



ETERNAL LOVE LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL — APPLETON, WISCONSIN

Monthly News and Notes

JANUARY 2019 — VOLUME 31, ISSUE I

OUR MISSION IS TO GLORIFY GOD, GROW IN GOD'S WORD, AND GO WITH THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

Rise & Shine

Rocking chairs are so comfortable. Or are they too comfortable? When we think of rocking chairs we often think of older people sitting in them. I remember clearly seeing my grandparents on the back porch happily tilting back and forth sipping iced tea. Nursing homes are filled with great-grandmas squeakily shifting to and fro daily while knitting on an afghan. Studies have actually been conducted in nursing homes where nurses closely monitored patient behavior for six weeks while residents rocked, and compared it to their behavior during six weeks of no rocking. When the patients were rocking, they were happy; when they weren't, they weren't.

There's just something super comfy about that rocking chair, and the rocking motion that goes along with it. It's soothing for the infant in a mother's arms, for the elderly, and for everyone in between. Rocking chairs are perfect for lazy days when there's nothing else to do, nowhere to go, nobody to see, just rock back and forth, back and forth. Are you getting sleepy, verrrrry sleeeeeeepy?

Getting a dose of soothing comfort now and then is healthy for the mind and the soul, just like a good night's sleep gives needed rest to the body. But sooner or later (for most of us, sooner than we'd like) it's time to rise and shine! "*How long will you lie there you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep?*" That sounds like the gruff good morning greeting I used to get from mom or dad, but would you believe you can find it in the Bible book of Proverbs, chapter 6, verse 9?

Isaiah similarly calls, "*Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you*" (Isaiah 60:1). Hey, when the glory of God is here, it's not time to sit back and take it easy! Jesus became transfigured on the mountain not to help him and his three companions get a better sleep for the night. No! It was preparation for a big task, a very difficult one, in which the glory of God would be hidden for a while. The suffering. The cross. The shame. Not a time to be lulled into laziness, neither for Jesus nor his disciples.



Rise and shine! It's not as dark as you think. The glory of God is here, strengthening you with the desire to do what is right, enlightening you with wisdom to think more like Jesus, empowering you to fight off temptation and all the while let your light shine so that others wake up from spiritual slumber.

Get out of your rocking chair and get busy. Jesus has work for us to do!

PRAYER: *I want to be comfortable, Jesus, but not too comfortable. Like you, content with life but never satisfied that enough people are loved, served, and helped. When I get too busy to go out of my way for another, forgive my selfishness and fill me with the light of your love. When I feel too tired to care any more, forgive my little faith and fill me with the light of your strength. Be the light that wakes me up and gets me going. Amen.*

Our mission is to GLORIFY GOD

News about our Worship Ministries

Monday Evenings

Pastor Pries

Our Monday evening worship services resume this Monday, January 7. Monday, February 25 will be the last Monday evening worship service, because of the season of Lent. Then they will resume again after Easter.



In Case of Bad Weather

Pastor Pries

If the winter weather is so bad it becomes dangerous to get to church or if we know it will be difficult to use the parking lot due to heavy snow, we may find it necessary to cancel a worship service. If we do, we will publicize that on our website and place public service announcements with WHBY-AM 1150, as well as with TV channels 2, 5, and 11.



New Choir Season

Pastor Pries

The adult choir will begin a new season with its first rehearsal on **Wednesday, January 9 at 7:30pm**. We will begin to prepare the anthems for the Lent and Easter seasons.

We will be blessed to be able to sing some beautiful music for Lent and Easter, and you will find rehearsing this music is spiritually uplifting. The choir sings about once a month at worship services and for special services. New members are welcome. Can't commit for four months? Since we rehearse and sing one anthem per month, perhaps you could just commit to singing one anthem by attending the four rehearsals immediately prior to the Sunday it is sung.



Epiphany Season 2019

Pastor Pries

Yes, we as Christians are often filled with silent fears, burning guilt and heavy sorrow. We can feel that we are without hope and imagine that God is absent from our lives. We believe that God has forgotten about us. In our

uncertainty and vulnerability, we often cry out "Where in the world is God?"

During the season of Epiphany, we see exactly where God is in our world - He is in the person of Jesus Christ. We may ask "Where is God?", but through His holy writers of the Gospels, God tells us that He exactly where He is. Our new Epiphany worship series is titled: "Where in the World is God?"

Each Sunday in January clearly shows us where God is:

- January 6 - **Bringing Light to the Gentiles**

Isaiah 60:1-6

- January 13 - **Baptizing You** *Luke 3:15-17, 21-22*
- January 20 - **Helping You** *John 2:1-11*
- January 27 - **Releasing You** *Luke 4:14-21*



Lent 2019

Pastor Pries

The Epiphany season this year is quite long. In fact, Ash Wednesday is March 6.

What is the plan for our midweek Lent services? We are planning for six midweek Lent services on Wednesdays at 6:30pm. Once again, we hope to have a pulpit exchange with the pastors of Riverview and St. Matthew for these services. We will read through the passion history in these services and focus on a theme that is being developed. Watch for an announcement about this in the February Newsletter.



Worship Registers

Pastor Pries

This is a reminder, and a request, that **all** who worship with us fill out the worship register with the **names of all family members who are in attendance**. Also, remember to write down the names of those partaking in the Lord's Supper, when offered. This greatly aids us in keeping good records of our worship services. Thank you for helping us to be accurate!

It is also appreciated when you mark the worship register that you include your address and phone number each time. Yes, we already know your address and phone number, but we need this information to follow up on our visitors. If the visitor down the row from you sees you only

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Our mission is to GLORIFY GOD

News about our Worship Ministries

signed your name, that is all they put down as well. Then we cannot follow up. This has happened recently, making it impossible for us to follow up on those prospects. Thanks for helping us reach the unchurched!



Use Your New Envelopes

Pastor Pries

Everyone should have received a new set of envelopes for 2019. They were distributed in December. If you did not receive sets for all the communicant members of your family, please mention it to the pastor or leave a note in the church office.

Your new 2019 envelope set may have a different set number. Please do not use any old envelopes from 2018 anymore, as it would create much confusion for our accounting and record keeping. Throw away any leftover envelopes, and only use the new envelopes in 2019.

Electronic Giving

You may also be interested in exploring the possibility of making your offerings electronically through electronic transfer directly from your checking account to the church's account. It's easy and flexible. It eliminates the need to write checks and can provide a faithful way of making offerings each week, especially if you know you will be absent from worship periodically. Several of our families make use of this system, and it works great. A brochure explaining everything is available from Shane LaBarge, our Financial Secretary.



Thank You

Pastor Backus

Thank you for praying for the mission of your congregation, your pastors and teacher, and the ministry efforts we carry out together as a congregation.

Thank you for supporting the efforts to reach out to people who do not have a church home by inviting people you love to come to your church with you.

Thank you for decorating, beautifying, and being present in our sanctuary throughout the many services in Advent, Christmas, and the new year.

Thank you for having a guest-first mentality when you come to church, as you seek to make others comfortable.

Thank you for smiling and greeting one another with sincere warmth and love.

Thank you for hearing and learning the Word as it is preached, taught, and offered in the sacraments here regularly.

Thank you for taking time to interact and welcome little ones, so that they know they are part of Christ's Church.

Thank you for being a congregation welcoming of singles, whatever their age or life experiences.

Thank you for supporting those who cry from pain or sadness or loss. Your hugs and care are the hugs and care of Christ to them.

Thank you for taking particular interest in the needs and well-being of others. Your conversations to build one another up and to pray for one another are a demonstration of the body of Christ doing what it ought.

Thank you for singing hymns and songs with gusto to encourage others gathered in our worship space.

Thank you for supporting our ministry budget with offerings which regularly fund postcards inviting thousands to visit one of our worship services. (People this Christmas thanked us for the postcard invite.)

Thank you for volunteering to usher, greet, read, play music, serve as sound tech, care for the altar, clean our facility, serve on ministry boards and committees, and so much more. Every small thing each of you does serves the goal of us being a prime place for our friends, relatives, acquaintances, and neighbors to find in us a loving Christian family and church home.

Thank you! God promises to continue bless believers through his Word when we gather to it and carry out his mission here and wherever we go.



Our mission is to GROW IN GOD'S WORD

News about our Christian Education and Youth Ministries

Sunday Morning Bible Class

Pastor Pries

On Sunday, January 6, we begin a new Sunday Morning Bible Class called: **The WORD at Work in a Little-Bitty Church with Big-City Problems.** The city is Corinth. The small group of believers there had some real big challenges to their faith in Jesus. Their challenges are no different than ours. Our Lord inspires Paul to tackle each problem head-first. As we unfold this letter we will be amazed at Paul's clarity, patience and grace as Jesus uses Paul to share God's amazing grace in the solutions to the problems. Come see that grace in action.



Wednesday Morning Bible Class

Pastor Pries

Our Wednesday Morning Bible Class meets every Wednesday from 8:30am to 9:30am. We are currently studying the Old Testament book of Isaiah. We work through this study at our own slow pace, mining the treasures of God's Word as we go. As we study, you are welcome to come mining with us during the study of this gospel rich Old Testament book.



SAINTS LIKE US: Encouragement and Warnings from Our Spiritual Parents

Pastor Robert Balza

Have you ever heard of a church named "St. Noah" or "Saint Sarah"? I haven't either. Yet the Bible names many Old Testament characters as saints, that is, people who lived and died in faith (see the list in Hebrews 11). Those people are just as much saints as are New Testament characters such as Peter, John, and Paul.

When we examine the lives of those Old Testament saints, we see many things we like, and also some things that make us cringe. The Bible does not hide the faults of those "heroes" of faith. And why not? Obviously, so that

we can learn from both the good and the bad. Their acts of faith are encouragement for us, and their sins are warnings to us.

This winter the Wednesday Evening Bible class will examine the lives of SAINTS LIKE US. Our spiritual parents will provide both encouragement and warnings for our own walk of faith. Our schedule will be:

January 9 @ 6:30pm = Noah/Naamah
January 16 @ 6:30pm = Abraham/Sarah
January 23 @ 6:30pm = Isaac/Rebekah
January 30 @ 6:30pm = Jacob/Rachel
February 6 @ 6:30pm = Judah/Tamar

The stories of SAINTS LIKE US will encourage us in our own walk of faith, which is the very reason that the Holy Spirit chose to record both the good and the ugly about them. Come and grow in your understanding of the Scripture and be encouraged in your faith.



Women's Bible Study

Christine Heckmann

Contentment. Are you content? In our society full of "stuff", it still can be elusive. Grow in contentment in Ecclesiastes beginning on Wednesday, January 9 at 1pm. We invite you to join us! Please contact either Christine Heckmann, 574-3920, cbheckmann@gmail.com, or Laura Zimmerman at 915-8741, laura.zimmerman.rd@gmail.com to get involved.



FVL News

Steve Granberg, Principal

Christmas blessings in the name of our Savior Jesus to all our friends and partners in ministry! May the Lord bless you with a wonderful Christmas celebration and the promise of His continued grace, love, and peace as we enter a New Year!

SCHOOL NEWS

- FVL's annual choral Christmas Concert shared the sacred songs of our Savior on Sunday, December 16.
- FVL Musicfest is coming up on Sunday, January 27.

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Our mission is to GROW IN GOD'S WORD

News about our Christian Education and Youth Ministries

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- Plan to attend this celebration of musical talent from the high school and the Federation. Doors open at 11:30am. The event ends at 4pm. Details at fvlhs.org.
- Senior Colin Krueger was recently named a National Merit Scholarship Semi-finalist. Best wishes to Colin as he continues in this prestigious competition!
 - Weigeyuan Margaret Chen was again recognized by the Scholastic Art Competition with a Gold Key Award. Her work was displayed in Washington, D.C. FVL art teacher Mrs. Denise Schlawin accompanied her on her visit to our nation's capital.
 - Nicholas Kempf and Linnea Waurio were named 1st and 2nd place winners in the Voice of Democracy Essay Contest sponsored by the VFW.
 - Wesley Jochman and George Mc Cray were notified recently by Rep. Mike Gallagher that they were winners of the Congressional App Challenge for the WI08 Congressional District.
 - Student Council recently completed their annual Pizza Sale to raise money for Tuition Assistance.
 - Nearly 100 5th–6th graders attended a pair of Fox Trek events this month.

STAFFING NEWS

- Mr. Ben Priebe recently returned a pair of calls. Mr. Adam Frey has accepted a call to teach and coach at St. Croix Lutheran High School. The Regents started calling to replace Mr. Frey's position in December. We thank Mr. Frey for his years of service at FVL and pray God's blessings for him as he serves the Lord in a new setting next school year.
- The Board of Regents has called Mrs. Katelynn Dorn to serve as a Biology and Biomedical Sciences teacher. Please keep her in your prayers.

COCURRICULARS

- Winter sports teams—basketball, wrestling, cheer, dance and hockey—are all in action. Special fall sports honors went to seniors: Dylan Blum (1st Team All-Conference & Offensive Player of the Year) and Liz Santos (1st Team All-Conference & Conference Golfer

of the Year).

- FVL's Fox Folk Marionette Troupe again had the privilege of sharing the Christmas message in a variety of settings with their unique ministry.
- Math Club and our VEX Robotics teams have been active in competition.
- The cast of FVL Theatre's spring musical *Crazy for You* has been chosen; shows are set for March 8-10. Tickets go on sale in February.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

- Congregational support is 3.9% ahead of last November.
- By God's grace, the outpouring of \$1M in gifts has enabled FVL to secure low-interest tax-exempt bond funding to repay the *Let the Children Come* building debt. This means a payment of \$475K is due each October 1 for the next 20 years. The final payment is set for 2038. Donations to meet our October 2019 goal have already reached over \$25K! Please consider a gift to this effort.
- Need-based tuition assistance of \$299K was granted for this school year; gifts of \$100K are still needed to meet this amount.



DivorceCare

DivorceCare is a teaching tool to support anyone who has been hurt by the pain of divorce or separation. This program offers short videos each week, a helpful workbook, and ample time for group discussion and support. To register, visit www.divorcecare.org or call 920-757-5639. Cost is \$20 for the workbook.

Tuesday Evenings, January 8-April 2 at 6:30pm

Immanuel Lutheran Church
W7265 School Road, Greenville

Our mission is to GROW IN GOD'S WORD

News about our Christian Education and Youth Ministries

Christian Schools For You

Pastor Pries

Enrollment will soon open for the 2019-20 school year at our area Lutheran Elementary Schools (grades K-8). Our congregation wishes to encourage all parents to consider taking advantage of the excellent Christian education opportunities available at our Lutheran Elementary Schools. Therefore, we wish to inform you about the various tuition assistance opportunities available to you for the coming year.

Eternal Love offers two types of tuition assistance to all students attending one of the area Lutheran Elementary Schools:

- Tuition assistance to all families, regardless of financial need.
- Supplemental need-based tuition assistance to qualifying families.

TUITION ASSISTANCE FOR ALL STUDENTS

Since 1996 our congregation has included thousands of dollars in its annual budget to help defray the cost of tuition at area WELS Lutheran Elementary Schools (grades K-8). All member children of Eternal Love are eligible for tuition assistance from this account, regardless of the WELS school they attend or the financial status of their parents. The money that is budgeted will be divided equally among all children who are enrolled full-time at a WELS elementary school.

In order to plan for the orderly allocation of this money to the schools, we need to know which of our students plan to attend WELS schools this fall. If you are planning to send your child(ren) to a WELS elementary school for grades K-8 this fall, please get an application from the church office and return it no later than April 30. This will allow us time to calculate the amount allocated for each student, an amount that will be determined by the number of children that enroll divided by the amount allocated in the church budget. All families who will receive tuition assistance will be notified of the amount by June 30. Checks will then be written directly to the schools to defray tuition.

Please contact the church office with any questions. Don't forget the deadline — April 30! Responses received later may not receive tuition assistance this year.

HOW THE TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WORKS

Last year, there were 8 children enrolled in WELS schools in the area. The total of \$18,000 in tuition assistance was divided among them.

Student A

Student A enrolled at St. Paul Lutheran School, where tuition for the year was \$4,600. That student received \$2,000 in tuition assistance from Eternal Love. His parents were responsible for the remainder.

Student B

Student B enrolled at Riverview Lutheran School, where tuition for the year was \$3,100. That student received \$2,000 in tuition assistance. His parents were responsible for the remainder.

Student C

Student C was enrolled in kindergarten at Riverview Lutheran School. Tuition for kindergarten was \$1,400. That student received \$1,400 in tuition assistance, which covered the entire tuition.

NEED BASED TUITION ASSISTANCE FOR CURRENT OR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

In addition to the tuition assistance offered to all students through our budget, Eternal Love offers tuition assistance to members based on financial need through two special funds established for this purpose:

- ♦ Tuition Assistance Fund – provides need-based assistance to current or prospective LES students.
- ♦ LES Encouragement Fund – offers need-based assistance to families with children in grades K-8 that are not currently enrolled in a Lutheran Elementary School, to make it financially possible for them to enroll.

The goal of these funds is to provide encouragement in a tangible way to families affiliated with Eternal Love, who would like to send their children to a Lutheran Elementary School.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Every family desiring any form of tuition assistance (either regular or need-based) should complete the brief **LES Student Application** form, regardless of financial need. These forms are available from the church office. Just complete an application and submit it to the church office before Easter.

Families desiring need-based assistance from one of the funds available for this purpose should also complete the longer **LES Encouragement** form and submit it to the church office. Please include any supporting documents or a letter explaining special circumstances together with this application. Deadline is normally **MAY 1**. Applications will be reviewed during May, and all applicants will be informed of the assistance offered to them by the end of June.

Our mission is to GROW IN GOD'S WORD

News about our Properties



Expanding His Mission of Love

Pete Neuberger, Building Committee Chairman

Our design-build contractor, Keller, has been hard at work since November developing final plans to submit to the state for approval. Our site civil engineer, Schuler, has also been working toward finalizing our site plans for city permits.

Keller plans to re-bid our project in January, making use of updated plans, bid solicitation with WELS-affiliated subcontractors, and taking into account work that will be done by Builders for Christ on the south (education) wing. We expect an updated proposal from Keller by the end of January. Historically, January is a good time of year to get building quotes, when contractors are interested in lining up work for the coming year. We pray that God will provide us with a good bidding climate!

Coordination is ongoing with Builders for Christ. We've been working on such issues as defining the separation of their work from Keller's, laying out their RV "campsite" to work with planned site improvements, and discussing their other needs such as meals.

The preliminary schedule is as follows: shortly after we've celebrated our risen Savior at Easter on Sunday, April 21, Keller plans to break ground. First steps include: some utility relocation/extensions, foundation work, and demolition work. Builders for Christ plans to mobilize the first week in June. Our goal is completion by Sunday, September 1.

We expect Keller to provide a more detailed schedule in late February or early March, so that we can work with them on where and when certain portions of our building are available for use during construction. For example, accommodations will need to be made on how and where we will conduct worship services while sanctuary remodeling and addition are underway.

Last summer, the Building Committee solicited volunteer questionnaires to learn more about our members' talents and availability. We anticipate providing new

questionnaires in February for any members who wish to update or provide new information. There will be many opportunities to serve, including: work on the AV/Sound system, painting and staining, assisting with electrical work, landscaping, providing meals for Builders for Christ, and so on.

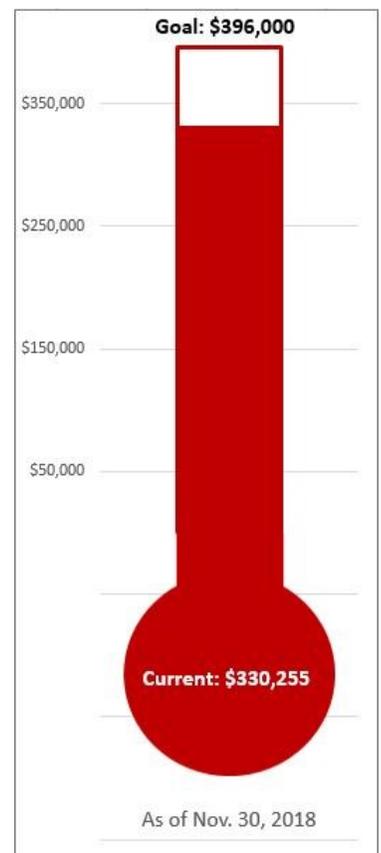
We thank God for blessing our planning efforts thus far. May God continue to bless our efforts as we strive to serve him with our time, talents, and treasures. What an exciting time for our congregation!



Building Fund Progress at a Glance

Pastor Pries

The thermometer below is a tool we will use to allow us to see the status of our Building Fund at a glance. It is our goal to reach \$450,000. But since we have already paid out \$54,000 for various expenses and for Keller to move forward with creating workable blueprints, the top goal amount of this thermometer is set for \$396,000. Each month, we will show the building fund balance as stated on the previous months balance sheet. Every month we will rejoice as our God drives and motivates, through the Gospel, the progress of our building fund.

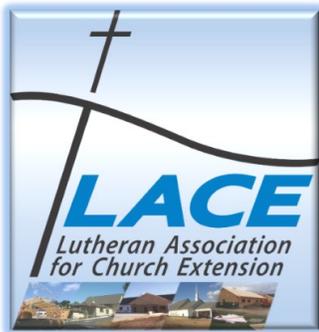


Our mission is to GROW IN GOD'S WORD

News about our Properties

LACE Investment Opportunity

Pastor Pries



Lutheran Association for Church Extension, also known as LACE, is a nonprofit, non-stock directorship corporation formed in 1960 by pastors and lay members of WELS. Its primary purpose is to loan funds to self-supporting WELS churches, schools and other organizations affiliated with WELS and ELS at the lowest possible rate with the least amount of complexity in the application process.

Eternal Love has partnered with LACE in order to fund our Expanding His Mission of Love building expansion project. Along with an easy application process and a good interest rate, LACE allows members to make personal investments in LACE by purchasing 2-year, 3-year or 5-year certificates. As members invest in LACE, the interest rate on Eternal Love's new mortgage decreases.

Today's Certificate Rates:

2-year certificate is at 2.5%

3-year certificate is at 3%

5-year certificate is at 3.5%

When you invest your own money in LACE, that money is used to advance God's kingdom. It's used to help other churches get low interest, easy application process loans such as the one Eternal Love will receive. As a nonprofit organization, LACE regularly donates their earnings to WELS schools and mission projects every year. This truly sets LACE apart from many other lending institutions.

If you are interested in investing in LACE, your investment will be a blessing to Eternal Love. Whenever a member invests in LACE, the interest rate of Eternal Love's expansion loan will be lowered. There is a lot of math involved in calculating how this works.

Here is a simple scenario we will use as an example of how this works:

Let's say Eternal Love takes out a \$700,000 loan from LACE at 4.75%. If the members of Eternal Love, collectively, invest \$700,000 in LACE, the full amount of the loan, in a 2-year 2.5% LACE certificate, then the interest rate on our Eternal Love loan will be reduced to 3.5%.

Below is another example of how this works:

If our Eternal Love \$700,000 mortgage is amortized for 30 years at 4.75% (\$3,651.53/month), and if our members invest enough into LACE to reduce our interest rate by just 1%, then our loan will reach maturity 5 years sooner. In order to calculate the savings, just take those 60 months of payments and multiply them by the \$3,651.53 and you get a total savings of \$219,091.80.

What a unique opportunity LACE offers us to support the work of God's Kingdom and earn some money on a certificate at the same time.

For more information on making an investment with LACE, go to www.laceinc.org or call 989-781-1600.



Land Purchase Progress

Pastor Pries

On Thursday, January 3, Joel Schmidt, our church president, and Pastor Dave Pries, our administrative pastor, delivered the offer to purchase legal documents to Karen Jakubek who owns the land to east of our property. We are meeting with her again on Tuesday, January 8 to discuss. She may accept our offer, reject our offer, or make a counter offer. It is now in her hands to think about this offer and pray about it. Please keep Karen in your prayers as well. We will continue to keep you informed of the progress.

January News

Mrs. Kara Krull, Director/Teacher

Happy New Year Everyone! I am excited to report that we have four new students starting our program between January and February. This puts our program at the 16 child capacity Tuesdays - Thursdays and at 13 children on Mondays. The Lord is good! At the end of this month, we will have our enrollment event for next school year. If you know of someone interested, please grab one of our special enrollment cards in the entryway of church or by the preschool door to pass on to them. Thanks so much for helping us spread the word about our program!

Our program next year is changing things up a bit. We will be offering the choice of a two, three, or five day program option for our 8am - 11:30am class. We will also be offering after school care from 11:30am - 4:30pm. This will hopefully serve as a great avenue to reach more working families who struggle with mid-day transportation. Packets for next year will be available by the third week of January. Anyone planning to enroll for next fall can grab one in advance to fill out the paperwork to have it ready for the enrollment event. Current students will be able to save their spot starting the second week of January.

Thank you to members of Eternal Love for all of your prayers and support. The Lord has truly blessed us and I look forward to what He has in store for us in the future.

The children will spend the month learning about the following curriculum items:

Bible Stories: Go and Tell, Gifts for the King, Jesus Goes to Church, Love Your Neighbor

Music/Movement: Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes, Tony Chestnut, New Song for February
Church singing

Math: Shapes, Numbers 1-6, Patterns, Sorting

Language Arts: Ll, Mm, Nn, Oo

Theme: Our Bodies and Senses



Join us for C.L.I.C.K. on Friday, February 1 from 9-10am.
We will meet the first Friday of each month thru May.

Want to know more?

Contact Kara at preschool.director@eternal-love.org

"Like" us on Facebook

Follow us on Pinterest

wee-love.org



Pursuing Our Mission Together

News about our Fellowship and Administrative Ministries

Voters' Meeting

Pastor Pries

The Church Council is getting excited about 2019. We have scheduled our next regular voters' meeting for **Tuesday, January 29 at 6:30pm**. The annual meeting may include brief reports of the various ministries of our church, membership changes, and elections of Church Council positions. We will present an update on our building expansion project. Our pre-voter's meeting **Open Forum** is scheduled for **Sunday, January 27 at 9:25am** between our two church services.



Using The Building

Pastor Pries

From time to time members are interested in using a portion of the building for a family activity or for some other purpose. That is possible to do, as long as it does not conflict with another church activity. If you would like to reserve a room (or several rooms) for a personal or family function, please contact the church office.

Becky, our office manager, will check the schedule and let you know if the date you have chosen will work out. There is no fee, but you are asked to leave the room and its furnishings in the same condition that you found them (clean, etc.).

We appreciate it if we know as far in advance as possible so the activity can be included on the monthly calendar. That way other volunteers who need to use the building (for anything from rehearsals to cleaning) will know what times to avoid.

Also, our equipment (tables, chairs, coffee pots, etc.) can be borrowed for use at home. Again, there is no fee, but the borrower will need to make reservations for the equipment through the church office. All equipment is expected to be returned on time, clean, and unbroken. If something is broken, it is the responsibility of the borrower to pay for repair or replacement.

If you have any questions about this, please call or email the church office.



2018 Offering Statements

Shane LaBarge

Watch your mailbox for the 2018 year-end contribution statements. They will be compiled and distributed around the middle of January. If you do not receive yours or if you have a question about something on it, contact Shane LaBarge at Shane.LaBarge@eternal-love.org.



IRA Charitable Distribution

Pastor Robert Balza

If you are over 70.5 years old and have investments in a traditional IRA, you probably know that you are required to take a minimum distribution each year. What will you do with all that distribution, which may be more than you need for yourself? And how much tax will you have to pay on it?

Those are questions that many of us have to answer, and when we take these distributions, smart planning can make a big difference. As Christians, we want to be good stewards of our retirement savings and income. Of course, we want to pay our taxes honestly (Romans 13:7), but we also want to take advantage of any tax saving opportunities that our government provides for us.

Our government has provided a wonderful tax saving opportunity for seniors who are 70.5 years old. It is called "IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution." As of 2016 anybody 70.5 years or older has the option for making gifts by direct transfer from a traditional IRA to our church or any WELS-affiliated area of ministry directly from our traditional IRA funds without paying income tax on those transfers.

Typically, IRA distributions are taxable, but when done correctly and transferred directly to a qualified charity, our contributions are free from federal and possibly also state income tax for anyone 70.5 or older.

Under this law, you and your spouse, assuming he or she is also 70.5 years or older and has a traditional IRA, may each make direct transfers of up to \$100,000 per year to charity. Rather than being treated as taxable income, direct transfers to charity are wholly excluded for federal

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Pursuing Our Mission Together

News about our Fellowship and Administrative Ministries

income tax purposes. These transfers do not generate a charitable deduction (under the new tax laws most of us will not be able to itemize anyway), so the relief from tax impact is probably more advantageous this way.

Our WELS Christian Giving counselor, Rev. Tom Mielke, can help you take advantage of this excellent tax savings.

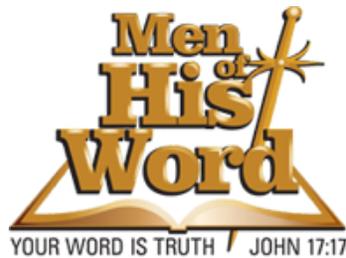
For example, if your required minimum distribution for 2019 would be \$10,000, you might be subject to 12% income tax on that amount, which would mean paying over a \$1,200 in taxes. However, if you transferred that \$10,000 distribution directly to your charity, you would pay \$0 taxes on that amount (and perhaps even lower the amount of tax you pay on your social security income). And think of the difference that such a gift would make to the charitable ministries that you would choose!

You can make a qualified charitable distribution to Eternal Love and/or any WELS ministry you choose. Contact Pastor Mielke to make an appointment for him to come and help you set up this distribution. His phone number is 750-4803. He will be happy to help you.



2019 Men of His Word Conference

Join us Saturday, February 9 for our annual Men of His Word Conference in Oshkosh, WI. The event will again be held at the Oshkosh Best Western Premier Convention Center.



Worship will be led by Koine and this year's keynote speaker is Pastor Jeremy Mattek. You will also have the opportunity to attend multiple breakout sessions on relevant topics.

Our goal is to equip you to be a better leader at home, in your congregation, and in your community. Start making your plans now and we hope to see you there!

Additional details and online registration are available at www.menofhisword.org.

Apple Valley Food Pantry

Cindy Wundrow, Food Pantry Communicator

The January collection date will be **the second Sunday of January - January 13, 2019.**

We had to make changes to the collection schedule for 2019 due to holidays falling on our normal third Sunday of the month collection.

Here is a list of items that are in need of by the pantry:

- Dish and laundry soap
- All canned meats such as chicken & tuna
- All crackers
- Cookies
- Spaghetti noodles & sauce
- Canned fruit
- Canned pasta
- Boxed & canned potatoes
- Paper toweling

Thank you for your continued support of the pantry. God bless and Merry Christmas.

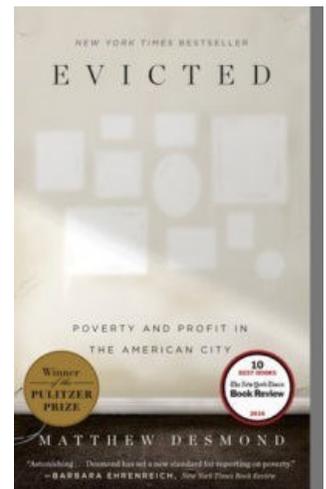


Book Club

Steve Schultz

Our Eternal Love Book Club will be reading the same book as "Fox Cities Reads 2019." This book examines local and state-wide homelessness through Matthew Desmond's 2016 New York Time's Best Seller, "Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City."

Join us on Tuesday, February 5 at 6:30pm in our Fellowship Hall. Gretchen will lead the discussion. Meredith and Colleen will provide refreshments. Join us for a discussion of the book and homelessness in our area.



(Continued on page 12)

Pursuing Our Mission Together

News about our Fellowship and Administrative Ministries

Family Story

Bob Broehm, Fellowship Director

Let me introduce Ryan and Sarah Galligan. They have been members of Eternal Love since 2016. Their favorite thing about being a Christian at Eternal Love is the family atmosphere and how easy it was to be welcomed into that Christian family when they joined. They have lived in the Fox Valley since 2015 however both have called Wisconsin home for all their lives.

Ryan is the Network Administrator for FVSBank in the Fond du Lac branch. He was recently promoted to this position in November 2018.

Sarah works for ThedaCare at the Neenah and Appleton hospitals as a float RN between multiple inpatient units. She also trains newly hired RNs and LPNs to the inpatient units at both hospitals.

They have a playful cat named Max that they rescued from the shelter. He is a very spoiled fur child.

In their free time, they love traveling to Disney World in Florida at least once a year. They also enjoy discovering new places to do a wine tour, however, that has been on hold as they are expecting their first child in June 2019! Congratulations Ryan and Sarah! We are so thrilled to hear about your expanding family. God's blessings on a healthy pregnancy!



Faith Fit Dance Fitness Class

Emily Suedmeier

Our Shepherd Child Care & Family Ministry (3335 North Lynndale Drive, Appleton) will host an 8-week Dance Fitness Class on Mondays from 5:30 - 6:15pm beginning January 14.

Faith Fit is a dance fitness class (think Zumba-esque) that encourages women of all ages and abilities to continue on their fitness journey, one step at a time! No matter where you are at on your journey - YOU MATTER. We dance to positive uplifting music from the likes of TobyMac, Mandisa, and more! The class is free, but childcare is available for a small fee. For more information contact Emily Suedmeier by email at: churchoffice@bethanyappleton.org.



Eternal Love Lutheran Church

January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Office Closed Christmas Break - No School	2 Christmas Break - No School Midweek Bible Study	3 2:00 pm ARC Worship Service Building Committee Meeting	4 9:00 am C.L.I.C.K.	5 Kevin & Andrea Ebeling (Chapel); Gretchen Kinnard & Brian Rasmussen (Fellowship Hall); Chad & Sarah Janke (Preschool/Offices)
6 Epiphany 8:00 am Worship with Communion 9:25 am Sun Sch/Bible Class 10:45 am Worship with Communion	7 11:45 am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Worship with Communion 7:30 pm CAP Course Bible Study	8	9 8:30 am Midweek Bible Study 1:00 pm Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Confirmation Class 6:30 pm Evening Bible Class 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	10 2:45 pm ARC Bible Study 6:30 pm Church Council Mtg	11	12 9:00 am Praise Ensemble Rehearsal Lance & Mari Robinson (Chapel); Chad & Jamie Reichert (Fellowship Hall); Pastor & Sue Balza (Preschool/Offices)
13 Baptism of Our Lord 8:00 am Family Worship 9:25 am Sun Sch/Bible Class 10:45 am Family Worship 7:00 pm Dartball	14 11:45 am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Family Worship 7:30 pm CAP Course Bible Study	15 Shut-In Visits - Pastor Pries	16 8:30 am Midweek Bible Study 1:00 pm Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Confirmation Class 6:30 pm Evening Bible Class 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	17 2:45 pm ARC Bible Study 6:30 pm Preschool Board Meeting	18	19 10:00 am Wee Love Family Day Mielke (Chapel); Brick (Fellowship Hall); Dave Sawall (Preschool/Offices)
20 Epiphany 2 8:00 am Worship with Communion 9:25 am Sun Sch/Bible Class 10:45 am Worship with Communion 2:30 pm Peabody Manor Worship Service 3:30 pm Oak Park Place Worship Service	21 Pastors' Joint Conference 6:30 pm Worship with Communion 7:30 pm CAP Course Bible Study	22 Pastors' Joint Conference	23 8:30 am Midweek Bible Study 1:00 pm Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Confirmation Class 6:30 pm Evening Bible Class 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	24 2:45 pm ARC Bible Study 6:30 pm Worship Board Meeting	25	26 9:00 am Preschool Enrollment Event Zimmernan (Chapel); Montigal (Fellowship Hall); Schaeik (Preschool/Offices)
27 Epiphany 3 8:00 am Family Worship 9:25 am Open Forum 9:25 am Sun Sch/Bible Class 10:45 am Family Worship	28 11:45 am Staff Meeting 6:30 pm Family Worship 7:30 pm CAP Course Bible Study	29 6:30 pm Voters' Meeting	30 8:30 am Midweek Bible Study 1:00 pm Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Confirmation Class 6:30 pm Evening Bible Class 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	31 2:45 pm ARC Bible Study		