Pastor's Message

Breaking of the Bread

There's no real story of the Last Supper in the Gospel of John as we find in the other Gospels. There is no passing of the bread or passing of the cup. Instead we come upon the story of Jesus on his knees washing the disciples feet. Perhaps John realized that after seventy years the other Gospels had been read. He wanted to give a theology of the Lord's Supper that revealed the meaning behind the breaking of the bread.

Peter symbolizes all of us as he protests, "You will never wash my feet!" (John 13:8) but Jesus answers," If I don't wash you, you can have nothing in common with me."

Sometimes we need think we are being heroic in not letting God love us. We want to do the loving thing ourselves. Yet only when Peter capitulates and allows Jesus to minister to him does he experience the meaning of Jesus. He has to let Jesus get down before him as a servant. John is saying Jesus wants to do to that for all of us.
So as we draw to the end of Lent and the start of Holy Week come discover God's love for you.

On Thursday, March 24, Maundy Thursday at 7pm for many of 5th graders and others children will be received no their First Communion and along with families they will participate in stripping of the Altar. Come to the ultimate dinner.

Easter is not possible with out Good Friday, joins us March 25, at 7pm for the retelling of the Passion story through music and God's Word.

Christ is Risen! Come Celebrate at 7am 8:15 and 10:30

Don't forget your Word for the year

Pastor Michelene

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President's Message

The 2016 ERLC Council is off to a productive start. The group attended a work-retreat at ERLC on Feb 6th. With new members and leadership, the team focused on team building, issue setting and developing goals. We are focused on increasing communication, stabilizing finances, training and developing ERLC Staff, growing the Mission of ERLC, supporting ERLC Ministry Teams, supporting the ERLC Call Committee and continuing growing in Christ.

Newly approved polices. Building use must be requested by completing a Building Use Form (contact Office Manager for form) and then also gain approval from ERLC Council.

ERLC Council policy states that all purchases greater than $500 need approval from ERLC Council.

Coming in March

- Updated Finance reporting. Updates in Sunday Bulletin, Graphs and Charts included in electronic bulletin and bulletin boards.
- Financial report review during Education Hour on March 13
- Council to add 3-4 new ERLC Members to Call Committee
- With direct support from Bishop Ann Svennungsen, the ERLC Call Committee's search for a Pastoral Candidate will continue

Please contact myself or your other ERLC Council Members via our emails listed on the ERLC Website.

Praise and Glory to God!
Brad Tesdahl
ERLC Council President
councilpresident.erlc@gmail.com

Treasurer's Report

The 2016 Approved Budget total is $388,911.00.

Average Weekly Giving Needed:	$7,480.00
January Total Expenses:	$40,787.35
January Total Income:	$31,172.50
	-$9,614.85

February Income: $30,908 (as of 2/22/15)

Building Fund Balance: $89,541
Dedicated Fund Balance $15,528

Adam Horner
ERLC Council Treasurer
Councilreasurer.erlc@gmail.com

Who is ready for summer? We are busy planning summer activities that include summer camp, Mission Works, VBS and a Music/drama camp. Our church will be attending camp at Onomia on lake Shakopee in Onamia and Sky Ranch in Colorado. Here are the details for registration:

Grandparent Camp – Spend some time sharing stories, playing games and having fun with your grandkids. You will stay in the retreat center with your grandchild and have three days of getting to know each other in a new way, with God in the mix as you mentor faith. Session runs **Wed. 3pm to Friday 1pm. Completed grades K – 4 and their grandparents. Offered June 22 – June 24. Fee is $220 per person, members who register by March 15 pay $190.**

Beginner's camp – Explore camp with a parent through a short overnight camp experience. Campers attend camp with their guardian and enjoy games and activities with other kids and will stay in the Retreat Center. Session runs **Sunday 3pm to Monday 3pm. Completed grades K-2 with parent. Program fee is $50 per person, members who register by March 15 pay $45. Deposit is $50.**

Pioneers camp – Great first time camp experience for younger campers ready to be away from home for a few days! Camp is filled with fun, games, s'smores, songs, crafts, swimming and faith building. Bring the Bible alive through stories. Session runs Sunday 3pm to Tuesday 7pm. Completed grades 1st– 3rd. Program is **June 19 – June 21. Fee is $225, members register by March 15 pay $200.**

Explorers camp – All of the best stuff camp has to offer is packed into a week of awesome activities and new friends! We will be busy with crafts, games, swimming, other rec options, and worship and bible lessons. Completed grades 3rd – 6th. Program is **June 19 – 24. Fee is $440, members register by March 15 pay $400.**

Confirmation camp – Those who are currently in confirmation, take your faith to the next level! Join others as we dig deeper in your faith while enjoying our canoes and paddle boards… or spend some quality time kicking back with friends. Program is **June 12 – 17 program fee is $440, members register by March 15 pay $400.**

Please find more information on the web at www.camponomia.org Please turn in registration and deposits to Laura Babneau. We will hear more about camp on Camp Sunday January 31. We will have plenty of fundraising opportunities, and bring a friend to camp!

The high school kids will be attending camp in Colorado! We will be staying at Sky Ranch. The camp is located in the heart of Roosevelt National Forest and Rocky Mountains National Park. We will meet new friends; develop new skills while discovering our gifts and growing in faith. We experience high and low ropes courses, spend a say serving others, and finish the week white water rafting! We will attend camp on **July 10 – July 15.** The cost of camp is **$410 + the cost of transportation and spending money. A $100 deposit is required. Please see Laura for registration information.** Come discover what God has given you!

We have many fundraising opportunities for summer camp! Here are just a few we have so far:

- Lent soup supper donations
- March 14, Buffalo Wild Wings 11:00am – 9:00pm
- March 20 CYF Pancake breakfast all proceeds going to camp
- Varty's Greenhouse Sale for CYF date to be determined
- Please consider attending camp! We are encouraging you bring a friend along!

cyf
EAT WINGS. RAISE FUNDS.
On the day listed below, present this ticket to your server and Buffalo Wild Wings® will donate 10%* of your total bill (not including tax, gratuity or promotional discounts) to our organization.
Buffalo Wild Wings strives to support our community and the organizations and sports teams within it. Together we can make a positive impact and help keep our community working and playing together.
(Show this ticket to your server on the date & time listed below.)
ELK RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH-CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY TEAM
March 14, 2016 • 11:00 AM
775 Freeport Ave. Elk River Mall • Elk River, MN • 763-241-9464
ADMIT ONE
BUFFALO WILD WINGS

Pancake Breakfast
PALM SUNDAY
ERLC Children, Youth & Family will be hosting a Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast on March 20 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

OPEN DOORS
OPEN HOUSE
Celebrating Our First Year and our gratitude to donors, volunteers and service providers.
WHEN
March 10, 2016
10am-2pm
WHERE
564 3rd Street #201
Elk River
Sharing Our Newly Expanded Center which will allow us to better serve our youth.
Kicking Off Our Fundraiser
MAKE CHANGE HAPPEN
Goal: $25,000 by June 1st
Bring a friend - All are invited
OPEN DOORS
763-441-1473
www.OpenDoorsForYouth.org

Music Ministries

Every newsletter I wanted to write about the symbols we use and do while in a worship service. Every week, Michelene lifts her hands to present of bread and wine. She also lifts her hands to bless you as a congregation. Why does she do that? What if we were asked to lift our hands?

On February 7th & 21st, Michelene and I held a couple "Worship Dialogs" after service. These were intended to get your input on the 10:30 service, and discuss it. One of the points of discussion was the act of lifting one's hands while singing, praying, or meditating about God. An individual said that lifting their hands helped them feel like they were praising God. What would lifting your hands do for you? Whether it's completely outstretched to the heavens or simply opening up the palms at waist level, why would YOU do that? What would it mean? What would it symbolize for you?

Last month I mentioned a portion of my religious upbringing. The church I grew up within encouraged raising hands. Although it wasn't explained at length when I was younger, I eventually learned that it was a symbol of giving up control or admitting vulnerability to God. What would happen if, instead of folding to your hands to pray, you would open your hands to pray? What would that mean?

As our church just celebrated our RIC status, we are reminded that we welcome ALL; *all* meaning those who display their faith through physical actions such as kneeling or lifting hands. The culture of ERLC is to welcome not only the marginalized but to welcome different ways one expresses their emotions before God.

"Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve, O Lamb of God I come, I come."

So those are my thoughts for you. Think about them while we journey through Lent and prepare yourselves for *Holy Week*.

Speaking of *Holy Week*, I wanted to also let you know of a couple things we're planning:

On March 20th *Palm Sunday*, there's a good chance we will have a special musical guest visit us for the 8:15am service. For our 10:30am service, the Sunday school kids will sing and we'll be blessed with another special music gift. Each service will end with a "Passion" element, ushering us into the anticipation of *Maundy Thursday*, *Good Friday*, and *Easter Sunday*. During the evening service of *Maundy Thursday*, we will learn about the Seder meal and strip the altar. The service ends with a Taize-style song, and continues that style for *Good Friday* with a harp and piano. Finally, for Easter Sunday, we will finally be able to exclaim "Hallelujah!" again with the choir singing that famous Handel piece.

Until then, soak in the moments for Lent.

Taylor Quinn
Director of Music Ministries
Directorofmusicministry09@gmail.com

New Members

Kathy Hanning (top right)

Eric & Stephanie,
Hadley & Hudson Schmidt
(top left)

Joel & Rachel,
Logan & Lauren Zacher
(bottom right)

Steve & Christy,
Henry & Hannah Boese
(bottom left)

Not pictured:
Burnette Domier
Tabetha & Travis Kallsen

Adult Education Series

I was thrilled to be able to participate recently, with so many of you, in our second annual Reconciling in Christ worship service. I am proud of our congregation that we have been willing to step out in faith to openly welcome LGBT people to full inclusion in the life of our church. I hope that you were as inspired as I was by the music, the liturgy and the preaching of Rev. Anita Hill on that Sunday.

In light of so many things that we heard in Pastor Hill's sermon and many of the things that we have been hearing in the news lately, I hope you are ready to extend that understanding and that welcome more broadly to other marginalized groups in our community. We believe that this is what the people of God are called to do. To put it bluntly: we need to talk about race. Our national ELCA body and our Minneapolis area synod are making an effort to take this issue on openly. This can be a sensitive area in predominately white, middle-class, fifth ring exurban areas like Elk River, but we need to begin a conversation with our brothers and sisters in Christ about issues of race. We simply need to educate ourselves!

Pastor Michelene, along with the adult education committee here at church, are planning a series of events, hoping to involve as many of our members as possible, during the next few months. Stay tuned, this should get interesting and exciting!

Carol Vikstrom

MINNESOTA FOODSHARE MARCH CAMPAIGN BEGINS NOW!

It's time for Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign! CAER's goal this year is 135,000 in pounds of food and cash donations. Here are some of the items that we need to restock our shelves:

Peanut Butter
Chunky Soups
Pasta Sides
Canned Meats
Vegetable Oil
Paper Towels

Minnesota FoodShare
March Campaign

2016 Elk River Lutheran Church Council

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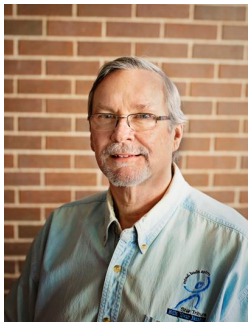

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Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 20 – Worship Services at 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Maundy Thursday, March 24 – Worship Service at 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday, March 25 – Worship Service at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, March 27
Worship Services at 6:30 a.m., 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Easter Flowers are available to order now through March 13.
Cost is $16 per plant, which will come from the Spring Garden collection...
possible plants are azaleas, cyclamens, calla lilies, hydrangeas or spring bulb
(depending on availability).
Order forms are available in the Fellowship Hall or in the Church office.
Please place order forms in the colored envelopes.
You can also order online at www.elkriverlutheran.org

ERLC Calendar, Contacts, cloud@lolcb.org, Holidays in United States, LOLCB Family Calendar

Mar 2016 (Central Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	1 7:30am - BNI @ 9:30am - Bible Study @ 9:30am - Quilting Group @ 1:30pm - Staff Meeting 6pm - Prep Choir @ 6:30pm - Concert Choir @ 6:30pm - Training Choir @	2 7:30am - Opportunity 5:45pm - Lenten Soup 7pm - Lenten Service 7:30pm - ERLC Choir	3 4pm - ISD728 Meeting @ 7pm - Men's Chorus @ 7pm - The Way Out (AA) @	4	5 8am - Men's Bible Study 9am - Concert Choir @ 9am - Picture Day @ 9am - Training Choir @ 12:15pm - Officer Meeting 4pm - Ski & Tubing @
6 4th Sunday of Lent 8:15am - Traditional 9:30am - Sunday School 10:30am - Contemporary 2pm - LOLCB Board 6:30pm - CYF HS Youth	7 5:30pm - Hospitality 6:30pm - CPR Group @ 6:30pm - Facilities 7pm - Men's Bible Study	8 7:30am - BNI @ 9:30am - Bible Study @ 9:30am - Quilting Group @ 1:30pm - Staff Meeting 3pm - Small Group Bible 6pm - Prep Choir @ 6:30pm - Concert Choir @	9 7:30am - Opportunity 5:45pm - Lenten Soup 7pm - Lenten Service 7:30pm - ERLC Choir	10 4pm - ISD728 Meeting @ 7pm - Men's Chorus @ 7pm - The Way Out (AA) @	11	12 8am - Men's Bible Study 9am - Concert Choir @ 9am - Training Choir @
13 Daylight Saving Time 8:15am - Traditional 9:30am - AED Training 9:30am - Sunday School 10:30am - Contemporary 11:30am - First 6:30pm - CYF HS Youth	14 11am - CYF Buffalo Wild 7pm - Men's Bible Study	15 7:30am - BNI @ 9:30am - Bible Study @ 9:30am - Quilting Group @ 1:30pm - Staff Meeting 6pm - Executive Council @ 6:30pm - Concert Choir @ 6:30pm - Training Choir @	16 7:30am - Opportunity 5:45pm - Lenten Soup 7pm - Lenten Service 7:30pm - ERLC Choir	17 St Patrick's Day 7pm - Men's Chorus @ 7pm - The Way Out (AA) @	18	19 Host Central Minnesota Minnesota State Boys' 8am - Men's Bible Study 9am - Concert Choir @ 9am - Training Choir @ 12:30pm - LOLCB Staff
20 Host Central Minnesota Kids Sing@both services Palm Sunday Palm Sunday Pancake 8:15am - Traditional 9:30am - Sunday School 10:30am - Contemporary 6:30pm - CYF HS Youth	21 7pm - Men's Bible Study	22 7:30am - BNI @ 9:30am - Bible Study @ 9:30am - Quilting Group @ 1:30pm - Staff Meeting 3pm - Small Group Bible 6pm - Prep Choir @ 6:30pm - Concert Choir @ 6:30pm - Training Choir @	23 7:30am - Opportunity 6:30pm - ERLC Choir	24 1st Communion - 5th Maundy Thursday 7pm - (Postpone due to 7pm - Maundy Thursday 7pm - The Way Out (AA) @	25 Good Friday 7pm - Good Friday	26 8am - Men's Bible Study
27 Easter Sunday 6:30am - Sunrise Service 8:15am - Traditional 10:30am - Contemporary	28 Church Office Closed 7pm - Men's Bible Study	29 7:30am - BNI @ 9:30am - Bible Study @ 9:30am - Quilting Group @ 1:30pm - Staff Meeting 6pm - Prep Choir @ 6:30pm - Concert Choir @ 6:30pm - Training Choir @	30 7:30am - Opportunity 6:30pm - Confirmation 6:30pm - ERLC Choir 7:30pm - High School	31 2:30pm - Thrivent 6:30pm - Thrivent 7pm - Men's Chorus @ 7pm - The Way Out (AA) @	1	2

Blood Drive

Sponsored by:

Thrivent Financial – David Jackson

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

1506 Main St, Elk River

Monday, March 7th • 1:00 – 7:00 pm

Appt/Info:

1-800-RED-CROSS (733-2767) or visit

www.redcrossblood.org enter

Sponsor Code: Thrivent Financial Elk River

Please Bring Photo ID or Donor Card

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