

Elk River Lutheran Church Newsletter

March 2018

Pastor's Message

As we enter the month of March we continue in the season of Lent, moving toward Holy Week and Easter morning. Lent is a season of added self-reflection and worship, when we not only gather for worship on Sunday mornings, but also mid-week.

On Wednesdays during Lent we gather in the Community Room at Elk River Lutheran Church at 5:30pm. While gathered, we enjoy a meal, music, scripture, and conversation. These services combine elements of traditional worship and a casual dinner party. The best way to learn what it's all about is to check it out this Wednesday. So, invite a friend or gather your family together and join us for this unique worship experience. Dinner Church will be happening the following Wednesdays: March 7, 14, and 21.

Our Lenten Theme of *"#selfie -- How Our 'Selfs' Can Be Barriers To Faith"* continues on Sundays by exploring "Self-Sufficiency" on March 11 and "Self-Promotion" on March 18.

Then we move into Holy Week with the following schedule:

Holy Week Schedule:

Continued on page 2...

Mark Your Calendar

3.6

Beer & Hymns hosted at
Pour Wine Bar 6:30pm

3.7

Dinner Church at ERLC
5:30pm

3.9

Christian Yoga 10am at
ERLC

3.16

High School Youth Lock-In

3.18

Hymn Sing at Guardian
Angels. 1:00pm

3.25

Palm Sunday w/ Pancake
Breakfast

PSALM 31:9-16

9 Have mercy on me, O Lord,
for I am in trouble; my eye is
consumed with sorrow, and
also my throat and my belly.

10 For my life is wasted with
grief, and my years with
sighing; my strength fails me
because of affliction, and my
bones are consumed.

11 I am the scorn of my
enemies, a disgrace to my
neighbors, a dismay to my
acquaintances; when they see
me in the street they avoid me.

12 Like the dead I am
forgotten, out of mind;

I am as useless as a
broken pot.

13 For I have heard the
whispering of the crowd; fear is
all around; they put their heads
together against me; they plot
to take my life.

14 But as for me, I have
trusted in you, O Lord.

I have said, "You are my
God.

15 My times are in your
hand; rescue me from the
hand of my enemies, and from
those who persecute me.

16 Let your face shine up-on
your servant; save me in your
steadfast love."

**Sunday, March 25 -- 8:15 & 10:30am --
Palm/Passion Sunday**

w/ Youth Pancake Breakfast served 9:00am-Noon

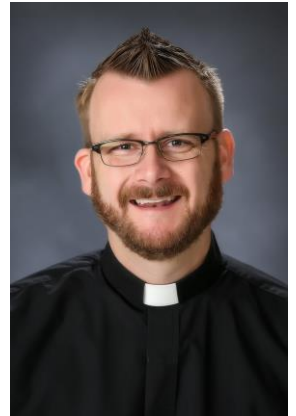
**Thursday, March 29 -- 6:30pm -- Maundy
Thursday Worship**

**Friday, March 30 -- 6:30pm -- Good Friday
Worship: Stations of the Cross**

**Sunday, April 1 -- 8:15 & 10:30am -- Easter
Worship**

I hope you'll join us for these special worship
services.

-Pastor Nathan Mugaas



Children, Youth & Family

There will be a 1st Communion class on *Saturday, March 24th* from *10:00 AM - noon*. During this time, we will be exploring the history and significance of what it means to be invited to Christ's table. In addition, we will be baking bread and sampling some of the food that was at the Last Supper. This will be the final class in preparation for the students' *First Communion* during the Maundy Thursday service beginning at *6:30 PM* on *Thursday, March 29th*.

Attention Sr. High Youth!!! We will be having another *Lock-In* on *Friday, March 16th*. The evening will begin with a trip to Feed My Starving Children. We will leave the church no later than **5:30 PM** for our scheduled time of 6:00-7:30 PM. We will then return to the church for a night of fun, food and fellowship. Please *RSVP* to Martha by *Sunday, March 11th*.

*We have some available spots for our

trip to Feed My Starving Children in Coon Rapids on Friday, March 16th. We are scheduled from 6:00-7:30 PM. Please contact Martha (childrenyouthfamily.eric@gmail.com or 763.595.1216) by Sunday, March 11th if you and your family would like to join us!*

Don't miss *the Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast!* From *9:00 AM - noon* we will be serving delicious pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee. Free will offering will be going to support our youth who will be attending the National Youth Gathering this summer in Houston.

Although there will be no LiFT! on Palm Sunday (March 25th), our LiFT! **children will be singing during both services** and you'll want to come and enjoy some pancakes!

There is no LiFT! on Easter Sunday.

Treasurer's Report

January 2018 Financials

January Expenses: \$37,459.94

January Income: \$29,131.80

Building Fund Balance: \$102,510.28

Dedicated Fund Balance: \$37,160.08


Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Wornson

Hospitality Committee

We started out the New Year with four of our nine members heading south for the winter. We postponed meetings until the first Monday in April. Our Fellowship Coffee Hour has seen a decrease in volunteers this winter. We realize this is a busy season with school activities, sports, family events and other church related activities. If you are available to help with treats and/or serving during a Sunday Fellowship time, please contact Toby Moe. The list for the month is posted by the telephone in the café area with the next month. Every Sunday will show a coordinator and the servers for that month. One will also receive an email or schedule in the mail two –three weeks before. We have decreased the number per week to four servers due to lack of volunteers. The telephone numbers of coordinators and servers are listed also. Please call your coordinator if you are unable to work your scheduled day or find someone to change with.

We have had an increase in Dare Funeral Luncheons the past two months. Our committee serves and cleans-up after the luncheon. Usually a coordinator and four-five workers are needed to work from 2-4 hours. It has been difficult to find workers and have repeatedly used the same individuals. The luncheons are held in the church community room on various days of the week. The meals are catered; however, the team serves. If you can consider working during this Outreach Service by our church, please contact Toby Moe or Sandy Krumwiede.

Thank you to all who have so graciously donated time, effort and treats. It is through the many volunteers that the Hospitality Committee is successful.



***“Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful
Spirit.”***

-Psalm 51:12

President's Message

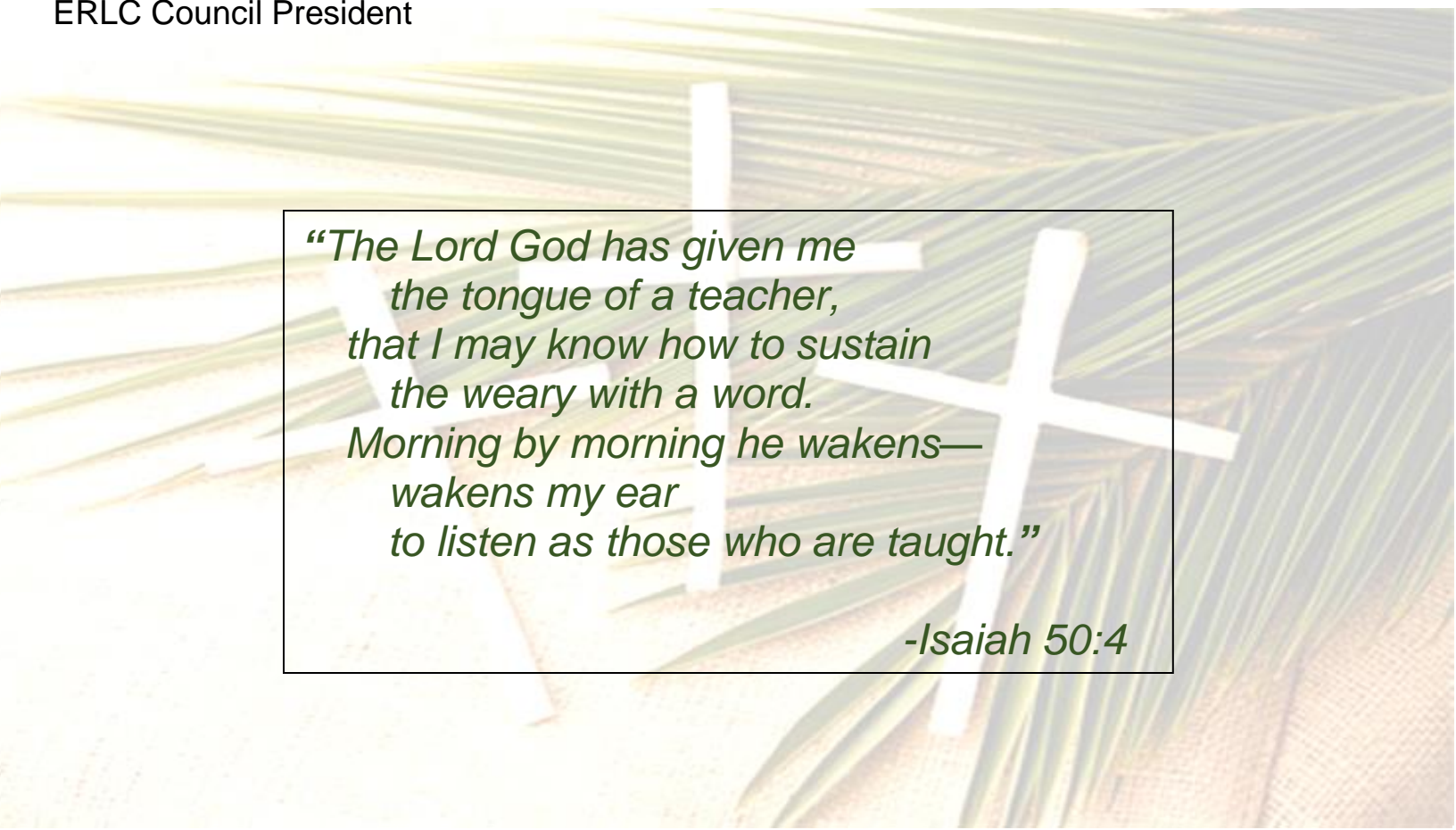
The 2018 ERLC Congregation Council will be installed on Sunday, March 11, at both services. The words of installation recognize the mutual ministry of those who have been elected to the council and the members of the congregation. Our commitment is to our work together for the mission and ministry of ERLC.

With the election of new members, the Council updated the ERLC Teams contact list. The Council contacts are: Brian McFarlane – Facilities, Mark Schwarze – CYF, Hospitality – Jodie Dahlheimer, Adult Faith Formation – Cathryn Lessard, Worship & Music – John Natwick.

When I was elected to the ERLC Council last year, I was impressed by the idea of a Listening Session with the Council. Each month the Council agenda provides the opportunity for a listening session with a member of congregation or a visitor. A member may present information of interest for the mission of ERLC. The intent is to listen to new ideas or concerns without comment or discussion by the Council. The information may be considered by the Council later or directed to one of the Teams. Members of ERLC have a standing invitation!

During this Lenten season of contemplation and yet joyful gathering for our Dinner Church on Wednesday evenings, we give thanks for your prayerful support of the work and members of the ERLC Council.

Blessings,
Kari Christianson
ERLC Council President



*“The Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he awakens—
awakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.”*

-Isaiah 50:4

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars

Wednesday's during
Lent starting at 5:30pm

DINNER CHURCH

everyone is welcome to the table

FOOD. FELLOWSHIP. SCRIPTURE

Join us for...

Beer & Hymns

Tuesday, March 6th 6:30pm
Held at Pour Wine Bar and Bistro

Drink Slowly . Sing Joyfully . Make Friends



8 week Christian
Yoga Classes
Starting, Friday,
March 9th
10am

Class appropriate for
all skill levels

\$60/8-week class
\$10/drop in class



To register, contact Sue Montague 612-532-4682

THRIVENT FINANCIAL
Getting rich & happy in your 401k

Get tips to maximize retirement income and create an estate strategy

Tuesday, March 13th - 2:30 or 6:30
Elk River Lutheran Church
720 Main Street NW
Elk River, MN 55330

Thursday, March 15 - 2:30 or 6:30
Central Lutheran Church
1103 School Street NW
Elk River, MN 55330

Thursday, March 22 - 2:30 or 6:30
Saron Lutheran Church
311 Lake Street S
Big Lake, MN 55309

Join us for a free workshop!

SAFE AND SOUND: STEPS TOWARD A SECURE RETIREMENT

Retirement is something more of us look forward to with anticipation. Sure that anticipation this action by assessing your retirement income sources and discovering tips to maximize your Social Security benefits. Plus, consider ways to leave something to those you care about.

These sessions are hosted by Thrivent Financial, Brenda Rouse, and feature Thrivent Financial guest speaker and 5 Star Wealth Manager, David Jackson, CFP®, CLU®, ChFC.

Please call Val at 763-633-5300 or email val.jackson@thrivent.com to reserve a place for yourself and a guest. Refreshments will be served.

Thrivent Financial is a company and its growth responsibility organization of individuals, offering a full suite of financial products and services. While Thrivent Financial does not intend to provide any advice or a full 401k plan, please consult your advisor for more information.

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Thrivent Financial is offering a FREE workshop: Safe and Sound, Steps toward a secure retirement. Choose from one of the 6 times offered...

Tuesday March 13th
2:30 OR 6:30 @ ERLC
Thursday March 15
2:30 OR 6:30 @ Central Lutheran
Tuesday March 22nd
2:30 OR 6:30 @ Saron Lutheran

Registration is required by calling Val @ 763-633-5300

Join us, **Monday, March 19th** 6:30-8:30pm as ERLC hosts Rev. Nancy Nord Bence, Executive Director of Protect Minnesota for a community forum on gun violence prevention.

Protect Minnesota promotes a culture of health and safety for all Minnesotans by preventing gun violence through effective laws, policies, and community education.



LIFE Groups Are Coming Again Soon!

In April we'll kick off our second round of LIFE Groups (sermon-based small groups). If you were in a group last time you may want to regather that group for this time, or you may want to join/form a new group and connect with different people. Either option is good. There is an advantage in groups staying together, because you start with a level of personal comfort that allows you to go deep quicker but joining a new group and getting to know more people has its advantages too.

If you were not in a LIFE Group last fall you are encouraged to consider starting or joining a group. It usually works best to find or form a group with at least one or two people you know (even if you don't know them well), so you can feel a little more comfortable going into it.

In this spring's round of LIFE Groups, we'll be asking the question, "What do we do as God's Church?" We begin by acknowledging that this is not my church or your church, but God's Church.

This spring we are doing the important work of discerning our congregation's future with the help from Jim LaDoux, our Congregational Coach from Vibrant Faith Ministries. We enter this process not just by asking "Who is Elk River Lutheran Church?" but also asking "Who is God calling us to be?" To aid in our discernment this sermon series explores some of the key things we do as God's Church: Gather, Grow, Give, Go. These weekly themes are meant to spark great conversation for our LIFE Groups (small groups) and help everyone in the congregation reflect on how we are being called to be God's Church together.

What do we do as God's Church?

4/15 God's Church:

4/22 Gather

4/29 Go

5/6 Give

5/13 Grow

Our Adult Faith Formation Team is currently reconnecting with past LIFE Group leaders and hosts and will be searching for additional leaders and hosts for new groups. If you have questions, contact Pastor Nathan at the church.

SMALL CATECHISM: On Sunday, February 18th, a class was launched Sundays between services to discuss the Small Catechism. The discussion is being led by Pastor Myron Grams. This **six-week course** is to revisit what we remember about the catechism and to discuss some of the questions that come up in our daily lives related to the **Ten Commandments**, the **Creed**, and the **Petitions of The Lord's Prayer**. Based upon the discussions so far, some interesting questions have been raised and it serves as a good refresher on these familiar pieces of our faith. All are welcome to attend!

EQUAL RIGHT AMENDMENT (ERA): The movie "Equal Means Equal" related to the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was shown at church on Sunday, March 4th. It was very informative and eye-opening about the issues women and girls face in America. Many people believe that the ERA was passed years ago but in fact only 30 states ratified the Equal Right Amendment and by June 13, 1982 the final tally was taken 35 of the required 38 states ratified it so this amendment was never put into law. The lack of the ERA amendment means in many areas of a woman's life (equal pay for equal work, the right to return to your job after having a baby, battered women are often not protected so are forced to stay with the abuser...) these are just some of the consequences of not having ratified the ERA. If you have an interest in viewing this important film, it is available on AMAZON PRIME.

DINNER CHURCH: A new way of having Lenten services combined with a good meal, singing, scripture readings and sermon chat notes along with great conversation, began the Wednesday, February 21st, after Ash Wednesday. It runs from 5:30-6:30. Dinner Church has been well-received so if you haven't had the chance to experience this opportunity we hope you will join us next Wednesday to give it a try.