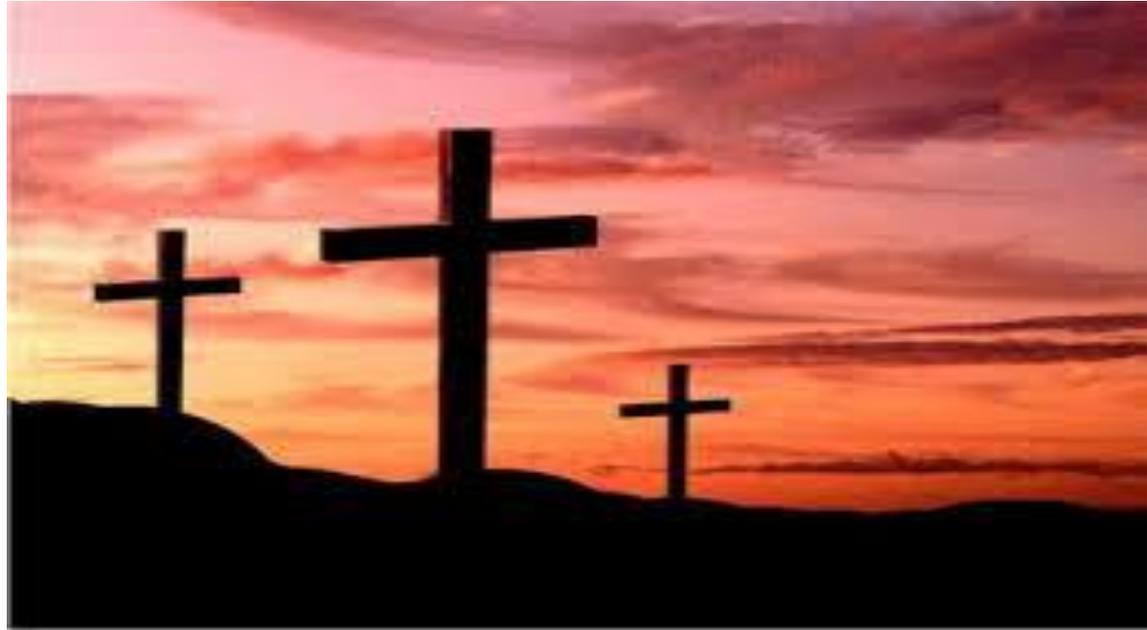


February
NEWSLETTE



RIC Sunday Pictures

Sunday January 29th the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall displayed stoles of LGBT clergy from the "Shower of Stoles Project". Our guest preacher was Rev Anita Hill who talked about being an inclusive congregation. Below are some pictures of that service.



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Sunday January 29th the Annual Meeting was held. During the Annual Meeting there was an election for the 2017 Council, the approval of the 2017 budget and voting on the proposed by-laws.

2017 Council members are:

President: Greg Pouliot,

Vice President: Kari Christianson

Secretary: Erin Roppe

Treasurer: Adam Horner

Charee Wagenfeil-Cain,

John Natwick,

Ron Westrum

Karen Sjobeck-Mahon,

Brad Tesdahl,

Mark Schwarze

Jesus Christ is the foundation of the church and its ministry. We are God's temple because God's Spirit dwells in us, and we belong to Christ. Hence we are called to build wisely upon this sure foundation not for our own benefit but for others to experience Christ's benefits.

Treasurer's Report

The 2017 Budget total of \$425,500.00 was approved at the annual meeting.

Giving Needed Weekly: \$8,182.70
Monthly Total Expenses: \$36,784.12
Monthly Total Income: \$42,637.63
Building Fund Balance: \$99,585.99
Dedicated Fund Balance \$33,235.47



Pastors Message:

I am very excited for our congregation for this coming year! Along with the approval of the 2017 budget at our Annual Meeting last week we took the first steps on a number of ministry priorities, which will enhance our ability to live out our mission together:

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

Even as we grow as a congregation, we need to make sure that the needs of our current flock are taken care of, especially pastoral care needs. One new step in this direction is exploring the possibility of a visitation pastor. Funds for a part time visitation pastor are included in this year's budget, so the Council Officers and I (who function as our congregation's Personnel Committee) will be working on defining the position and then seeking to contract with a pastor to join the staff at Elk River Lutheran as a visitation pastor.

Worship continues to be central to our life together as a congregation and one new step toward enhancing our experience of worship and music comes in the form of Taylor Quinn's hours being increased. As Director of Music Ministry and Worship, Taylor will now have more time to enrich our worship experience by recruiting and further developing musicians and ensembles here at Elk River Lutheran.

Our Children, Youth, and Family Ministry (CYF) is currently in a time of transition. Members of our CYF Team, volunteers, parents, and I are working hard to maintain Sunday School, Confirmation, and High School youth group during this transition. Funds for a full time Director of CYF were included in this year's budget, but we are also in the beginning stages of a review process to determine the goals, programing, and staff needs of our CYF ministry. I encourage you all to be involved in this process, and I invite you to

share your input at a congregational forum on our Children, Youth, and Family Ministry on Sunday, March 5 at 9:30am.

Finally, even as we busily work on items of immediate need and purpose, I'm also excited about the opportunity to take time to dream and vision further into our future through an intentional Identity, Mission, and Vision process. The first step of this process will be a congregational survey that we'll take in the spring. Then we'll take what we learn from that survey and choose an outside consultant (someone who specializes in working with churches) to come in and lead us through a process that will help us better flush out our shared identity, and set priorities and a focus for our future ministry together.

I really am excited about these steps and many other things happening at Elk River Lutheran Church. God is up to something here and I think we're all blessed to be a part of it. I continue to be **excited** about our shared mission and commitment to living it out:

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

Peace, Pastor Nathan Mugaas

CYF



Camp Sunday— Sunday, February 12

Join us for worship and Sunday School on February 12th, when we are joined by Jim Schmidt, Executive Director of Camp Onomia. He'll teach some camp songs, share about their summer theme, and tell us about different camp opportunities for kids and adults.



Parents' Night Out at Elk River Lutheran Church Wednesday, February 15 6:00pm-8:00pm

We're inviting parents with young kids to leave your kids with us, at the church, so that you can enjoy a night out! Confirmation and High School youth (and some of their parents) will provide a fun, safe evening with games and activities. Kids of any age are welcome. There is no cost for this childcare event, but free will offerings will be accepted for Open Doors for Youth (our local homeless youth center). There is a signup sheet in the fellowship hall. Call Pastor Nathan at the office with any questions.

Children, Youth, and Family (CYF) Ministry Forum Sunday, March 5th at 9:30am in the Community Room

We want to (and need to) hear from you all about what your hopes and dreams are for the Children, Youth, and Family (CYF) Ministry here at Elk River Lutheran Church. Certainly those families with children and youth are encouraged to attend this forum, but the "Family" in Children, Youth, and Family is more than just each individual family unit. We are the family of God, and so we hope to hear from all of you. So be thinking about what the goal of our CYF ministry should be. Think about how/when you'd like to see our children and youth active around the church and in the community. And then attend the forum and share your thoughts with us.



Lent, Holy Week, and Easter 2017 Schedule

Promises on the Journey of Faith

- Temptation
- Questions and Blessings
- Thirsting to be known
- Children of Light
- Never Gonna Keep Me Down
- Palms and Passion
- Christ is Risen Indeed!

Wednesdays in Lent-- March 1*-April 5

5:45- Soup Meal in the Community Room (free will offering taken)

7:00- Worship in the Sanctuary

*Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and a service with Ash and Holy Communion

Sunday Worship in Lent-- March 5-April 2

8:15 Traditional & 10:30am Contemporary

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, April 9

8:15 & 10:30am--Worship

9:00am-12:00pm--Pancake Breakfast served by Youth

Maundy Thursday, April 13

7:00pm- Worship

Good Friday, April 14

7:00pm Worship



Easter Sunday, April 16

6:30- Easter Sunrise Worship

8:15- Easter Worship, Traditional

10:30- Easter Worship, Contemporary



Promises on the Journey of Faith

Elk River Lutheran Church's Lenten theme for 2017 is "Promises on the Journey of Faith." The primary scripture texts for this theme follow the Revised Common Lectionary. Each week has its own weekly theme, scripture text, and promise of God from the scripture reading.

Lent 1: Sunday, March 5

Temptation

Matthew 4:1-11

"It is written..."

Lent 2: Sunday, March 12

Questions and Blessings

John 3:1-17

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

Lent 3: Sunday, March 19

Thirsting to be Known

John 4:5-42

"Jesus said to her, 'I am he.'"

Lent 4: Sunday, March 26

Children of Light

John 9:1-41

"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

Lent 5: Sunday, April 2

Never Gonna Keep Me Down

John 11:1-45

"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."

Palm Sunday, April 9

Palms & Passion

Matthew 27:37

"This is Jesus, King of the Jews."

Easter Sunday, April 16

Christ is Risen Indeed!

Matthew 28:5-6

"I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said."



Happy February, everyone! I hope January was a good month for you; and the new year brought something refreshing to your life. I also hope the Sunday services have been refreshing for you. During the past month the music ministry has been focusing on giving you something new to learn at both services. For the 1st service Bea and I chose new liturgical songs for you to learn. For the season of Epiphany - from January 8th to February 26th - we chose Setting 7 from the ELW, a setting of latin-flavor that gave you a little “spice” for your weekly winter services.

For 2nd service I chose three weekly songs that were thematically consistent with Epiphany, MLK Sunday, and RIC Sunday.

They reverberated the ideas of Jesus being the light in our world, and us being the extension of His light. I hope throughout January you noticed this theme every week, and I hope you have learned and enjoyed these new songs.

For February we’ll keep Setting 7 for the 1st service, and the three weekly songs for the 2nd service. I invite you to continue singing them whole-heartedly as every worship service is the work of you, the people. While some things will stay the same this month, there will be some new music as well. ANF will come back on Feb 5th to lead the 2nd service.

The River’s Edge Quartet and Pop Up Choir will be featured on Feb 19th. And to end the

season of Epiphany, the Sunday School kids will sing for both services on the 26th.

February will also be the month when the music ministry starts to prepare for Easter.

During services in January I announced the need for handbell ringers and brass players to play for Easter Sunday. For those of you who are interested in participating in those two special ensembles, I’ll be reaching out to you this month to start scheduling rehearsals.

I’m excited to see so many musicians interested. It’ll be great to bring you all together for Easter.

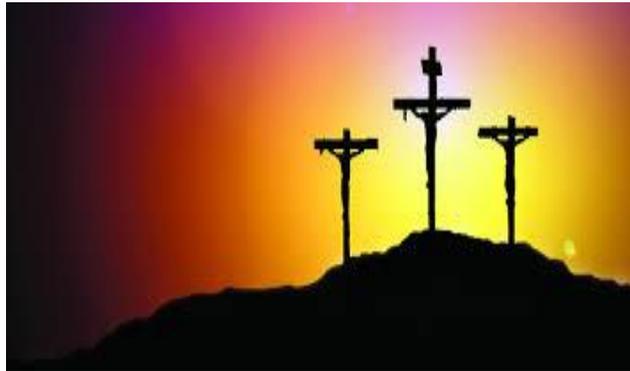
While many have shown interest in the handbell and brass ensemble, the music ministry is still looking for people to help with sound on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in occasionally running the soundboard, just let me know. We currently have only one person who runs the soundboard for 1st service. It would be good to give him a few Sundays off a month.

Thank you all for supporting the musicians and A/V persons who volunteer their time to share their gifts with you weekly. Also, thank YOU musicians and A/V persons who graciously volunteer your time and energy to share your God-given gifts with your community. You are all well-appreciated.

See you Sunday,
Taylor

February Events

- The Adult Education Sessions “And Who is My Neighbor “ will continue the first 3 Sundays in February in the Community Room downstairs from 9:30-10:30 A M.
- Another opportunity to Study "My Neighbor is Muslim" Every other Thursday at 6:30 PM
Please call Conni Natwick at [763.276.1239](tel:763.276.1239) for details
- Hospitality team will not be meeting in February.
- There will be no Sunday School Feb. 19th.



Elk River Lutheran
Church
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