

January 2017
NEWSLETTER



A New Year Message from Pastor Nathan

One year ago if you told me I would be sitting in an old bank office in Elk River, MN writing a newsletter article, I would have probably been very confused! Yet here I am, in an old bank office (with a pretty nice view, I'll add), writing a newsletter article reflecting on what this new year may bring.

If 2016 taught me anything, it's that a lot can change in a year. In this one year Annie and I welcomed a new baby (Stanley, born in May), we left our jobs and sold our house in Minot, bought a new home in Elk River, and I joined you as pastor at Elk River Lutheran Church. That is a lot of change for one year.

Change can be really great, but

change can be difficult too. Sometimes God calls us into new ventures of which we cannot yet see the ending, and we move forward in faith, trusting in God's grace. And trusting in God's grace is a key part of who we are as a congregation: *Trusting in God's grace, an accepting, joyful community, servicing God and neighbor.*

I am excited to be on this adventure of faith and church life with you. Elk River Lutheran Church is a joyful and growing congregation, and there will certainly be growing pains along the way, but we will face those together. One year ago I did not expect to be here serving as your pastor, but I feel grateful that you have called me and welcomed me.

I have complete faith that God will continue to bless us, and challenge us, in this New Year.

Peace, Pastor Nathan Mugaas

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Proposed By-Laws approved by ERLC Council (Nov 22, 2016) for presentation and approval by ERLC Congregation at next Annual Congregational Meeting: The Annual Meeting of this congregation shall be held by the last Sunday in January at the time designated by the Congregational Council and notice of the meeting shall be given as specified in C10.03 of the constitution. Informal Budget and Finance Meeting shall be held the Sunday prior to the Annual Meeting

Topics for Congregational Annual Meeting

Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting of the congregation

Treasurer's report regarding the results of the congregation's most recently completed fiscal year.

Approval of the budget for the current year

The elections, from the voting members of the congregation, of council officers, new congregational council members, and nominating committee

Submission of Ministry Report including:

Reports of the pastors and lay staff concerning the spiritual condition of the congregation and the ministerial acts performed;

The report of the Congregation Council concerning the business affairs of the congregation by the President;

Reports of committees and other church organizations.

Unfinished Business

New Business

Celebration and Visioning

Other business deemed necessary

The Council Officers shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasure along with a Pastor

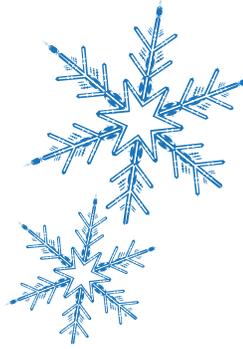
The Council Officers shall facilitate the work of the ERLC Church Council. Advise and assist the pastor(s); make recommendations to the Church Council for any appointments requiring Council approval including appointments to nominating committee as well as any other Church Council appointment requirements and serve as the ERLC Personnel Team, along with the Pastor.

The Nominating Team shall identify members with leadership gifts and strive to achieve a balance among Congregation Council members in age, gender, and length of membership. The Nominating Team shall prepare a slate of eligible nominees for all elected offices, with brief biographies for publication, prior to January 15. The Nominating Team shall begin meeting in September every year so members can become familiar with the eligibility requirements and collect names for nominees in an open and transparent manner.

a. Three to Six members serve two-year terms with no more than two consecutive terms. The Congregation Council vice president shall chair the Nominating Team.

The President shall:
preside at all meetings of the Congregation, Congregation Council and the Council Officers.
prepare the agendas for each council meeting and provide the agenda to each council member prior to said meeting

have the authority to delegate unspecified responsibilities to each ministry committee(s) see to it that appropriate reports are prepared prior to the congregational meetings
The Vice President shall:
serve as the presiding officer in the absence of the council president.
assume special responsibilities as designated by the Council Officers
serve as president if the president is incapacitated, until the next Annual Meeting of the Congregation.
The Secretary shall:
keep the minutes of all meetings of the Council Officers, Congregation Council and the congregation.
preserve the archives of the Congregation Council.
manage the official correspondence of the Congregation Council.
The Treasurer shall:
monitor the handling of all funds of the congregation in accordance with the approved budget and commonly accepted business practices.
present monthly reports to the Congregation Council and present an annual report to the congregation at the annual meeting.
with the Council Officers and Finance Team:
(a) review the monthly financial performance compared to budget and provide appropriate monthly financial statements to the Congregation Council.
(b) review all church accounts and investments, reporting to the Congregation Council at least annually.
(c) oversee and audit the procedures used for counting receipts and recording deposits



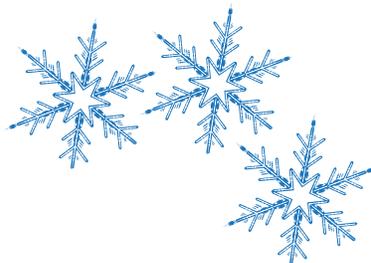
Treasurer's Report

The 2016 Approved Budget total is \$388,911.00.

Average Weekly Giving Needed: \$7,480.00

November Total Income:	\$36,801.80
November Total Expenses:	<u>\$28,845.59</u>
	+\$7,956.21

YTD Operating Surplus:	+\$13,315.96
Building Fund Balance:	\$88,411
Dedicated Fund Balance:	\$31,577



Special Dates

On Sunday, January 22, 2016 @ 11:45 am we will be having the Informational meeting regarding the 2017 budget.

On Sunday, January 29th, @ 11:45 am the 2017 Annual Meeting will be held.



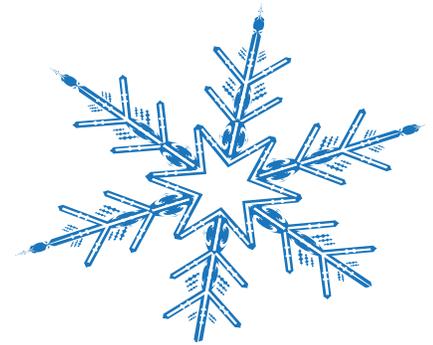
FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Northwest Metro Feeds The Hungry

Be A Part of A Mega Event
February 22-26, 2017

Egan Company Warehouse,
Champlin, MN

To Sign Up or Donate:
Give.fmsc.org/Northwest



Happy New Year - Director of Music

Happy New Year, everyone. I hope 2016 was a good year for you; and I hope 2017 brings you warmth, newness, and joy.

I'm looking forward to this new year for our music ministry. I've scheduled both the **choir** and the **band** for the major Sundays this Spring: Transfiguration, Palm, and Easter. They will also be leading the music for our two uniquely-themed services this month. On Jan 15th we're planning to honor **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** throughout both services; and on Jan 29th we're observing and celebrating our **Reconciling in Christ** status. Both ensembles will be sharing music chosen for those specific Sundays.

I'm also excited about the possibility of creating some other ensembles based on the musical talent we have within the congregation. On Jan 22nd the choir plans to sing "I Heard the Voice of Jesus" which is accompanied by a small chorus of **handbells**. Now, Bea can certainly play this accompaniment on the piano, BUT I'm asking you if YOU'D like to play...on handbells. If you (or anyone you know) are interested in playing handbells for this special song, please let me know. This would be the first time I've done handbells at ERLC, but it certainly won't be the last. If there are enough interested, we can talk about doing it again.

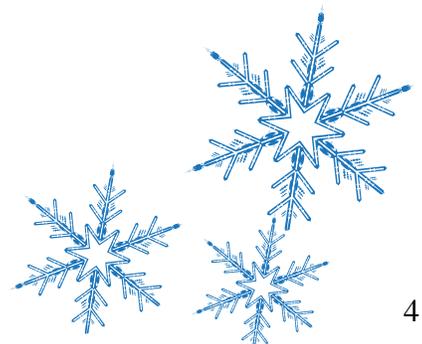
Another opportunity that's coming up is an Easter **brass ensemble**. I know of several individuals, both young and old, who play brass, and I'd like to gather those individuals to play together on Easter Sunday. I will be reaching out to those I know, but (again) if you're interested in being part of this special ensemble, reach out to me.

January will be a fresh and "spicy" month regarding service music. As you come to worship on Sundays be prepared to learn some new music. For every liturgical season, Bea, Nathan, and I choose a different liturgical setting for the 8:15am service. For Epiphany it is **Setting 7**, and it has a spanish flavor.

That's what makes it spicy. And for you folks in the 10:30am service, I've selected some fresh new songs we'll sing weekly. All of them are based on the season of **Epiphany**, the season of "the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles." I think you'll like them.

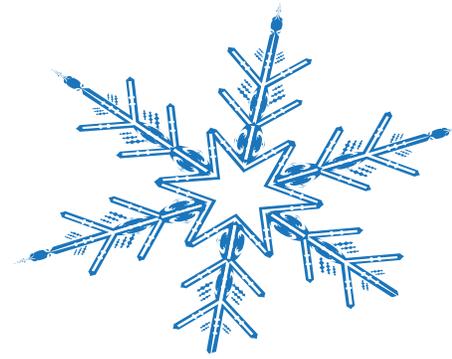
Yes, I know there's new music happening but Bea and I will continue to choose songs you know. We want to make our worship services fresh and new, but also meaningful and welcoming...for you and for all who enter our sacred space.

See you Sunday,
Taylor





ADULT EDUCATION



...AND WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

A presentation by Lutheran Social Services related to issues surrounding race and racial equity. ERLC friends –especially in the last couple of years I have been paying close attention to what I see on the news in the area of race relations and diversity. Perhaps you have as well. Due to my interest in this topic, I began to do some reading and research. The adult education committee has been talking about issues of diversity and how to bring this subject forward in our church and in our community since the proportion of diversity is so small in our church and the community.

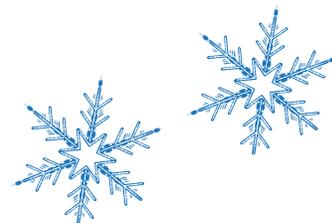
Recently we finished an adult study on the Muslim faith and had excellent discussions as well as a speaker who talked with us about her Muslim faith. The ELCA wants congregations to discuss race relations as well as racial justice in the context of our faith. Are we ready to discuss issues, such as white privilege, inequities of the criminal justice system and even “Black Lives Matter”? I think we are! Our church home should be the safest of all places to discuss sensitive subjects in the company of our sisters and brothers in Christ!

ERLC is planning a special worship service on January 15th in observance of the Martin Luther King holiday. The following five Sundays, beginning on January 22nd, between worship

services from 9:30-10:30 AM, we will meet in the Community Room downstairs to study “And who is my Neighbor?” as developed by Lutheran Social Services of MN to cover the topics of Race and Racial Equity. You are welcome to get some coffee and some treats upstairs before we begin the study at 9:30AM.

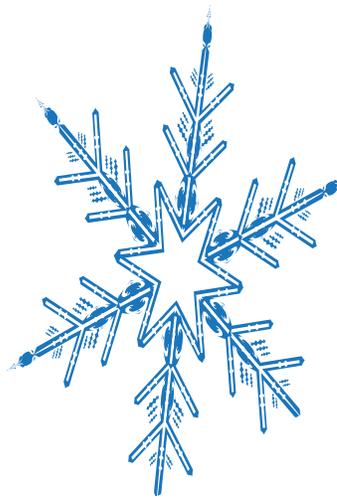
I believe that God is calling us to consider this topic right here & right now at Elk River Lutheran Church! If you are interested in joining us, you can access the lessons on the Lutheran Social Services of MN website by tapping on the link “And Who is My Neighbor?” It would be helpful to review the lesson before the session as our time will be limited but it is not required. We look forward to having you join us as we discuss this important topic.

Carol Vikstrom on behalf of the Adult Education Committee



CYF

Program Schedule



Wednesday Nights

Confirmation

Confirmation classes resume as scheduled at 6:30pm on January 4, 2017 with an Epiphany Party. An updated Confirmation calendar has been sent out to Confirmation families and additional copies are available upon request from the church office.

High School Youth Group

High School youth will also celebrate the New Year and Christmas with an Epiphany Party on January 4, 2017 at 7:30pm. Then the following weeks will include time for discussion about what the youth would like Wednesday nights to look like going forward.

Sunday School

Sunday School starts back up again on Sunday, January 8. Pastor Nathan and the CYF Committee have created a spring calendar for Sunday School, which utilizes our latest Spark curriculum to tell some of the greatest stories from the Bible. Kids will have a lot of fun meeting some of these diverse and interesting characters.

Please note that we will be following the public school calendar, so on most weekends that are a long weekend or school break, we will not have Sunday School.

Long Range Vision for CYF at Elk River Lutheran Church

This month you will start to hear more of the details about the review of the CYF Ministry we will do here. There are three main steps we'll be taking:

- 1) We identify, "What is the overall goal of the CYF ministry here?" (What do we want the end result to be as a high school senior graduates and moves into adulthood?)
- 2) We review what programs we have, and what programs we might want to create, to accomplish our overall goal.
- 3) We determine what kind of staffing we need to create and maintain the programs and culture needed to accomplish our goal.

Please watch for further announcements and plan to participate in these important conversations.

2017 Sunday School Schedule

Sunday Mornings, 9:30am-10:20am

Spark Stories of the Bible

Sundays:

January

- 4 No Sunday School (Christmas Break)
- 8 Paul and Silas- Acts 16:16-40
- 15 No Sunday School (MLK Weekend)
- 22 Mary and Martha- Luke 10:38-40
- 29 Prodigal Son- Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

February

- 5 Zacchaeus- Luke 19:1-10
- 12 Lydia- Acts 16:9-15
- 19 No Sunday School (Presidents Day Weekend)
- 26 Family Sunday School- Baptism (Children sing at both services)

March

- 5 Peter Heals- Acts 3:1-16
- 12 The Last Supper- John 13:1-10
- 19 No Sunday School (Teachers' Conferences School Break)
- 26 Family Sunday School- Holy Communion (First Communion Instruction)

April

- 2 Holy Week- Luke 19:28-40, 22:14-23:56
- 9 Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast- No class, but children sing at both services
- 16 No Sunday School (Easter Sunday/Spring Break)
- 23 The Empty Tomb- Luke 24:1-12
- 30 The Road to Emmaus- Luke 24:13-35

May

- 7 Early Believers- Acts 2:43-47, 4:32-37 (Children all create a Flat Jesus)
- 14 End of the Year Mother's Day Celebration- Children sing at both services

2017 RIC WORSHIP SERVICE, JAN 28

RIC Lutheran Churches

*Providing Sanctuary and welcome
for over 30 years*

Come celebrate with the other 42 RIC Lutheran
RIC congregations in the twin cities as we

“ReAwaken the Welcome”

Saturday, January 28, 2017. 4:30 PM

at one of the first RIC congregations:

St Paul Reformation Lutheran Church

100 Oxford St N, St Paul, MN 55104

Pastor Margaret Kelly will be preaching

A soup supper will follow the service

and of course
All are welcome!!

Paul Nixdorf

It's time for the annual RIC Worship Service – please join us! Come celebrate with the other 42 RIC Lutheran congregations in the Twin Cities as we "ReAwaken the Welcome":

Saturday, January 28, 2017. 4:30 PM
St Paul Reformation Lutheran Church
100 Oxford St N, St Paul, MN 55104

Pastor Margaret Kelly will be preaching and soup supper will follow the service.
Have any questions or interested in becoming more involved in the RIC? Contact Paul
Nixdorf: [612-296-0055](tel:612-296-0055) pn@paulnixdorf.com

Help Support Our RIC Scholarship Program

For many years, the Lutheran Scholarship Award has helped to enhance the Church's welcome and care for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) persons by sending messages of encouragement and affirmation to LGBT students and their families. We ask for your continued support to ensure that another LGBT student receives the Lutheran Scholarship Award in 2017.

Please Help: Thank you for promoting understanding and inclusivity in the Lutheran Church – will you continue your support by helping us to grow this scholarship? 100% of your contribution will fund the scholarship thanks to a congregational grant that covers administrative costs.

If you have any questions regarding the scholarship, please contact Glenn Choquette: glenn_choquette@yahoo.com

Thank you!

Please Contact **Paul Nixdorf** with any Inquiries.

