



**Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Free WI-FI available at the ELC!  
elc-w1r3less

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**2012 Church Council**  
**Congregation President**  
*Ed Johnson, Jr. (Personnel)*

**Vice President**  
*Jan Goeman (Stewardship)*

**Secretary**  
*Peggy Wiese (Witness)*

**Treasurer**  
*Jim Ritland (Finance)*  
*Ken Wilkins (G/M)*  
*Jeff Stear (B/G)*

*Scott Marecek (Y&F)*  
*Karen Brandt (Worship)*  
*Judy Luttio(Parish Ed.)*

**† Pastoral Staff**  
*Rev. Eric Bakken*  
*Rev. Ramie Bakken*

**Office Manager**  
*Wendy Sciborski*

**Custodians**  
*Al & Blaine Knutson*  
*Phyllis Gunderson*

**Choir Directors**  
*Mary Cooley*

*Beth Overlien, Barb Olson-Louis*  
**Sunday School Superintendent**  
*Terri Goettl*

# February 2012



**Ash Wednesday Service February 22nd at 7:00**  
**with Holy Communion**  
**Lenten Mid-Week Services**

Wednesdays, February 29, March 7, 14, 21, 28 at 5:15pm.  
Soup Supper follows at 6:00pm.



**Lenten Services: We'll Meet in the Catacombs!**  
**Begins Wednesday, February 29 @ 5:15pm**  
**2012 Theme: "Prayer Around the Cross"**

This year we are going to try something a little different for Lent...we're going to meet and worship in the catacombs! What does that mean you wonder? Well... you'll just have to come and find out. But it'll be different than in the past. With so much deep appreciation for the order and style of worship used in our Advent Vespers services, the worship committee has set out to find a worship format similar to Holden Evening Prayer.

What we've uncovered is a new service that's been developed by the Holden Village community near Chalan, Washington, called *Holden: Prayer Around the Cross*. The service is similar to Holden Evening Prayer, with an emphasis on creating and experiencing a prayerful and meditative environment for evening worship, centered on the cross, with the use of candles and simple chant. Come and join us in the Catacombs as we try to recreate the intimacy of the first century church who often worshipped in caves or what many called catacombs.



**MAKE A SPECIAL DONATION TO THE INTERNSHIP FUND**

We have been blessed to be a teaching congregation; walking with seminary students as they complete their year of required internship in preparation to become an ordained minister in the ELCA. As the council and congregation looks ahead to 2012, we are interested in continuing this ministry by applying for an intern to begin at ELC this fall. Many people have expressed their gratitude and excitement about the internship program. *The only thing holding us back are finances.* With the budget shortfall in 2011 and a lower pledge result for 2012, ELC has had to cut this program from the general budget. However, in the interest of giving the congregation the opportunity to continue this ministry, we have once again set up a special line item in the Gifts and Memorials Account to receive your special donations that are above and beyond your general stewardship to ELC. YOUR RESPONSE is needed now in order to continue the internship program. The cost is approximately \$25,000 annually, and we would need to receive a significant portion of that amount by March 31st, in order to accept an intern. You may make a special gift to ELC and designate the "Internship Fund". For more information, talk to any council member.



**Relief for Minot**  
**You Can Help!**

**MINOT FLOOD RELIEF SPRING TRIP**

March 25-30, 2012 Registration Deadline: March 2<sup>nd</sup>  
We may not have weather as warm as we like, but ELC is planning another MINOT MISSION TRIP for the week of March 25-30. We are especially looking for 1 or 2 skilled workers to lead our team as houses that were "buttoned up" for the winter will be ready to begin the process of rebuilding. Check out the bulletin board in the narthex or our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/brfelc](http://www.facebook.com/brfelc) for pictures from our last trip. Would you like to help with flood relief but are unable to travel with us? Please consider a financial gift to "Minot Flood Relief" to help defray travel/meal costs for volunteers. To sign up for the trip, talk to Pastor Ramie.

## **Council Highlights** **January 10, 2012**

+Reviewed proposed 2012 mission plan and made preparations for the annual meeting.

+Welcomed Scott Marecek as a visitor to the meeting. Council intends to appoint Scott to fill the vacant council position relating to the Youth and Family Life Committee at our February meeting.

+Appointed an audit committee to review the financial reports.



## **Dear friends in Christ,**

The author of Psalm 25 writes, "Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long."

I've been using this Psalm a lot lately while I've been out making various visits. It is a psalm that would be called a journey psalm, because it describes the life of faith in terms of a travel narrative as one grows and matures in faith. From the time of youthful indiscretion, it moves toward occasions of learning and instruction along the path of faith.

What I hear in this psalm is an invitation for us to enter more deeply into the discipline of faith. Where I can relate easily to this text is that the author of the psalm asks for God's forgiveness because they know they have struggled with their sinful nature often in their life. At the same time the author is deeply appreciative of the vantage point they have acquired with age, from which they can see the clear presence of God having been with them at various moments along their path of life.

When I look back at life I'm often tempted to see it as a crooked pathway with many bumps along the way, but I like what Ray MaKeever wrote in his song, Long Time Friends, which we sing from time to time with our youth, and once in a while at our 10:30am Sunday service. "I'm looking for some long-time friends. I'm looking for some long-time friends. Life's a long and a for some long-time friends."

As we move into this still relatively new-year, may you find yourself along that way, where the Lord God is at work, teaching you and leading you in the truth that sets us all free; may you find some long-time friends with whom you might share both your life and the gift of faith that God has given to you; and may you learn to let go of and forgive the transgressions of your past, that might have made the path bumpy at times.

For our God is the God of our salvation: who even as we wait has been waiting...is willing to wait...and will wait some more...for us as we journey along the path that is called life.

## **Missionary for a Day!**

Back in 2003 ELC members were asked at several small group meetings, "what ministry and mission would you like to see ELC be involved in?" One of the top answers was to support a missionary. Over the past several years, interest and support has grown overwhelmingly. Last year, with over 300 sponsored days we were able to assist in the mission support of Rev. Andy and Barb Hinderlie and Joy Waughtal, who is in Africa as a part of the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission. Let's keep this outreach momentum going for 2011. So far this year we have 67 days sponsored. To sign up for missionary for a day, include \$10 in the special envelope with the day you would like to sponsor, who you are honoring, and your name. NEW: You can also sign up online on our church website at [www.brfelc.org](http://www.brfelc.org). Just click on the give/pay link and include the sponsorship information in the box provided.

Next meeting: February 14<sup>th</sup>, 7pm. Visitors welcome  
*All Council members will be installed during worship on February 5<sup>th</sup>.*

Council, committee members, and other leaders: You are encouraged to register for **Walking Together: A Congregational Resource Event** to be held at the Chippewa Falls Middle School on March 17<sup>th</sup>. See separate article for more information.

## **Council outlines process for presenting resolutions:**

At its December 2011 meeting, the council took action to clarify the process by which continuing resolutions will be received for consideration. If there is a desire to present a continuing resolution it would need to be provided to the council for review at least 45 days before a meeting called for such purpose. This would allow the council time to review the resolution and make its recommendation to the congregation. The congregation would then need to be notified 2 weeks in advance of the resolution and the council's recommendation. This process follows the same pattern as our synod, the ELCA and our own constitution with regards to receiving proposals for constitutional or bylaws revisions. The intent of this motion is to assist congregation members in bringing forth proposals that require congregational action, and to provide proper notice to the congregation about continuing resolutions. In consideration of providing ample time for understanding, the council voted to make this process effective Feb. 1, 2012. In looking through ELC's history, it is highly unlikely that this provision will have any realized effect on the workings of the congregation. However, the council felt it prudent that, should a need for a resolution to be presented arise, we can all be prepared and informed as a way to make a thoughtful and deliberate decision. Still have questions? Contact the church office and we will assist you as best as we can.

## **Annual Meeting Highlights**

+Elected to 3 year terms to council: Judy Luttio, Ed Johnson, Peggy Wiese. Other elections: Rob & Louise Voss for Luther Park representatives; Wendy Sciborski, Dennis & Alice Young as voting members to synod assembly. All unfilled positions will be appointed by church council.

+Approved constitution changes (as amended) from the most recent updates to the model constitution for congregations.

+Approved the 2012 Mission Plan as corrected.

+Passed a motion to have the internship fund line item continued. Funds will need to be raised to continue the internship program.

# Confirmation

## Confirmation Update

Confirmation groups will be worship assistants during mid-week Lenten services. To be a worship assistant, you will need to be at church at 5pm. Worship begins at 5:15. Plan to do this as a small group. You will sign up in early February and the schedule will be posted on the youth bulletin board.

### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

Get Ready for RETREAT. We will be traveling to Minneapolis/St. Paul on March 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> and staying at Augsburg College, right in the heart of the city. We will enjoy activities and take a walking tour as we think about "vocation"- our calling to live as the baptized people of God in our everyday life. You should have received in the mail a registration brochure. Please return this to Pastor Ramie a.s.a.p. with your registration fee of \$25. Remember, confirmation retreats are a required part of your confirmation learning and you are expected to participate. PARENTS: I am in need of a "confirmation dad" to be our male chaperone for the group. Please let me know if you can help us out and make this retreat possible. -Pastor Ramie

### 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Grade

I will be mailing your participation record in mid-February. If there is any missing participation (noted with highlighter), then you are expected to be at a confirmation make-up meeting on March 14th @ 7pm.

## ~Sunday School Happenings~

In February there are several learning events for our children. Please note the dates and times of the activities listed below. The children look forward to participating in the Milestone Ministries and parental involvement is key to making these events a success. We hope to see you there!

- † **\*\*February 5-1<sup>st</sup> Grade Prayer Milestone Ministry** – parent/student learning event. Parents are invited to join their children during the Sunday School hour for this event. Please meet in your child's classroom at 9:15 a.m.
- † **\*\*February 12 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade sings at 10:30 a.m. worship**
- † **1<sup>st</sup> Grade Prayer Milestone at 10:30 a.m. worship**
- † **Bible Camp Sunday** – Sanctuary – 9:15 a.m.
- † **\*\*February 26 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade sings @ 10:30 worship**



**A reminder that our theme/memory verse is:  
Romans 8:28**

*~We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.~*



## SUMMER BIBLE CAMP- IT'S TIME TO SIGN UP!

Luther Park and Sugar Creek Staff coming to ELC Feb. 12th  
Parents and students: we hope you are making plans to attend

summer bible camp this year. We have registration materials available for both Luther Park Bible Camp and Sugar Creek Bible Camp. There are programs for all ages and weeklong camps available for 4<sup>th</sup> grade and up. **We will be having a special presentation on Sunday February 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am for 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students and their parents in the sanctuary.** Please come to hear from past bible camp participants about what a great experience bible camp is and to talk with other parents about getting your children signed up! **BONUS:** There is a scholarship from ELC if you sign up by May 1<sup>st</sup>, and an additional if you help with the Easter breakfast, April 8<sup>th</sup>. Further scholarships are available on request from one of the pastors.



## Middle School Trip to Sparta Sunday, February 26 @ 11:45am Bowling & Pizza

Middle School students and their friends are invited to sign-up to bowl and eat pizza in Sparta, on Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. We will leave ELC following the 10:30am service and return by about 3:00pm. First we'll eat pizza at pizza hut...then we'll bowl a frame or two. The cost is a mere \$5. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Space is limited to the first 12 youth who sign up and pay.



## Hunger Boxes! It's Not Just for Kids!

Hunger Boxes are available in the narthex for you to take home and make a part of your Lenten discipline. A presentation on February 19th will take place. The offering will go towards the Malawi Feeding Stations and to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. One participant put the box on her washing machine, where it collected all the loose change and even some dollars from pockets of pants that were being laundered. Another person places his box on the dining room table to remind him to give in thanksgiving for all God gives us. Where will your box go? Where ever you place your world hunger box, be sure to fill it up with coins and return to the church office by the end of May, so we may send it as our offering for Hunger Relief in Malawi and throughout the world.



## Gifts and Memorials

Posted December 16, 2011  
through  
January 15, 2012

### RADIO BROADCAST

**In memory of:** *Kristin Wood*

From: Harvey & Diane Wood & family

**In memory of:** *Jake Brown*

From: Harvey & Diane Wood

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

**In memory of:** *Jake Brown*

From: Gerald & Betty Gaier

Donated by: Foster & Marilyn Wussow

### EVANGELICAL SINGERS

**In memory of:** *Bonnie Stearns*

From: Llona Mae Dell & Michael Lind

### HANDBELLS

**In memory of:** *Bonnie Stearns*

From: anonymous

### YOUTH GATHERING

From: Peter & Lisa Bakken, Llona Mae Dell, Glen & Jan Goeman, Fred & Terri Goettl, Jared & Connie Jessie, Ed & Lorri Johnson, Al & Gwyn Knutson, Betty & Charles Lund, Judy & Todd Luttio, Joe & Wendy Sciborski, Karen & Ken Wilkins, Mark & Julie Zillmer, David & Joy Fossum, Paul & Barb Hanson & Roger & Thelma Wiste.



### MEMORIAL BOOKS FOR 2011

1. Katharina Von Bora (Luther) by Rudolph and Marilyn M. Markwald in memory of Lucille Olson donated by Yvonne Richards.
2. Bonhoeffer; Pastor Martyr, Prophet, Spy by Eric Metaxas in memory of Lucille Olson donated by Richard and Charlene Stevens.
3. Tales from the Green Bay Packers Sidelines by Cuck Carlson in memory of Dale Borreson donated by Terry & Laurie Byrns.
4. Heaven is for Real by Todd Burpa in memory of Tillie Gilbertson donated by the Women of the ELC.
5. God's Dream by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Carlton Abramis in memory of Tillie Gilbertson donated by the Naomi Circle.
6. More 90 Minute Quilts by Mary Butler in memory of Tillie Gilbertson donated by the ELC Sewing Circle.
7. People of the Big Voice by Several Authors in memory of Don Evenson donated by the Naomi Circle.

## Women of ELC

### BLESS YOUR HEART!

#### **Did you know?**

*Eating chocolate produces a similar chemical reaction to the brain to falling in love? Yes it does!*

When I was a little girl and someone did something good, my mother would always say to them "Well, Bless Your Heart!" Valentines Day is just around the corner and now we have the opportunity to do something good!

#### **Did you know?**

*Divine chocolate sales help cocoa farmers in Ghana provide education, clean water, food and shelter to their families? Yes it does!*

On the weekends of February 3/4 and 11/12 we will once again be selling the Divine Chocolate Candy in our narthex. Come and check out the delicious chocolate flavors-even a new one, orange chocolate (it's *really* good). Choose your favorite kind(s) - treat that special someone, and for making a difference in the lives of others we say, "Well, Bless Your Heart!"



**Outreach**  
"Bless Your Heart"

### Thankoffering Boxes

Women of the Lutheran Church have been gathering in the setting of Thankoffering services since the early 1900's. It is a tradition grounded in our celebration of community, meeting together as faithful women joyfully giving thanks and praise for what God has given us. The idea of collecting donations in small offering boxes goes back to the very early 1800's, when women formed "mite" or "cent" societies to raise money.

**Keenagers will meet February 21st at 2:00 at River Grove Apartments. Task Force IV**

### Semi-Annual Business Meeting

The Women of Evangelical Lutheran Church (W/ELC) will have their Semi-annual business meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 in the fellowship hall. The main focus will be approval our 2012 budget. We'll also be receiving our Thankoffering boxes for this year. Following a short business meeting, Patty Jacobson will present a very informative program about a **Healthy Heart**. Her presentation will include ideas on how to protect the heart and how to recognize symptoms of heart disease. We think this is a subject that many of us will be interested in and we invite **everyone** to attend this very important presentation.

### Happy Birthday Octogenarians!

**February Birthdays:** Feb. 2nd-Lila Lynne,  
Feb. 4th-Delores Walton, Feb. 15th-Margaret Stein





When Lutheran World Relief distributes Personal Care Kits, it is often to people who have lost everything. In the wake of an earthquake, tornado, hurricane or flood or having fled from violence as their homes were overtaken, they clasp a towel from a faraway place with a bar of soap, a toothbrush and comb. While washing up, they know that they have not been forsaken by the world. The very simple gesture of giving a Personal Care Kit can give someone the encouragement to start anew. You can share God's grace and love by providing that

simple comfort. During Lent, the emphasis of WELCA's Mission Action Committee is Personal Care Kits. A rolled list of items will be available in the Narthex on February 22. The list will be tied with yarn which can be used to bind the completed Personal Care Kit. Congregation members are asked to return the completed kit OR kit items by Palm Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. Lutheran World Relief's approximate cost to handle and ship one kit is \$2.65 which includes the cost of toothpaste. Anyone who would like to donate money to help offset the cost of shipping can put the money in a sealed envelope labeled "Project Comfort" and put in the basket containing the completed kits.

Items to include in the kit are:

- One light-weight, bath-size towel (maximum size of 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- Two bath-size bars (4-5oz) of soap, any brand, in its original wrapping
- One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- One sturdy comb removed from packaging
- One metal nail clippers removed from packaging

**NO TOOTHPASTE**

Last fiscal year (October 2010 through September 2011), Lutheran World Relief distributed over 355,000 quilts, 164,000 school kits, 311,000 personal care kits, 21,000 fabric kits, 72,000 baby care kits and 68,000 pounds of soap to people in need. Evangelical Lutheran Church was a part of sharing God's love.

If you have any questions, please contact the project chairmen, Joanne Schefelker at 284-3489 or Theresa Bade at 284-4524.



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## Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Rev. Eric Bakken      pastoreric@brfelc.org  
Rev. Ramie Bakken    pastorramie@brfelc.org  
Wendy Sciborski      officemanager@brfelc.org

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
Bulk Rate  
Black River Falls, WI  
Permit No. 105

WORSHIP SERVICES  
**Saturday 7:00p**  
**Sunday 8:00a and 10:30a**  
**Sunday School 9:15a**



*Come and join us for worship!*

This newsletter was mailed to you January 31, 2012

Find us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/brfelc>



### You're Invited .... Walking Together

March 17, 2012 Chippewa Falls Middle School

*Register now to attend the Synod-wide training event, "Walking Together" on Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in Chippewa Falls. This is a great opportunity for learning and idea sharing to revitalize and inspire you for the sake of mission in our community and in the world.*

Registration material is now available at the church office and in the narthex. The cost is just \$10/person and includes all of the workshops and lunch. You can register online on the synod website or we can register you at the church office. This event replaces the former "church council" training event and is intended to reach and equip more members of our congregations.



### Are You Able?

#### Your Help Wanted.....

Sunday School Superintendent for the 2012-2013 school year beginning July 1, 2012. This is a paid part-time position. Interested persons can inquire at the office.

**AND**

Immediate 2012 VBS Coordinator

**THANK YOU** to everyone for all the well wishes, cards & gifts at my farewell party. It has truly been a joy to be part of ELC this past year.

In Christ,  
Intern Joel