



H E I S R I S E N

C E L E B R A T E T H E S A V I O R

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



Palm Sunday, April 9

8:15 & 10:30am--Worship

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

Maunder Thursday, April 13

7:00 pm Worship Service

Good Friday, April 14

7:00 pm Worship Service

Easter Sunday, April 16

6:30 am Sunrise Worship Service

8:15 am Traditional Worship Service

10:30 am Contemporary Worship Service

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President's Message

Exciting news for April

I would like everyone to welcome our new Visitation Pastor Carolyn Philstrom. Carolyn was born in St. Paul and attended St. Olaf College. While enrolled at Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago she met and married her husband Rory. Together they served their first call in Stanley, North Dakota. Rory answered a call in September and became lead pastor at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Bloomington. This August Carolyn will start a yearlong chaplain residency at Fairview Riverside hospital. Until then she will be with us and take on several roles including: visiting and bringing communion to homebound members, hospital visits, assisting at funerals, work to create a home communion ministry, help assess the pastoral care needs of our congregation and provide substitute worship leadership and preaching in the absence of Pastor Nathan, when possible.

After interviewing several qualified candidates we now have a new office specialist. It is Erin Roppe, a member of our congregation. Erin has been very involved with several ministries here at ERLC. CYF is one that she is serving on at present. She is also serving as the secretary to the church council and as such is one of our council officers. Erin brings experience for managing large projects with her from her current job in the construction industry.

We welcome both of these new staff members and are very pleased to have them with us.

Council has also approved the funds to hire a nursery attendant for both services and coffee hour. This person (yet to be hired) will monitor the nursery and lead any volunteers that are there to help. We hope this new position will encourage new families to attend service while being able to leave their young children in a safe environment, if they so chose.

Greg Pouliot

ERLC Council President
councilpresident.erc@gmail.com



TREASURER'S REPORT

Average Weekly Giving Needed:
\$\$ 8,183

February 2017 Financials

February Expenses: \$32,393.01
February Income: \$39,663.61
Building Fund Balance: \$97,996.73
Dedicated Fund Balance: \$35,856.65
YTD Expenses: \$61,231.88
YTD Income: \$71,645.44

Adam Horner
ERLC Council Treasurer
Counciltreasurer.erc@gmail.com

Pastors Message

This month we celebrate Easter and spring, both seasons of joy and new life. I hope you will join us at one of our three Easter morning worship services (6:30am, 8:15am, & 10:30am) where we'll gather to proclaim that Christ is risen indeed! Easter brings new life in the message of the resurrection and spring brings new life in the shape of trees budding out, grass greening up, and spring flowers coming into bloom. We celebrate this new life in all its forms.

One new way we'll celebrate the joy of Easter this year is with Holy Humor Sunday, the first Sunday after Easter. Holy Humor Sunday is a tradition that goes way back. The early Greek Christians started this Easter custom as a way of celebrating Christ's resurrection. The Bible tells us that "for every-thing there is a season... a time to weep and a time to laugh." (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4) Easter is a time of joy when we can even laugh in the face of death, because of Jesus's victory over death. With that in mind, Holy Humor Sunday, April 23, will be a service full of jokes and silliness.

As a congregation we also have much to celebrate as this month we welcome new members, new staff members, and define the goals of our Children, Youth, and Family Ministry.

We celebrate that God continues to bless Elk River Lutheran with growth in membership! We will hold a two session New Member Orientation on April 30th and May 7th, both Sundays at 9:20am in the Community Room. We have a long list of prospective members who will be receiving a letter with more information, but if you would like to become a member or you know someone who would, please share contact the office and we'll get them the information they need. Please help us get the word out about this event and continue to be intentional about welcoming new people into our community of faith.

This month we also welcome two new staff members: Erin Roppe as Office Specialist and Pastor Carolyn Philstrom as Visitation Pastor. Our Church Council President, Greg Pouliot, shares more about Erin and Pastor Carolyn in his letter, so I'll just ask that you please welcome them with open arms! I'll also add, that with Pastor Carolyn coming on board in the role of Visitation Pastor I encourage you to please contact the office if you or someone you know would like a visit from Pastor Carolyn or I.

Finally, I am excited about the opportunities we've had to reflect on goals and programs of Children, Youth, and Family (CYF) Ministry here at ERLC. We held two forums that were open to everyone in the congregation and what I heard coming out of both of them is a deep care and concern for passing on the faith to the next generation. Please see the CYF page of this newsletter for more on the defined goals of CYF Ministry at ERLC.

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalm 118:24)



+ Families

CYF Updates:

Children, Youth, and Family (CYF) Forums and Goals

Over the past month the congregation was invited to join in two congregational forums on our CYF Ministry. The first, on March 5, was led by Pastor Nathan and focused drawing out our shared goals for CYF Ministry at ERLC. The next, on March 19, was led by Amy Kippen, a current seminary student and former youth and family minister, and focused on the importance and value of experiencing faith regularly as a family.

In the first forum Pastor Nathan led a process where each person wrote on post-it notes words they would like to describe a graduating senior who has gone through our CYF program. Then everyone shared their answers at their tables and as a table narrowed down and combined words and phrases to create four new post-it note answers to represent each table's shared goals. When each table shared their responses we were thrilled by how similar they were! The CYF Team processed these shared goals at its next meeting and realized that the goals were also very reflective of our congregation's mission statement. Here is what we have come up with:

The goal of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry at Elk River Lutheran church is to create disciples with a:

- Foundation of trusting in God's grace
- Connection to our accepting, joyful community
- Faith that is active, serving God and neighbor

These goals will largely shape our plan for future programming and ultimately staffing for our CYF Ministry.

Amy Kippen, who spoke first with our CYF Team on a Thursday evening and then led the congregational forum on March 19 has given us a lot to think about. She shared how the congregation she served before going to seminary used a cross generational (Family Sunday School) model, that focused on providing families an opportunity to engage in faith learning together.

Amy also shared that one of the primary ways her former congregation helped families engage in faith at home is through a practice called “Faith 5,” where families share highs and lows, read a Bible verse or story, talk about how the Bible reading might relate to your highs and lows, pray for one another’s highs and lows, and bless one another.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the forums. Please watch for future conversations about the future CYF Ministry at ERLC.



OUR SCHEDULE!

CYF Events

Sammy's Pizza Fundraiser for Camp

Order forms and money for the Sammy's Pizza sales is due April 7th. Families who have been selling pizzas please turn in the order forms and money to Erin Roppe by April 7th. Pizzas will be available for pickup May 1st. AND if you haven't ordered pizzas yet, and would like to, please find a youth (or talk to Pastor Nathan for suggestions of a youth to talk to).

Thank you to everyone who has supported our youth through this fundraiser!

Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast

Served Sunday, April 9th from 9:00am - Noon

You are invited to come out and support our kids attending Bible Camp and the high school youth going on their mission trip by joining us for this pancake breakfast. There will be pancakes, sausage, fruit, milk, juice, and coffee. *Kids and youth serving the meal, please be at the church to help with setup starting at 8:00am and plan to stay until cleanup is done after noon.*



First Communion Instruction

We held the first part of our two part First Communion Instruction Class at Family Sunday School on March 26th. Part two will be gathering at 6:00pm on Thursday, April 13th. We'll have a bit more time to discuss Holy Communion and then kids will be invited to take their first communion at the Maundy Thursday worship service that night, which starts at 7:00pm. Please contact Pastor Nathan with any questions.

Here is the Sunday School Schedule through the rest of this school year:

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*



Highlights from the Music Ministry

April 9th (Palm Sunday)

- Sunday School, Choir, and Band share "Victory Chant" for both services.
- Choir presents a meaningful arrangement of "Ride On, King Jesus".
- Kara Hennig and Patty Herbert sing "How Deep the Father's Love for Us" for 10:30am service.

April 13th (Maundy Thursday)

- The Choir Altos are preparing something special for the service.

April 14th (Good Friday)

- The Worship Band gently leads us in observing the Stations of the Cross.
- JaneAnn Settergren shares music on her harp.
- Kara Hennig & Patty Herbert join Kate Kremer and the Choir for a stirring arrangement of "O Sacred Head Now Wounded".
- Kate also shares a song with us on the piano.

April 16th (Easter Sunday!)

- We rejoice with the sound of the horns and handbells for 8:15am service, and together sing the "Hallelujah Chorus".
- The Worship Band shares the powerful song "The Lion and the Lamb" for 10:30am service.

April 23rd (Holy Humor Sunday)

- In a service meant to laugh in the face of death, the music ministry leads us in songs of the..."mixed-up" nature.

Music Ministry Thought for the Month..."Singing is in the realm of 'one-another' ministry, meaning that we are to sing for the other people there."

CHURCH BULLETIN



NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Two Part Series
April 30 & May 7
9:30 am
Lower level Community Room

Letters have been sent to those who expressed an interest in membership with a short BIO form and family information form that needs to be returned by April 30.

If you have not received a letter but are interested in becoming a New Member, please contact:
Erin Roppe at church [763-595-1216](tel:763-595-1216)
or email elkriverlutheran.info@gmail.com

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. One week 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.



Hosts for Hospitality Coffee Hour

Please join us in hosting the Sunday morning fellowship coffee hour.

Starting in April we will be looking for weekly hosts to help our Hospitality coordinators serve treats and coffee. As hosts you would be asked to provide 3 1/2 dozen treats by 8:30 and help serve and clean up until 10:30. We are in need of 5 hosts per week. Please consider hosting as a family or with a group of your friends. A monthly sign-up sheet will be posted on the easel located near the Cafe.

Thank you for your help and support!

Charee Wagenpfeil-Cain
Toby Moe
Hospitality Team Co-Chairs

APRIL SERVERS	4/2/17	4/9/17	4/16/17	4/23/17	4/30/17
8:15 SERVICE		PALM SUNDAY	EASTER		
GREETERS	Kathy Dahl	Katherine Horner	Bob Nelson	Dave Stadden	Doug Mathison
	Hartley Dahl	Kelli Horner	Virginia Nelson	Sylvia Stadden	Donna Mathison
USHERS	Jim Ernhart	Glenn Johnson	Adam Horner	Doug Mathison	Tom Werk
	Mary Ernhart	Pam Johnson	Audrey Horner	Jim Nord	Cedric Olson
	Dave Stadden	Barb Ovebye	Erin Roppe	Vicki Simpson	Bob Krumwiede
	Vance Zehringer	Russ Overbye	Hunter Wolcenski	Herm Weidner	Darrell Gildenmeister
LECTOR	Cassidy Wolcenski	John Natwick	Kelli Horner	Casey Mahon	Jm Hecker
STEWARD	Jim Acers	Pam Black	Don Wille	Rich Swanson	Pam Black
COMMUNION	Kelly Otto	Ardelle Dahlin	Myron Grams	Jim Hecker	Kari Christianson
SERVERS	Erin Roppe	Bev Weidner	Vicki Granros	Lori Schulstad-Werk	Milo Christianson
	Diana Schansberg	Herm Weidner	Shirley Peterson	Tom Werk	Carol Black
BASKET	Katherine Horner	Vailet Kremer	Katherine Horner	Grant Lundquist	Audrey Horner
HOLDERS	Grant Lundquist		Audrey Horner	Delaney Lundquist	Vailet Kremer
COMMUNION SETUP/FILL	Barb Burandt	Nettie DuBois	Delphine Dietz	Adam/Kelli Horner	Adam/Kelli Horner



April Volunteers



10:30 SERVICE	4/2/17	4/9/17	4/16/17	4/23/17	4/30/17
GREETERS	Emily Spaniol	Matt Rotz	Peg Davies	Sarah Auel	Joe Livingston
	Michelle Spaniol	Judy Lipka	Lee Davies	John Auel	Kerry Livingston
USHERS	John Auel	Paul Chouinard	Paul Baumgarten	Tj Budish	Mike Livingston
	Sarah Auel	Darin Dalzell	Rick Bock	Alan Budish	Don McRae
	Carolyn Mitzuk	Rich Swanson	Michelle Spaniol	Gabe Livingston	Matt Rotz
	Madison Mitzuk	Keith Quammen	Matt Spaniol	Joe Livingston	Steve Brosko
LECTOR	TJ Budish	Ann Hove	Rich Swanson	Emily Rotz	Adam Schulz
STEWARD	Rich Swanson	Brad Tesdahl	Darin Dalzell	Martha Hippe	Rich Swanson
COMMUNION	Kim Vernon	Peg Davies	Sue Sass	Jackie Anderson	Janelle Dalzell
SERVERS	Greg Pouliot	Nancy Bock	Tom Wingard	Kerry Livingston	Kim Vernon
	Debby Pouliot	Jodi Dahlheimer	LuAnn Wingard	Joe Livingston	Jodi Dahlheimer
BASKET	Matthew Katzner	Faith Dahlheimer	Amelia Schwarze	Isaiah Budish	Grace Livingston
HOLDERS	Nevaeh Katzner	Sammi Angrimson	Abigail Schwarze	Ariah Budish	Erin Auel
COMMUNION	Nancy Bock	Debby Pouliot	Mary Forster	Toby Moe	Garnet Novotny
CLEAN-UP			Donna Varty	Marilyn Miller	
COMM. PREP	Mar. 27- Apr. 1	Apr. 3- Apr. 8	Apr. 10- Apr. 15	Apr. 17- Apr. 22	Apr. 24- Apr. 29
(MID-WEEK)	Vicki Simpson	Pat Clear/ Pam Black	Jana Lundquist	Shirley Schmidt	Pam Black



April Volunteers

HAPPY EASTER



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."*



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