

# SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2019



Evangelical Lutheran Church  
 "Centered in Christ + Sent to Serve"

## REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE RESUMES

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**Regular Worship Schedule to Resume  
 September 7th/8th**

Worship Services are held Saturday's @ 7:00pm, Sunday's @ 9:00am  
 Sunday School from 10:00-11:00

Sunday, September 8th will be the first week for Sunday school Classes will run 10:00-11:00am all year long. Please stop by the Sunday school office that morning to sign up and fill out the registration form. The education staff is also looking for volunteer teachers, helpers and substitutes. If interested, please contact Susan Hahn at 970-948-8625.

- 2019 Church Council  
 Congregational President**  
 Peter Bushman  
**Vice President**  
 Jon Warmke  
**Secretary**  
 Barb Olson-Louis  
**Treasurer**  
 Ed Johnson Jr.  
**Council**  
 Peter Bushman  
 Jon Warmke  
 Barb Olson-Louis  
 Joan Brown  
 Susan Hahn  
**Interim Pastor**  
 Rev. Steve Rutter  
**Office Manager**  
 Wendy Sciborski  
**Custodian**  
 Paul Anderson  
**Choir Directors**  
 Barb Olson-Louis

**September 8th**



*So we, though many, are one body  
 in Christ and individually members  
 one of another. Romans 12:5*

Please join us on Rally Sunday  
 in welcoming Pastor Steve Rutter and his wife, Sandra,  
 as we begin our ministry together at ELC.  
 Following our 9:00am worship service we will  
 gather in the Fellowship Hall from  
 10:00am to 11:30am.

Come and enjoy some simple refreshments and  
 get to know the new Shepherd of our Flock!  
 We look forward to seeing you on the 8th!

*Interim Pastor*

Dear fellow redeemed,

Based on the above words, it appears that I already know you, as "God's beloved...called to be saints" and recipients of God's grace and peace. Which is true! Because all of you reading this are dearly loved by God, called to be saints (holy in the sight of God, through the redeeming work of Christ), and you are most certainly given God's grace and peace. So am I!

And yet, we haven't met each other (as I write this article, except for a few of you on the council and church staff). It is good to know the above blessings though. And it is a connection that we already have as fellow redeemed people of God.

While we may meet each other before you read this article, allow me to introduce myself briefly to you: I have been a pastor for 35 years, including 13 in Blackduck, Minnesota, and 21 in Eau Claire. Last summer, I left the LCMS and was received into the ELCA, and since then I have served as an interim pastor in Amery, and Medford, Wisconsin. I have very much appreciated my recent experiences in the ELCA, and with my fellow clergy and members of the congregations I've served. I now look forward to my future experiences with you, and with the congregations near Black River Falls. I have also appreciated the opportunity to serve in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, including the recent involvement with the Justice Team, especially work on gender equality and LGBTQ+ concerns.

I have been married to Sandra for the past 35 years, and we have three adopted children from Korea: Alex, 30, in Eau Claire, Kammi, 26, in Milwaukee, and Bradley, 22, in Guatemala (serving with the Peace Corps). We are excited about being grandparents, as our daughter and husband, Al, expect their first child in February. Sandra has been an elementary and early childhood special education teacher for over 30 years, and now is working at Western Dairyland in Eau Claire as an early childhood specialist and trainer. We live in Eau Claire, and enjoy our tandem bicycle rides, and time with family, traveling, reading, and music.

I look forward to serving our Lord with you at Evangelical Lutheran. I enjoy being a pastor, getting to know people, and helping them grow with me in faith and life in Christ. I also look forward to preparing this congregation for your next pastor! And so we have a lot to do, with prayer and service to our Savior and Lord.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Steve



### COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS for MAY/JUNE – 2019

The ELC Council met on May 21<sup>st</sup> and June 11<sup>th</sup>. The following are points of discussion and decisions from both of those meetings:

The main purpose of the May meeting was to hear from Synod Representative Randy Olson, who will guide us through the Call process. Randy was able to detail the steps involved in preparing for the Interim Pastor, the requirements to be fulfilled by the Call Committee, and Council's responsibilities regarding confidentiality, communication and more.

Peter is working with Jon and the personnel committee to clearly define all staff positions. Job descriptions, regular performance reviews, and process improvement plans are being developed. All staff will meet individually with the committee this summer.

All council sub-committees are expected to evaluate their respective purpose and vision statements and revise prior to the assignment of the Interim Pastor.

Pastor Eric's last preaching Sunday will be July 7<sup>th</sup>.

Council voted unanimously to hold only 1 service that weekend, at 10:15 a.m. in Hatfield. The larger shelter has been reserved to accommodate. A congregational potluck lunch will be held following that service. Rides will be coordinated, and ride-share is encouraged.

Dale Frederick has officially resigned, and Council thanked him for his years of faithful service.

Special events at the July 7<sup>th</sup> service include: Synod Rep. Randy Olson, Communion, special music from handbells and a vocal choir, a baptism, gift presentation to Pastor Eric from the Council/Congregation, and the potluck lunch. ELC will provide hot dogs, a cake, and beverages. Members with last names A-F are asked to bring salads, G-S casseroles, T-Z desserts.

Council used the June meeting as an opportunity to reflect on and discuss current ELC programming, groups, and events, and how these fit into our mission and vision.

The next council meeting will be held on July 9<sup>th</sup>, and is closed-session to discuss personnel matters.



**W/ELC Harvest Dinner, Bake Sale, Quilt Sale,  
and Silent Auction – Thursday, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4:30 to 7 p.m.**

Mark your calendars! Our annual Harvest Dinner will be **Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>** this year. Dinner will start at 4:30 and will be served until 7:00 p.m. to accommodate families with later work schedules.

**Tickets for the turkey and biscuits dinner with salad and dessert, milk and coffee, will be \$7.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children 10 to age 3, and kids under 3 and under are free.** Tickets may be purchased in advance from the church office, and after church services, but will also be available at the door.

All women of the church are asked to contribute baked goods for the Bake Sale. Baked goods should be at the church by 1 p.m. on Thursday.

Contributions for the Silent Auction should also be at the church by 1 p.m. Thursday. See the related article on the Silent Auction here for ideas on what to bring.

Our Sewing Circle has selected some beautiful quilts for sale and the Book Nook will also be there with their items. Come prepared to eat hearty, purchase some baked goods to take home and buy quilts or bid on silent auction items for yourself or gifts for others.

**How a Silent Auction works and Ideas for Contributions**

For those who have never participated in a silent auction, here is how it works. Items, “baskets”, or collections of things are placed on a table with a sign-up sheet for each. The first “bidder” starts the process by writing down their name and how much they would pay for the item or basket. Anyone willing to pay more writes down their name and bid on the next available line. Bidding continues until the auction officially closes. The last, highest bidder wins.

Our auction will close at 7 pm on the 4<sup>th</sup>. You need not be present to win. Absent winners will be called so they can pick up and pay for their items at the church office.

Contributions for the Silent Auction should be:

- new or unused (actual baskets used to put collections in and antiques and collectibles are the exceptions) of value but not so expensive few if any people will bid on it and you'll be unhappy with the result.

Ideas for things you could contribute include arts and crafts, home canning, homemade goodies, the makings for a meal or a tailgate party, a personal care collection, a gift for a bridal or baby shower, or the “perfect” Christmas gift. Perhaps you just want to bring what you did last year because your contributions last year were wonderful!



**Quilting Schedule**

All Thursdays, in September & October there will be quilting from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Come join us for the morning, or afternoon, or all day - whatever fits your schedule.



## Lutheran World Relief

### School Kits

We'll still be collecting Lutheran World Relief School Kits through the middle of September. The backpacks, with a supply list inside, will be hanging on the pews. Please pick up one or two and return them to church by the end of September. These school kits contain essential supplies to help children around the world continue learning in the face of serious obstacles. That learning leads to a better life for them, their families, and their communities. Education is one of the strongest tools a community has for breaking the cycle of poverty.

### Baby Care Kits

The WELC is also in the process of assembling LWR Baby Care Kits. We are so grateful to the Sewing Circle for their help with this project. They have sewn many cloth diapers and receiving blankets that are needed for these kits. We still need hand towels and bars of ivory soap. We also need socks and t-shirts. (sizes 6 months to 24 months). If you can provide any of these items please drop them off in the narthex. Keeping a new baby healthy, clean and comfortable can be difficult for a mother living in poverty. The items included in a Baby Care Kit provide the basics needed to provide for their new baby. Thank you for your help with these projects. LWR quilts and kits are urgently needed. **God's Work-Our Hands**

**Women of the BRF Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Semi-Annual Meeting  
Thurs., September 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m.**

Denise Lahodik, a prior youth program director here at Evangelical Lutheran, and currently a program director with the Bolten House women's refuge will begin the evening with a presentation on the services provided to abused women by Bolten House. All members of the congregation are welcome to attend and participate in the question and answer session after her presentation.

Following Denise's presentation we will hold a brief W/ELC meeting. We'll discuss the feasibility of adding the preparation of “blessing bags”, a collection of personal items needed by women forced to relocate to a Bolten House facility, to the list of stewardship projects we sponsor, move to change the name (but not the purpose) of our Congregational Support board committee, collect your Thankoffering box contributions for the national WELCA, and hold an election for a W/ELC representative to the Church Council.

Join us to learn about the critical services Bolten House provides, participate in meaningful discussion with our members, enjoy a good cup of coffee and dessert, and don't forget your Thankoffering box! We'll also have copies of our current program book available if you haven't picked yours up yet.

# memorials & gifts

**Posted June 16 2019  
Through  
August 15, 2019**

**MIGOWI BUILDING FUND**

**Donations given by:** Larry & Georgia Button, Millie Byrns, Darlene Dugan, Lila Lynne, Mark & Julie Zillmer, Dave & Mary Cooley,

**RADIO BROADCAST**

**In Honor of:** Linda Olstad's Retirement

From: Nyla Musser

**In Memory of:** Ed Christen

From: Carol Hanson, Yvonne Richard, Dean & Delores Severson

**In Memory of:** Frank Marecek

From: Rolland & Mandy Lee, Cindy & Jerald Moore, Nyla Musser, Dean & Delores Severson

**In Memory of:** Thelma Wiste

From: Dean & Delores Severson

**In Memory of:** Llona Mae Dell

From: Dean & Delores Severson

**In Memory of:** Llona Mae Dell

From: Ken Bragge

**UNDESIGNATED**

**In Memory of:** Betty Steele's sister

From: Rod & Ellen Gearing

**In Memory of:** Lynda Heinz

From: Tom & Cheryl Borreson, Jim Talley & friends & family



**POSITION AVAILABLE!**

**Office Manager/Administrative Support Person**

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Black River Falls, Is looking to fill its Office Manager/Administrative Support position for the church office. This is a full-time salaried position to begin early September. The right person should be a good communicator, a good listener, self-motivated and able to work on their own. Other desired traits: able to coordinate and complete both large & small tasks, be a good multitask-er, and possess book- ing, payroll and general accounting skills. The right candidate should also be comfortable using Windows 10 software programs including Word, Xcel, Publisher, Powerpoint, and Outlook Calendar. Knowledge of social media apps, online web pages is also a plus.

Job Descriptions and applications are available for pickup at the church office. Resume & references are encouraged, as well. Office hours are Monday-Friday 8:30-4:30.



**breadfortheworld**  
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

**Bread for the World Sunday: October 19th/20th**

Bread for the World is a faith-based non-profit Christian advocacy organization working to educate and organize communities and individuals to speak up about hunger and poverty. It is hard work, the victories do not come right away, but Bread for the World has been doing advocacy for decades, bringing hope and opportunity to people in the U.S. and abroad. Organized in 1974, it led the fight for the passing of the 1975 Congress passed Right to Food Resolution, declaring that everyone has the right to food (the most sweeping statement on hunger Congress has ever made).



**Reformation Sunday  
October 27 @ 9:00am**

On Reformation we celebrate the heart of our faith: the gospel of Christ – the good news – that makes us free!





**“Let YOUR Light Shine!”**

**We have an exciting new year planned for all our Sunday School students!**

“Let YOUR Light Shine” is our theme verse this year from Matthew 5:16~

*Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

Sunday School will be held from 10:00am to 11:00 am each Sunday following the 9:00 am Worship Service.

**\*\*Sunday School Registration** will take place on *Rally Sunday*, 10:00am, **September 8**, in the Sunday School entrance. All children ages 3 years through Grade 7 should register at this time. Following registration the students will go to their classrooms for their first day’s lesson.

We have a very dedicated team leading our students again this year.... If you are interested in joining our Sunday School staff and letting YOUR light shine in Sunday School please contact the church office at 715-284-4213. We always have a need for substitute teachers and helpers.

While our students are in Sunday School the first day, please take a few moments and go to the Fellowship Hall, enjoy some refreshments and meet our new Interim Pastor Steve Rutter as we welcome him and his wife, Sandy, to our congregation!



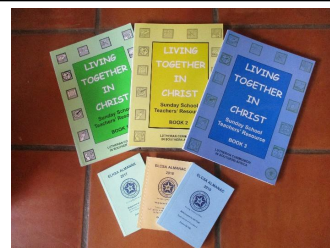
**7th Grade Confirmation Orientation:**

Wednesday, September 18th @ 6:00pm  
Please attend with a parent . Students will also purchase the Lutheran Study Bible (\$25). We will meet in the ELC Atrium.

**8th & 9th Grade Confirmation Orientation:**

Wednesday, September 25 @ 7:00pm. Please attend with a parent for an overview of the coming year and to meet your small group guide. We will meet in the ELC Atrium.

Dear friends,  
Around this time of year, as editor of the ELCSA Almanac, I receive numerous emails, phone calls and text messages asking when the 2020 edition will be available.



The ELCSA Almanac contains daily Bible readings, provided by the Moravian Church (the tradition of daily watchwords was started by Count Nicholas Ludwig von Zinzendorf in Herrnhut, Germany in 1728), and the Sunday readings or pericopes which follow the ecumenically prepared Revised Common Lectionary (RCL).

The Republic of South Africa recognizes eleven official languages in the country. Currently the ELCSA Almanac is published annually in nine languages namely: English, Afrikaans, IsiZulu, Setswana, Sepedi, Sesotho, Tshivenda, isiXhosa and Siswati.

In the past this meant that ELCSA coworkers fluent in each language had to do a lot of cutting and pasting of verses. But now, through a companion synod contact in the ELCA, a new computer program has been developed which does in minutes what took many weeks before.

The ELCSA Almanac is printed in November each year and distributed from the churchwide office in Johannesburg to the seven dioceses of ELCSA which are located in the Republic of South Africa, Botswana, Swaziland and Lesotho. Several other smaller Lutheran churches in the region also make use of the Almanac which includes a calendar and a church directory. Each year the color of the Almanac cover matches the color of the LUCSA Sunday School Teachers’ Resource books which follow the three-year A,B,C cycle of the Revised Common lectionary (RCL).

Pastor Verrah Rapoo serves as the Executive Secretary for the ELCSA Western Diocese. According to Rev. Rapoo people in her area can hardly wait for the arrival of the new Almanacs. In early January they are already sold out.

Individuals begin the day by reading the daily texts at their bedsides. The Women’s Prayer League and the Men’s League also read the daily texts at the beginning of their weekly meetings and when they go out to visit and pray with the elderly and the sick in their homes and in hospitals.

The ELCSA Almanac is valued as an essential worship and devotional resource for thousands of congregations, families and individuals and serves as a unifying symbol across the region. Thank you for your prayers and support and your participation in God’s mission locally and globally.

Yours faithfully,

Rev. Dr. Philip Knutson

ELCA Global Mission Regional Representative - Southern Africa, Johannesburg, July 30, 2019

My blog page address is: <https://southernafricanconnections.wordpress.com/> Please note the link to my online giving page on [www.elca.org:community.elca.org/SouthAfrica](http://www.elca.org:community.elca.org/SouthAfrica)

# Evangelical Lutheran Church

**“Centered In Christ + Sent to Serve”**

115 North 5th Street

Black River Falls, WI 54615

Interim Pastor Steve Rutter      seniorpastor@brfelc.org

Wendy Sciborski                      officemanager@brfelc.org

Return Service Requested

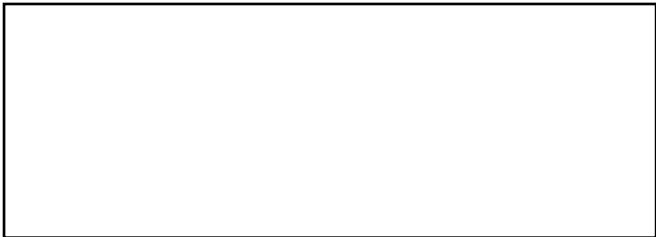
**WORSHIP SERVICES**  
Saturday 7:00 pm  
Sunday 9:00 am

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

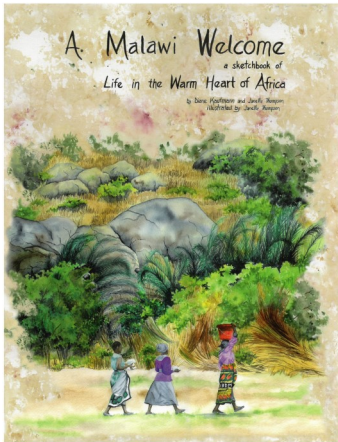


***Come and join us for worship!***

This newsletter was mailed on August 28, 2019



<http://www.facebook.com/brfelc>



**“A Malawi Welcome”**  
**Books for sale \$5/each**  
A Malawi Welcome books are available to purchase out in the narthex. Cost is \$5. All proceeds will go to Migowi/Malawi Fund.

Jackson County Interfaith Volunteers will be holding a 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on October 19<sup>th</sup> from 1pm-3pm at the Evangelical Lutheran Church. Join them as they celebrate 30 years of helping volunteers put their Faith in Action!