Elk River
LUTHERAN
Elk River Lutheran Church – ELCA

March 2015

Pastor's Message

The hardest part of the journey of faith for me has been the waiting and uncertainty as God is leading. Elk River Lutheran is now in a place of anticipation, waiting, and uncertainty and for some anxiety.

You are in a new phase of the journey. You are calling a full time settled pastor that will covenant to:

- Share God with you,
- lead you,
- challenge you,
- walk with you and
- love you.

This is an exciting time.
The Call Committee is faithfully exploring God's will for the congregation.

The job of the congregation:

- pray
- trust
- share
- believe that God is in charge of the process and has always led Elk River Lutheran.

So as the congregation moves forward …
take a deep breath … breathe in the Spirit of God and ***trust.***

The disciples were never in charge of the journey. They certainly wouldn't have chosen Jerusalem and a cross. God gave them so much more than they could have ever anticipated or even dreamed of. They trusted and believed.

In this time of transition we are called to true discipleship. All of us!

To God be the Glory!
Pastor Heidi

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President's Message

As we go thru the Lenten season we reflect on our faith and where we are at in our own personal walk. Take time to consider how you relate to the apostles and how you carry out your beliefs.

Adult Ed has a wonderful series in progress about Improving Your Serve and you can drop in for one Sunday session of your choosing.

Caring Faith and CYF have reached out the Open Doors teen shelter that has started in Elk River.

The Call Committee has composed the interview questions that will be used in their search of our new pastor. The list of candidates from the synod has been received. The nominations from the congregation were also received and are being vetted by the synod.

We are moving forward on the list of items the teams need to make their ministries easier to carry out their mission. Caring Faith has doubled the area of quilt making and did so with tables that accommodate quilting and/or funeral luncheons or other meetings held in that area. We have new energy efficient lights in the sign out front. The youth are working on a Spring Musical. And Fellowship is putting together a downhill skiing event.

As we wait for Easter and Spring there are many activities keeping us busy and warm. And if you are now viewing the bulletin on a smartphone or tablet during service instead of on paper, we thank you in our efforts to become greener. Soup supper on Wednesday night before service is available. Easter Lily's will be available for purchase on the PayPal site on the Webpage.

God's peace as we move forward in our journey.
Kim Hauger
ERLC Council President

Lenten Soup Supper Serving Schedule

* March 4 - Worship
* March 11 - Adult Ed and Caring Faith
* March 18 - Facilities
* March 25 - Hospitality & IT Communications

March 4, 11, 18 & 25 at 5:45-6:45p.m.

Treasurer's Report

3 YEAR MONTHLY GENERAL OFFERING INCOME COMPARISON

YEAR	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
2014 – 2015	$28,444.87	$41,768.07	$41,867.35	$25,167.05
2013 – 2014	$30,414.01	$28,652.25	$47,448.52	$26,593.51
2012 – 2013	$24,947.24	$31,773.72	$48,645.40	$23,615.83

2014 July-January general giving total: $224,946.82
2013 July-January general giving total: $217,041.40
2012 July-January general giving total: $222,097.19

*** If you have any questions regarding giving, please contact Diane Harding (763-428-4876) or Loren at the Church office (763) 633-1181

Thank you for your generosity – we are truly blessed
Diane Harding
ERLC Council Treasurer

Lenten Wednesday Schedule

March 11

Luke 7:36-50
Invited to the Table

March 18

Luke 10:38-42
Welcome at the Table

March 25

Luke 11:1-13
Our Daily Needs

Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, March 29
8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, April 2
7:00 p.m.

Friday, April 3
7:00 p.m.

Children, Youth and Family

First Communion instruction class
Sunday, March 22, 11:30—1:30
(includes lunch)

For parents and their children in 5th grade or younger, who would like to begin participating in Holy Communion.
Celebration of First Communion will occur at 7:00pm worship on Maundy Thursday, April 2.

"Once Upon a Parable" spring rehearsal schedule:

Sundays, 11:45-1:00pm	Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22
Palm Sunday, Mar. 29	*No rehearsal—serve breakfast*
Easter Sunday, April 5	*No rehearsal*
***** OFF BOOKS from this point on!***	
Sundays, 11:45-1:00pm	April 12, 19, 26
The final stretch—off books, full props:	
Sunday, May 3, 11:45-1:00pm	
Wednesday, May 6, 6:30-8:00pm	Full dress rehearsal, closed
Friday, May 8, 7:00pm	Full dress rehearsal, open
Saturday, May 9, 7:00pm	Public performance
Sunday, May 10, 8:15am and 10:30am (Mother's Day)	ERLC worship

Thanks to all who said "yes" to being a Mentor for our young people! I've heard fabulous comments from both youth and adults—you're building vital, life-long relationships.

YouthWorks!

Youth in grades 7-12: interested in a YouthWorks mission trip this summer? We will have a planning meeting on Sunday, Mar. 8 at 9:45am in the Youth Room to discuss options.

RISE UP TOGETHER ELCA YOUTH GATHERING DETROIT - 2015

Detroit ELCA Youth Gathering participants planning meetings: Sundays, Mar. 15 and April 19 at 9:45am in the youth room

Confirmation resumes
Wednesday, April 8, 7:30pm

Music Ministry

Come all you vagabonds, come all you 'don't belongs',
Winners and losers, come, people like me.
Come all you travelers tired from the journey,
Come wait a while, stay a while, welcomed you'll be.

Come all believers and dreamers and schemers
And come all you restless just searching for home;
Movers and shakers and givers and takers,
The happy, the sad, the lost and alone.

Come to the feast, there is room at the table.
Come let us meet in this place
With the King of all kindness who welcomes us in
With the wonder of love and the power of grace,
The wonder of love and the power of grace.

If you haven't been able to make it to the Wednesday night Lenten services, you haven't heard this song yet. It's by the man who wrote "In Christ Alone", Stuart Townend. On *YouTube*, he performs "Vagabonds" in a visually unique music video, but also tells us of the inspiration behind it in another video labeled "Stuart Townend – The Story Behind 'Vagabonds.'" Look it up, and you'll see why Heidi has chosen this song to be the theme that is threaded throughout our Lenten services.

As a musician, I'm constantly listening to music, yet rarely moved by it. However, when I encounter a song like "Vagabonds", I know this is a song worth sharing with people like you. I hope you have enjoyed it so far. I know that Praise Team and the Choir have enjoyed learning it.

Now that we're in the middle of Lent, the musicians at ERLC are busier than normal. This is the time we continue rehearsing for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter. And this is the time where we are looking for more musicians in the congregation as well. The choir is looking for more singers, especially men, and the Praise Team is looking for guitarists and keyboardists. It is also tradition for brass players to participate in the Easter services. If you'd like to join any of these ensembles, please let me know. Until then, enjoy this season while the Bridegroom is still with us.

See you Sunday.
Taylor Quinn
ERLC Music Ministry Director

Call Committee

As March begins, the Call Committee has received your nominations for possible candidates for Pastor and has submitted those nominations to the Synod. They synod will soon be providing a list of names for interviews. Currently, that process has slowed slightly due to the terminal illness diagnosis Bishop Ann Svennungsen's son , John, received recently. Our prayers are with their family. In the meantime, we have been working diligently at coming up with a list of interview questions. Our hopes are to start interviewing sometime in March.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support in this long process. God has a plan for Elk River Lutheran as we enter into a new chapter of ministry in the Elk River area.

Please feel free to contact any member of the committee if you have questions or concerns. Committee members are: Larry Cook, Carol Vikstrom, Carrie McAuley, Mark Schwarze, Jana Lundquist, Kerry Livingston and Betty Zehringer.

Community News & Announcements

Got the Winter Blahs?

Join in a book discussion of the book, ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE (Andrew Doerr), a 2014 National Book Award winner. The discussion will be Monday, March 23, 6:30 pm, at Karen Froelich's home, 16820 Dayton River Road.

It is a compelling book about 2 very different young people growing up at the advent of Adolph Hitler's regime. We hope you can join in the conversation!

CAER
Community Aid Elk River

March is Minnesota FoodShare Month

March is the month each year dedicated to raising money to support the more than 300 food shelves in Minnesota. CAER is asking you to help us meet our 2015 goal of $130,000 in food and cash donations. Last year, CAER had 7,651 visits for food and distributed nearly 372 tons of food — an increase of 106% since 2009. An average of 40 families come to CAER each day we are open — 100 of those family members are seniors, 804 are children.

A **"Pack the Pews" weekend** is set at area churches from Friday, March 20, through Sunday, March 22. Local churches will be asking their members to bring nonperishable food items to worship services in support of CAER

Meals on Wheels

Thanks to our volunteer drivers who delivered Meals on Wheels during February. The Blue route was about 22 miles, 4 to 5 stops in Elk River and out in the country. It's great to have such willing volunteers stepping up. Sincere thanks to: Tom Mortenson, Carol Vikstrom, Sharry Becklin, Susan Bloomquist, Tom and Katie Woodfill, Jim and Karen Acers, and Dennis and Ann Hove. It's a delight to see their beaming smiles and chat with them!

Thanks so much,
Caring Faith Ministries

Meals on Wheels

OPEN DOORS
FOR YOUTH
Unlock your future

Help us supply homeless youth with "The Basics" duffel bag:

General items:

Sleeping bag, 2 towels, 2 washcloths, 1 journal & 2 pens (in Ziploc bag), 1 Ziploc bag of snacks (I substantial snack & 10 small), 4 large (2 gal) and 4 medium (gallon) Ziploc freezer bags (not sliders)

1 pair of gloves, 2 pairs of socks (1 warm, 1 regular), 1 hat

Hygiene Items (Men & Women):

(PUT TOGETHER IN ONE ZIPLOC BAG): 1 toothbrush & cover or travel tube, 1 dental floss, 1 large tube of toothpaste 6 small tubes, 1 Chapstick

Women's Hygiene Items:

(PUT TOGETHER IN ONE ZIPLOC BAG): 35 tampons, 28 maxi pads, and 15 panty-liners

(PUT TOGETHER IN ONE ZIPLOC BAG): 1 shampoo & conditioner, 1 body lotion, 1 deodorant, 1 body wash or bar of soap, 1 large or 2 small hand sanitizers

Men's Hygiene Items:

(PUT TOGETHER IN ONE ZIPLOC BAG): I deodorant, I shampoo/conditioner or 3-in-1, 1 body wash or bar of soap

***Donations will be taken throughout Lent. Thanks for helping homeless youth in our community!**

Electronic News!

In an effort to *Go Green*, and to reach members who are unable to join us at church, the monthly newsletter and the weekly bulletins are available on our website at

http://www.elkriverlutheran.org/media--downloads.html

If you would like to be added to our online mailing list, to receive the newsletter and other announcements via email, please let Loren know

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:15am - Traditional Worship 9:30am - Improving Your Serve 9:30am - Sunday School 10:30am - Praise Band Worship 4pm - Improving Your Serve	2 5:30pm - Hospitality Meeting 6:30pm - Facilities Meeting - 7pm - Men's Bible Study @	3 9:30am - Quilting Group 10am - Caring Faith Meeting 1:30pm - Staff Meeting 6:30pm - New Members Team	4 5:45pm - Lenten Soup Supper 7pm - Lent Worship Service 7:30pm - Choir/Praise Team 8pm - Adult Faith Formation	5 7:30pm - AA Meeting @	6	7 8am - Men's Bible Study
8 Daylight Saving Time starts 8:15am - Traditional Worship 9:30am - Sunday School 9:45am - CYF Youthworks 10:30am - Praise Band Worship 7pm - Fellowship Meeting	9 6:30pm - CYF Meeting 7pm - Men's Bible Study @	10 9:30am - Quilting Group 9:30am - Women's Bible Study @ 1:30pm - Staff Meeting 7pm - Finance meeting @ 7pm - Women's Bible Study	11 5:15pm - Worship Committee 5:45pm - Lenten Soup Supper 7pm - Lent Worship Service 7:30pm - Choir/Praise Team 8pm - Executive Council	12 7:30pm - AA Meeting @	13	14 8am - Men's Bible Study
15 8:15am - Traditional Worship 9:30am - Sunday School 9:45am - CYF Detroit 10:30am - Praise Band Worship	16 7pm - Men's Bible Study @	17 9:30am - Quilting Group 1:30pm - Staff Meeting 7pm - Council Meeting @ Room	18 5:45pm - Lenten Soup Supper 7pm - Lent Worship Service 7:30pm - Choir/Praise Team	19 7:30pm - AA Meeting @	20	21 8am - Men's Bible Study
22 1st Communion Instruction 8:15am - Traditional Worship 9:30am - Sunday School 10:30am - Praise Band Worship 11:45am - 1st Communion	23 7pm - Men's Bible Study @	24 9:30am - Quilting Group 1:30pm - Staff Meeting	25 5:45pm - Lenten Soup Supper 7pm - Lent Worship Service 7:30pm - Choir/Praise Team	26 7:30pm - AA Meeting @	27	28 8am - Men's Bible Study
29 PALM SUNDAY 8:15am - Traditional Worship 9am - Palm Sunday Brunch 10:30am - Praise Band Worship	30 7pm - Men's Bible Study @	31 9:30am - Quilting Group 1:30pm - Staff Meeting	1	2	3	4

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