

# ERLC

*March 2017*  
Monthly Newsletter

## ASH WEDNESDAY

*Ash Wednesday occurs 46 days before Easter  
(40 days not counting Sundays).*

**Ash Wednesday** March 1\* Schedule  
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

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## Lenten Themes ERLC 2017

### 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

8:15am & 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

6:30am- Easter Sunrise Worship  
8:15am- Easter Worship, Traditional  
10:30am- Easter Worship, Contemporary

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**Lent**  
A SEASON FOR REFLECTION  
A SEASON FOR REFLECTION



## Pastor's Message

Lent is a church season that begins Ash Wednesday and runs through Holy Week (the week leading up to Easter). It is a season of reflection and repentance; a time when we reflect on the sacrifice Jesus has made for us and we consider how we live our lives in response to his sacrifice (turning away from sin and striving to live a more Godly life).

For many hundreds of years Christians have embraced this time of reflection and repentance by practicing certain spiritual disciplines during Lent. Different traditions name and layout the common spiritual practices of Lent in different ways, but they boil down to these three areas: Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving. I encourage you, during this season of Lent, to take up these practices in some shape or form.

First, prayer. Taking additional, intentional time for prayer during your day is a great thing to do during Lent. Prayer can also include the practice of reading the Bible or devotions. During the season of Lent we continue our regular worship schedule (Sunday at 8:15 and 10:30am), but we also gather for worship on Wednesday evening at 7:00pm, offering additional opportunity for worship and prayer as a whole congregation.

Next, fasting is a willing abstinence or reduction from some or all food, drink, or both, for a period of time, and this looks different within different traditions. Many of us have Catholic friends, who don't eat meat on Fridays during Lent and that is a form of fasting. Also the practice of giving something up for Lent (choosing a food, drink, or practice to go without during Lent) is also a form of fasting. Going without sometime that you enjoy or are used to having creates a noticeable void, and the void that creates can be filled with time for prayer and reflection on God's grace.

Finally, almsgiving is literally giving money or food to the poor. These days this often takes the shape of donations to institutions and organizations, like churches or charities, who help those who are less fortunate. Almsgiving can also include giving of your time and volunteering, or reaching out to help a neighbor or friend who you know could use an extra hand.

Each of these three spiritual practices, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, in all their different forms, can help lead you into a deeper time of reflection during Lent. I hope you will consider embracing these practices as we together journey through the season of Lent.

Peace, Pastor Nathan Mugaas

*Mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord. (Ps. 32:10)*

The 2017 ERLC council will be installed at both services on March 11. We have three new members, Ron Westrum, Mark Schwarze and Kari Christianson. Ron will be the new council representative for facilities, Mark for CYF and Kari is our new vice president.

We were pleased to be able to tell the congregation at the yearly meeting that our finances seem to have stabilized. Last year our expenses were kept in line with our budget thanks to our ministry teams. This will allow the board to go forward and concentrate more on our mission work both locally and outside our community.

March brings us to lent in the church year and with it our FAMOUS SOUP SUPPERS. Please join us before each Wednesday night service beginning at 6:45. We will try to keep the road kill

soups to a minimum. There is a free will offering with the donations going to Open Door (70%) and CYF (30%). The new goal this year is to raise \$2000.00 dollars so please be generous.

I think I can speak for the board when I say this year looks both exciting and challenging. We have work that will bring us into new territory for this congregation. We have done so well up to this point now the challenge is to go forward and keep growing and at the same time doing God's work. The leaders are eager to do this but we need YOU to support us, so please bring your concerns to us and a prayer once in awhile wouldn't hurt.

In God We Trust,  
Greg Pouliot  
ERLC Council President  
councilpresident.erlc@gmail.com

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## Treasurer's Report

### January 2017 Financials

Giving Needed Weekly: \$8,182.70  
Jan. Monthly Expenses: \$28,514.33  
Jan. Monthly Income: \$31,981.83  
Building Fund: \$98,955.41  
Dedicated Fund Balance: \$34,788.66

Thank you for your generosity!



## **Children, Youth, and Family (CYF) Ministry Visioning and Dreaming Forums**

**A Forum asking: *What are our big hopes and dreams for CYF ministry at Elk River Lutheran Church?***

**Sunday, March 5th at 9:30am in the Community Room**

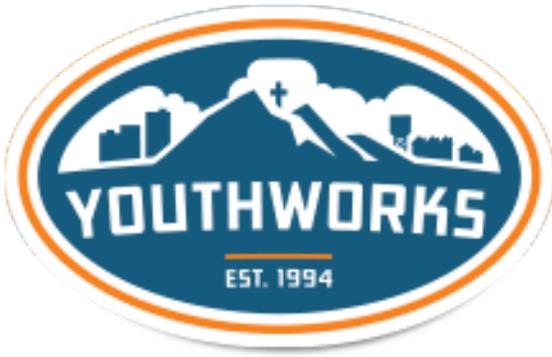
We are excited to be asking the big questions about our hopes and dreams for the Children, Youth, and Family (CYF) ministry here at Elk River Lutheran Church. Certainly those families with children and youth are encouraged to attend this forum, but the “Family” in Children, Youth, and Family is more 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.

**A Forum on Family Sunday School led by Amy Kippen**

**Sunday, March 19 at 9:25am in the Community Room**

Amy Kippen is a first-year student at Luther Seminary studying to become an ordained pastor and also works for Faith Inkubators as a writer and trainer. In August, she left her ministry with families at Faith Lutheran in West Fargo, ND, where she had been for over ten years. Amy's passion is for parents and children being together in faith, and helping parents and church become the best of partners and allies in raising great kids who love and serve God. Amy joins us to share her church's story of becoming a pioneer in the move away from the traditional classroom education model of faith formation. Faith Lutheran stopped doing Sunday school almost twenty years ago, and instead gathers kids of all ages together each week, along with their parents for a fun and engaging family experience. Amy will share with us the many things her church learned and the countless ways families were blessed through this shift. Amy is mom to Nicole, who, like her mom, began graduate study this past fall. In her spare time (which is very minimal because Greek is hard!), Amy enjoys singing, long conversations, and traveling (even with a busload of youth!).

All members of Elk River Lutheran (whether you have young children or not) are encouraged to attend.



**Elk River Lutheran Church  
Summer Youth Trip\* to Martin, SD**

**July 22-28, 2017**

**Cost: \$495**

\*For youth currently in grades 8-12.

This summer trip will be an amazing opportunity for ERLC youth to serve and to learn. We will leave Elk River on Saturday, July 22 and spend the first night in Sioux Fall, SD. Then we'll spend five nights at our Youthworks site in Martin, SD (for more information on Martin see the back page). Here is some of what we'll be doing while we're there:

- Serve through painting, cleaning, yard work or other simple work projects.
- Plan and lead kids programming for children in the community, including Bible lessons, games, crafts and reading.

We'll finish in Martin, SD on Friday, July 28 and drive home full of stories about our week and the people we met.

To sign up, fill out a registration form (available from the church office) and pay the \$100 deposit.

Contact Pastor Nathan with questions.

Registration forms and deposits due by March 15.



Hello All, on a daily basis I try to listen to podcasts, music, and audio books for inspiration. I often feel anxious so I try to find aural aids to help me calm down and be ready for each day. Krista Tippett's recent book "*Becoming Wise - An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living*" is one to which I often return. While I do have the hard copy, I also purchased the audiobook version. This past month I was listening to the Chapter she labeled *Flesh*. On it she interviewed a man named Matthew Sanford. He's a renowned yoga instructor who, by a paralyzing accident when he was 14 years old, has been bound to a wheelchair since then. In Krista's interview with him, Mr. Sanford talked about how the body, despite external setbacks and its own weaknesses, is always "moving toward living". "Your body, for as long as it can, will be faithful to living".

As I heard this I thought of how we as a faith community are called "the body of Christ". As a body we too are "faithful to living". When we experience setbacks, pain, and loss, we still are committed to life. We gather around each other like white blood cells around a foreign entity and seek to heal. We acknowledge we have been hurt and experience pain, but we continue to gather around each other in love and grace.

I will be the first to admit that I'm not perfect. Even sometimes I can be the foreign entity in a body that's trying to heal; yet I know I'm not alone. We all cause hurt and pain sometimes. But I also think we cause healing and peace too. I think as a body of faithful people we are always "moving toward living", faithful to being each other's white blood cells.

Every newsletter I think about writing something that's inspired me from the past month. I don't know if I can do it every month BUT I had to share something this month. I hope you're inspired as much as I am by Matthew's insight.

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For every newsletter I try to inform you about what's happening in the music ministry as well. Over February a couple groups were formed to share their musical gifts with you on Easter Sunday. A chime ensemble appeared a couple times for the 1st service, and now will be gearing up to play handbells for you on Easter Sunday. A small instrumental ensemble met on the last Sunday of February to play through some songs. They will be preparing something special for Easter as well. If you or someone you know is interested in playing with one of these special groups, reach out to me. I'd love to have you join.

During the season of Lent these ensembles, as well as the choir and the worship band, will be getting ready for Resurrection Day. Also during Lent, we as a congregation will be experiencing some new music during our worship services. While Bea, Nathan, and I honor you by choosing familiar songs, we also have programmed a few new songs for you learn through the promise-filled journey of Lent. I hope all of you are inspired and uplifted by the music ministry this month.

See you Sunday,  
Taylor

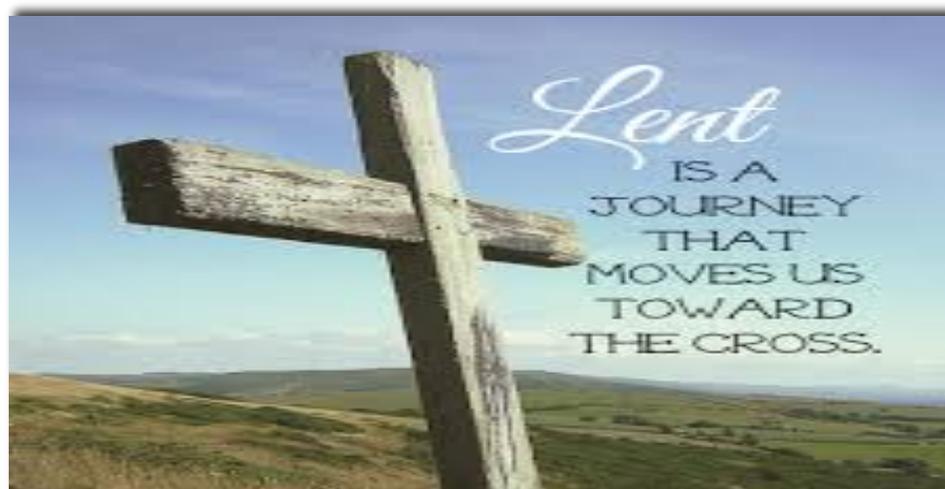


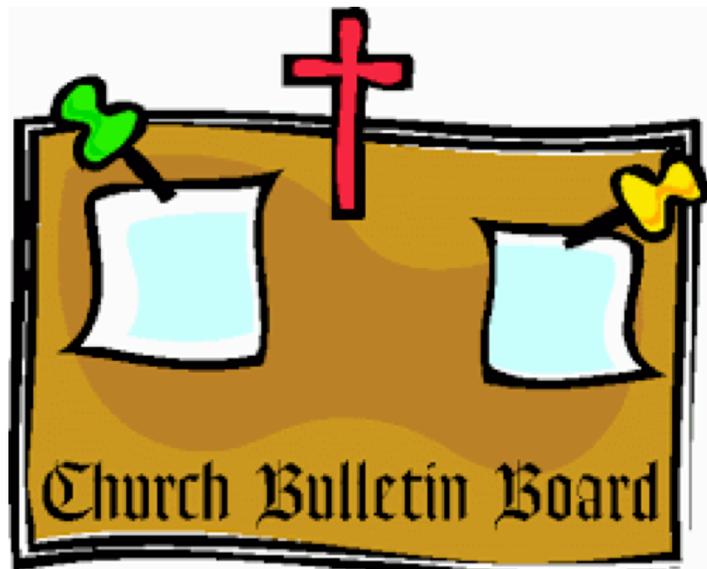
## *8:15 Service Volunteers*

<b>MARCH VOLUNTEERS</b>	<b>3/5/17</b>	<b>3/12/17</b>	<b>3/19/17</b>	<b>3/26/17</b>
<b>8:15 Service</b>				
<b>GREETERS</b>	Bev Weidner	Phyllis Ferguson	Ardelle Dahlin	Kari Christianson
	Herm Weidner	Les Ferguson	Chuck Cazett	Milo Christianson
<b>USHERS</b>	Pam Johnson	Adam Horner	Darrell Gildenmeister	Chuck Cazett
	Glenn Johnson	Audrey Horner	Bob Krumwiede	Jane Cazett
	Erin Roppe	Vicki Simpson	Julie Haugen	Jim Nord
	Hunter Wolcenski	Doug Mathison	Herm Weidner	Tom Werk
<b>LECTOR</b>	Dale Ziner	Don Wille	Phyllis Scroggins	Kelly Otto
<b>STEWARD</b>	Rich Swanson	Pam Black	Jim Acers	Don Wille
<b>COMMUNION</b>	Ardelle Dahlin	Tom Werk	Carol Black	Julie Haugen
<b>SERVERS</b>	Myron Grams	Lori Schulstad-Werk	Kari Christianson	Conni Natwick
	Shirley Peterson	Vicki Simpson	Milo Christianson	John Natwick
<b>BASKETS</b>	Grant Lundquist	Vailet Kremer	Audrey Horner	Grant Lundquist
	Delaney Lundquist	Katherine Horner	Katherine Horner	Vailet Kremer
<b>COMMUNION</b>	Barb Burandt	Nettie DuBois	Delphine Dietz	Adam/Kelli Horner
<b>FILL</b>				
<b>TREATS COORD.</b>	<b>Sandy Krumwiede</b>	<b>Charee Wagonfeil- Cain</b>	<b>Toby Moe</b>	<b>Jennifer Tesdahl</b>
	Carol Black	Julie Haugen	Conni Natwick	Donna Mathison
	Mary Hansen	Jean Holt	Gwen Krizek	Kate Woodfill
	<b>DONUT</b>		<b>DONUT</b>	
	<b>SUNDAY</b>		<b>SUNDAY</b>	

## *10:30 Service Volunteers*

<b>10:30 SERVICE</b>	<b>3/5/17</b>	<b>3/12/17</b>	<b>3/19/17</b>	<b>3/26/17</b>
<b>GREETERS</b>	Sarah Auel	Martha Hippe	Joe Livingston	Debby Pouliot
	John Auel	Brian McFarlane	Kerry Livingston	Greg Pouliot
<b>USHERS</b>	Paul Baumgarten	Joe Livingston	Steve Brosko	Dennis Hove
	Rick Bock	Gabe Livingston	TJ Budish	Amy Harth
	Judy Lipka	Mike Livingston	Alana Budish	Tom Wingard
	Matt Rotz	Rich Swanson	Becca Weber	LuAnn Wingard
<b>LECTOR</b>	Amelia Weber	Grace Livingston	Harry Maher	Martha Hippe
<b>STEWARD</b>	Martha Hippe	Brad Tesdahl	Darin Dalzell	Toby Moe
<b>COMMUNION SERVERS</b>	Jackie Anderson	Greg Pouliot	Sue Sass	Joe Livingston
	Greg Pouliot	LuAnn Wingard	Janelle Dalzell	Kerry Livingston
	Debby Pouliot	Tom Wingard	Kim Vernon	Jackie Anderson
<b>BASKETS</b>	Erin Auel	Isaiah Budish	Amelia Schwarze	Erin Auel
	Faith Dahlheimer	Ariah Budish	Abigail Schwarze	Grace Livingston
<b>COMMUNION CLEANUP</b>	Nancy Bock	Debby Pouliot	Mary Forster	Toby Moe
			Donna Varty	Marilyn Miller
<b>COMMUNION FILL-mid week</b>	<b>Feb. 27- Mar. 4</b>	<b>Mar. 6- Mar. 11</b>	<b>Mar. 13- Mar. 18</b>	<b>Mar. 20- Mar. 25</b>
	<b>Vicki Simpson</b>	<b>Pat Clear/Pam Black</b>	<b>Jana Lundquist</b>	<b>Shirley Schmidt</b>





**Thrivent Financial Presents  
Planning For Retirement**

**Open to All ERLC Members  
This Thursday March 2<sup>nd</sup> there will be two  
Retirement Workshops presented by  
Fellowship Room  
Two Sessions  
2:30pm- 3:45pm  
6:30pm-7:45pm**

*Thank you*

*We would like to thank everyone for the hugs, cards and support we received when our son Kirk died. It meant the world to us. And, also, a big thank you to those who served lunch after the memorial service. You did a wonderful job.*

*Tom and Kate Woodfill*

**Broadway, Beatles,  
and Boys**

**18 March 2017  
Saturday, 7:30 p.m.**

**Elk River HS - Little Theater  
900 School St. NW, Elk River, MN**

TicketsatLOLCB.org  
and 763-213-8105



In Advance: \$12 Adults, \$10 Seniors At the Door: \$15 Adults, \$12 Seniors Children ages 9 & under: Free

A casual, fun and entertaining concert featuring the music of Broadway musicals and The Beatles, and a live instrumental ensemble. This event is staged and directed by LOLCB Alum, Jack Strub. A concert you won't want to miss!

# The Bulletin Board

## MINNESOTA FOODSHARE MARCH CAMPAIGN BEGINS NOW!

It's time for Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign! CAER's goal this year is 350,000 pounds of food plus cash



donations.

### Trailer Use for Members

Elk River Lutheran owns an enclosed trailer (6'x12') that is available to members for moving or secure hauling. It has rear ramp door and side door for easy loading. Ron Westrum is storing the trailer for the church and is willing to deliver or pickup in the Elk River area. Two weeks advance notice is necessary to reserve the trailer. The trailer can be reserved for up to a week unless otherwise noted.

Contact Ron at: 763 441-4297.



### Office Specialist Position Open

Elk River Lutheran has posted an Office Specialist position.

Elk River Lutheran Church is seeking an organized individual with excellent communication and technological skills to serve the front desk to manage the flow of communication. You can find more information on our facebook page or pick up a copy of the job description at the church; they are on the table just outside the

## Sammy's Pizza Fundraiser is now open!



*The ERLC Youth are now selling Sammy's Pizza and Gift Cards to help raise money to go to Summer Camp!!*

You have the option of

- 1). A \$15 Gift Card,
- 2). Or a \$12/each Pizza or your choice of a Pepperoni, Sausage, Cheese or Primo Pizza



**To order, please find us on Sunday between services  
or email Erin directly @Elroppe67@gmail.com**