Vacation Bible School 2015

August 3-6, 2015  
9:00 am to noon

## Called to Care: The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss



Join us for our first

## ERLC Family VBS!

Monday-Wednesday, August 3-5, 2015

5:30pm Bring your own dinner (beverages provided)

6:00-7:30 p.m. Family VBS activities

Want to help with VBS? Kid's VBS is Aug. 3-6, 9:00 to noon; Family VBS is evenings, Aug. 3-5, 6:00-7:30pm. Help with one or both! We need group leaders (Pre/K, 1/2, 3/4, and 5/6, mornings only), Snack bring/prepare/serve people (mornings only), Game leaders, Craft people, Storytellers, worship/song help, etc., etc. Comment here, see Kari at church, or email me at [ksosmek@gmail.com](mailto:ksosmek@gmail.com) if you want to help!

## Greetings from Hospitality!

The new rotation schedule is out and I know there is lots going on so if you can't bring treats and work on your assigned day, please contact a sub or exchange with someone. We are always looking for more people willing to bring 3 dozen treats and then stay and help serve and clean up.

We would really like to add two more teams for the serving of funerals for our members. Currently Peg and Barb are the only team leaders we have for this. If we could get two more teams of co-chairs, we could rotate each time of a funeral. We have very good and explicit instructions of what needs to be done and then quite a good list of people who would be willing to help each time. Please consider this and talk to Barb Overbye or Peg Davies.

We are also in need of coordinators for Sunday morning coffee. Again good training is available! It would mean a commitment of just once every two months. Please talk to Barb Overbye, Marilyn Martin or Toby Moe regarding this.

Hospitality Committee will not be meeting in July so our next meeting is August 3.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 8:15am - Traditional 10:30am - Praise Band 1:30pm - Wedding	29 7pm - Men's Bible Study	30 7:30am - BNI 9:30am - Quilting Group 1:30pm - Staff Meeting	1 8pm - Adult Faith 7:30am - Opportunity 5:30pm - CYF Detroit	2 7:30pm - AA Meeting @ 7:30pm - The Way Out (AA)	3 Independence Day	4 Independence Day
5 8:15am - Traditional 10:30am - Praise Band 1:30pm - Wedding	6 7pm - Men's Bible Study	7 7:30am - BNI 9:30am - Quilting Group 1:30pm - Staff Meeting	8 7:30am - Opportunity 5:30pm - CYF Detroit	9 7:30pm - The Way Out (AA)	10 Independence Day	11 Independence Day
12 8:15am - Traditional 10:30am - Praise Band	13 7pm - Men's Bible Study	14 7:30am - BNI 9:30am - Quilting Group 1:30pm - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - CSO Meeting @ 8pm - Staff Meeting @	15 7:30am - Opportunity	16 7:30pm - The Way Out (AA)	17 Independence Day	18 10am - Sherburne
19 8:15am - Traditional 10:30am - Praise Band	20 7pm - Men's Bible Study	21 7:30am - BNI 9:30am - Quilting Group 1:30pm - Staff Meeting 6pm - Executive Council 7pm - Council Meeting @	22 7:30am - Opportunity	23 7:30pm - The Way Out (AA)	24 Independence Day	25 Independence Day
26 8:15am - Traditional 10:30am - Praise Band	27 7pm - Men's Bible Study	28 7:30am - BNI 9:30am - Quilting Group 1:30pm - Staff Meeting	29 7:30am - Opportunity	30 7:30pm - The Way Out (AA)	31 Independence Day	1 Independence Day