TABLE TALK
August/September 2026

Evangelical Lutheran Church

From the Pastors:

Dear Church,

Greetings and blessings on your long summer days that will soon wind down to cooler fall temperatures! If your summer has been anything like ours at ELC, it has flown by and it is difficult to believe we are already planning for the kick-off of our program year. There are many exciting things happening at ELC this coming fall and one of the big ones which Pastor Drahus will share about in this issue of Table Talk is his sabbatical. While he will detail more about his upcoming time away for rest and rejuvenation, some of you may be wondering, how does Pastor Rosalie feel about taking the reins at ELC? The short answer is - great! (Thought we will all miss Pastor D during his time away)

While sabbatical is a wonderful opportunity for a long-term pastor to step away, it is also a wonderful opportunity for a newer pastor to step up! For three months, I will continue to be your pastor. The pastor you call when medical or personal crises arise. The pastor who celebrates with you in the baptisms, confirmations and weddings in our community. The pastor who will preach, preside, teach and serve within and beyond the walls of our building. These things will not change, however you may have an opportunity to more fully connect with me as your pastor than you have previously. I welcome that opportunity, and am excited to continue showing up for this community in the midst of the mountain top and valley moments of life and faith.

With that all being said, this season will also be one of leaning on one another and bringing other voices to the table. I am very excited to share, beginning in September, we have invited several seminary students to join us as guest preachers at ELC! As a first-call pastor completing seminary within the past year, the opportunity to preach in front of a congregation was vital to my learning and growth. As a church community, we are called to help form future leaders of the Church and this is a phenomenal way to invite that learning. Biographies of these guest preachers will be made available as they join us. I encourage you to seek them out, ask about their journeys to ministry and provide feedback that will help them grow.

As we transition into this season of both sabbatical and the kick-off to our program year, know that while things may look different, we are still church together. This means stepping up where needed, leaning on one another and providing grace as best we can when things don't go as planned. ELC has an amazing staff and an incredibly generous community. We will be blessed in this next chapter just as Pastor Drahus will be blessed with time to step away. I look forward to hearing from many of you this fall. Enjoy these last long days of summer!

Pastor Rosalie

WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

Through September 13	Starting September 20
Unity Services: 9:30 AM	Traditional Services @ 8:00AM Celebration Services @ 10:45AM

Our 9:30AM and 10:45AM services will continue to be live-streamed on our YouTube channel
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaeKa1_Uo4gnV58do3c0OIg

PASTOR DRAHUS' SABBATICAL

As was shared in the previous Table Talk, I will be taking my sabbatical this fall. I thought it might be helpful to explain what a sabbatical is and why it is granted to clergy every so often. A sabbatical is an intentional period of renewal granted to a pastor after several years of ministry. It is not a vacation or extended time off, but a planned season for spiritual, intellectual, and personal refreshment so the pastor can return to ministry with renewed energy and vision. Sabbaticals reflect the biblical rhythm of Sabbath—God's gift of rest, renewal, and trust. They acknowledge that pastors, like all Christians, are sustained not by constant work but by God's grace. A well-planned sabbatical benefits both the pastor and the congregation by fostering healthier, more sustainable ministry and creating opportunities for congregational leaders to grow in shared ministry while the pastor is away.

With that said, I'm confident that while I'm away, the congregation will be in good hands, and our council, church leaders, and especially Pastor Rosalie will do an amazing job leading our church in its mission. However, it will take the whole congregation to get involved and support not just the ministries of this place but also the leaders, especially Pastor Rosalie. Please reach out to Pastor Rosalie this fall and ask how you can support and help in many wonderful ministries of ELC. As I always say, "It takes a village…" No one or two pastors can achieve what a whole, faithful, and dedicated community of faith can do together. I'd like to thank all of you in advance for your support of Pastor Rosalie, as she leads and cares for our congregation this fall.

With utmost gratitude,

Pastor Drahus

WOMEN'S RETREAT - CAMP KIRCHENWALD - AUGUST 28TH-30TH 2026

REGISTRATION EXTENDED TO AUGUST 10TH

Please return registration forms and payment to the Church Office

ELC's first (hopefully) annual Women's Retreat is coming soon and the theme is 'Dear Me' , a reflection on our past, present and future lives of faith! Registration forms, medical forms and information on payment can be found in packets located in the welcome center or narthex. Women 18+ (with the exception of kiddos under two who need to stay with mom) are welcome to attend! The Schriberhaus Lodge at Camp Kirchenwald is handicapped accessible and air conditioned. Each room contains four beds and a private bathroom/shower. More information on the retreat can be found in the registration packets or by contacting the office. Questions?

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Our Tuesday Morning Bible Study continues this fall. Pastor Rosalie will be leading it during Pastor Drahus' sabbatical. If you like to discuss news headlines and look at them from a Biblical perspective, Tuesday Morning Bible Study is a place for you. The meetings will resume on **Tuesday, September 15, at 8:30 AM at the Parlor House Restaurant** (724 South Potomac Street). We'll meet in the back banquet room and continue with our usual format: breakfast and time of fellowship. Then, we will study the Wired Word Bible Study. Each study focuses on a different topic, allowing you to join at any time. We are done by 10:00 AM. Don't miss out on this opportunity to grow in community and faith.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible Study Group will meet on **September 8 at 12:00 noon** for lunch at Judy Reed's House, 308 Frick Avenue Waynesboro. New members are welcome.

HEAVEN - BEYOND IMAGINATION

What do you think heaven will be like?

Most of us have ideas about heaven—but how many come from popular culture? Join us for a six-week journey as we explore what Scripture, Martin Luther, and the Lutheran tradition teach about our eternal hope. Together we'll discover a richer, more joyful vision of heaven and the promises God has prepared for His people.

Mondays, November 2 – December 7 6:00–7:30 p.m.

Whether you've wondered about heaven for years or have never really studied it, everyone is welcome.

ELC SMALL GROUP MINISTRY UPDATE

During this year's Lenten season and in the following months, we've been talking about the ELC Small Group Ministry. With Pastor Drahus' sabbatical, some things are being put on hold, but we are by no means abandoning the exciting prospect of this ministry. As soon as Pastor Drahus returns, we'll move ahead with training the leaders who feel called to this ministry.

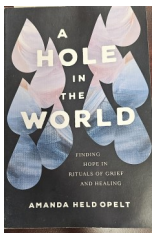
Please continue to pray about whether you might be called to lead it or to participate in it. If you feel that God is putting it on your heart to get involved, please let us know, call the office, or talk to pastors. This fall, we'll be compiling a list of future leaders, and as soon as Pastor Drahus returns from his sabbatical, we'll schedule training sessions. In these sessions, we'll explain and teach everything the leaders need to know about this ministry.

Even after you attend these meetings, you'll still have time and space (a couple of weeks) to pray and think about whether this is the ministry you'd like to do. Then we'll be ready to start. We are excited to see how the ELC Small Group Ministry will enable us to gather in community, grow in God's word, and go in service for Christ.

Evangelical Lutheran Church

FALL ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

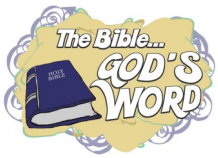
A HOLD IN THE WORLD



Amanda Apelt shows us that when we carefully attend to our losses with honesty and curiosity, we are able to expand our capacity for love, faith and healing.

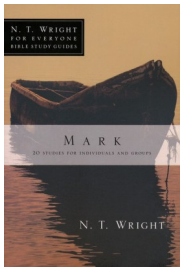
If you care to join us in this book study, the class will meet on September 20th during the church school hour. The book price is $4.59 on Amazon. This class will be lead by Carole Kipe.

THE AUGSBURG CLASS



The Augsburg Class welcomes any adult wanting to explore God's Word through a standard scripture series of lessons. This Bible study class uses the International Sunday School Lessons, also known as the uniform series. It provides a structured, six-year plan for studying the entire Bible. Participants share through discussion, prayer, reflection and song. Joyce Nowell is the coordinator.

NT WRIGHT'S MARK FOR EVERYONE



We will be using NT Wright's Mark for Everyone as the guide for the Sunday School class this year. We will be meeting weekly in the Community Room. The books are about $15.00 each and can be purchased on Amazon. (I will also have some extras on hand for those who visit the class throughout the year.) I look forward to seeing you there!

- Karen Walker

CHURCH PICNIC IS SEPTEMBER 7TH

Our annual church picnic will be at ELC on the Sunday, September 13th, **following the 9:30 AM Unity Service.** Please bring a side dish or dessert to share!

Celebrating 80 or More Years of Life
Let us Rejoice with them!!
Happy Birthday to...

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS	SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS
Ruthie G. 8/6	Dan D. 9/17
Norma H. 8/7	Frances B. 9/20
Carol C. 8/9	Carole K. 9/26
Betty E. 8/13	Paula K. 9/29
John S. 8/21	Lena R. 9/29
Doris M. 8/22	Betty P. 9/30

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS - A DAY OF SERVICE

Sunday, September 13th 2026

"God's work. Our hands" is the ELCA's annual day of service where congregations across the country partake in projects that support their local community. On September 13th following our church picnic, there will be opportunities to participate in several service projects in our community for the afternoon. Further details on these projects will be announced as we get closer to September. Be on the lookout for more God's Work Our Hands information coming soon! Questions? Contact Pastor Rosalie

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN YOUTH MINISTRIES

Grades 6th through 12th

CONFIRMATION CAMP FUND

We had 17 confirmands attending All Saints Confirmation Camp this summer! Confirmation camp is an annual, week-long retreat held at Camp Nawakwa, playing a crucial role in the faith growth of our confirmands. This is not a cheap ministry but a very important one, and it can happen thanks to your financial support for the Confirmation Camp Fund. We hope that you'll continue to support this ministry with your special contribution or loose offering. In 2026, these collections will occur on the 5th Sunday, August 31, and November 30. You're welcome to contribute to this fund at any time. A special envelope is included in your monthly offering envelope packet. Thank you for your continuous support!

CONFIRMATION MENTORING MINISTRY

We are grateful to all confirmation mentors and prayer partners who, throughout the year, take the time to stay in touch with our confirmands. This year, we'd once again like each of our confirmands to have a mentor who would pray for them, check in with them periodically via note, card, or phone call, and be available as a spiritual support and guidance. Please consider this wonderful opportunity to be there for our confirmands and make a difference in their lives. There is a sign-up sheet in the parlor lobby. Thank you!

ALIVE 2025 - MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH RETREAT AT CAMP NAWAKWA

Attention all middle-schoolers!!! Once again, this fall, we are attending ALiVe, a middle school retreat at Camp Nawakwa! The dates for this annual event are **Friday, September 25 – Sunday, September 27, 2026**. The weekend retreat combines faith formation teaching in small groups around a common theme. It includes large group gatherings with live music and singing, speakers, videos, games, and lots of fellowship and inspiring worship. Campfires, mealtime, free time, and rec are all balanced with the learning sessions, so youth have a holistic experience of Christian community, faith formation, and fun! The theme of this year's ALiVE retreat is Better Together. Registration letters will be mailed to all middle school-age youth. Please mark your calendars!

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Our Sunday morning volunteers are crucial to Sunday worship and the fellowship experience. It takes many dedicated people to make sure that we, as a congregation, and all our friends and guests have a fulfilling and meaningful experience from the moment we enter the building on Sunday morning until the moment we depart, hopefully nurtured and fed with the good news of the Gospel and sacraments and a community of faith that genuinely cares about everyone.

Our hope is that, with this summer stewardship emphasis, God will stir within the hearts of our members a desire to sign up and explore ways they can participate in the life of this congregation. If you just signed up to serve, or if you've been serving as greeters, ushers, communion assistants, lectors, assisting ministers, or altar guild, we'd like to invite you to one of the volunteer training sessions on **Sunday, August 16th and Sunday, August 23rd, from 11:00 am to noon.**

During these sessions, we'll go over the tasks and responsibilities of each volunteer group that makes our Sunday worship and fellowship possible, and we'll answer any questions you might have regarding these ministries. Even if you're not sure which one of these you'd like to get involved in, please join us for these sessions. You might just find out that God is calling you to join one of them.

ELC PROPERTY UPDATE

Church buildings can be a blessing but also a lot of work, especially when it comes to the upkeep and maintenance of old, historic buildings. Our church is beautiful, from the majestic red-stone exterior with its towers and rose window to the gorgeous sanctuary with a magnificent organ to the modern, cozy fellowship and community spaces.

This summer, the council approved replacing two roof HVAC units that were in desperate need of repair. These units heat and cool the upstairs of our church. The total cost of these units was $26,000. In addition to the HVAC, we're having continuous roof issues that need to be addressed. Certain areas have been patched, but a larger repairs needed at a cost of $10,000. In addition to these two major projects, we've been updating some lighting: above the main staircase, in the elevator, and above the staircase right outside the sanctuary. We also added several handicapped spots for our members who need easier access to our church.

We wanted to say a big thank you to all volunteers who faithfully come in and do various hands-on projects, whether inside or outside the church; they make a tremendous difference. We could most certainly use more help. If you're available, please let the office know. We are also grateful for the continuous financial support that makes these maintenance repairs and replacements possible. Psalmist in Psalm 122 writes, "I was glad when they said to me, &;Let us go to the house of the Lord! These words remind us that God's house is a place of joy and welcome, worthy of our care. Let us continue to take good care of what God and past generations of Waynesboro Lutherans entrusted into our stewardship. Thank you!

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION (QCD)

As we continue our shared ministry at ELC, we give thanks for the many faithful ways you support Christ's mission through worship, service, outreach, music, education, and care for neighbors in need. Your generosity strengthens our congregation and helps ensure that, as a church, we continue to gather in community, grow in God's word, and go in service for Christ here in Waynesboro and beyond.

There is a stewardship opportunity that may be especially meaningful and beneficial for ELC members age 70½ or older: a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from an Individual Retirement Account.

A QCD allows eligible individuals to make a direct gift from an IRA to the church without counting the distribution as taxable income. For many donors, this can be a meaningful way to support the church's ministries while also offering potential tax advantages. In addition, for those who are required to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), a QCD may satisfy all or part of that annual requirement. If you are considering a Qualified Charitable Distribution this year, we encourage you to speak with your financial advisor, IRA administrator, or tax professional to determine the approach that is best for your circumstances. There will be an informational session at church scheduled for **Thursday, August 27, at 6:00 PM** with Kery Swope, a member of our church and a Certified Public Accountant. If you're not able to attend the session and have further questions, the church office would also be glad to provide the information needed to facilitate a gift.

Every gift entrusted to our congregation is received with gratitude and carefully stewarded for the work God has called us to do. Thank you for your continued faithfulness, prayers, and generosity. Through your support, the ministry of Christ continues to flourish in our community, and the hope and love of the Gospel touch lives every day.

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Next Council Meeting:

August 11, 2026 @ 6:30PM

Our Time, Talents, and Treasures: Financial Reports

Table Talk Treasurer's Report

as of: 7/22/2026

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference
YTD Offerings	$ 301,000.00	$ 278,412.08	$ (22,587.92)
YTD Income	$ 344,000.00	$ 322,533.81	$ (21,466.19)
YTD Expenses	$ 352,447.44	$ 348,916.56	$ (3,530.88)
YTD Expenses Under (Over) Income	$ (8,447.44)	$ (26,382.75)	

TABLE TALK

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

43 S. Church St.
Waynesboro, PA 17268

Phone: 717-762-9151

Website: www.elchome.org

Email: businessmanager@elchome.org

Office Hours
Mon.-Thurs. - 9:00 a.m. –3:00 p.m.
Fri. -9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.

Closed for lunch 12:00PM-12:30 p.m.

Join Us for Sunday Worship

Through Sept. 13	Starting Sept. 20
Unity Services: 9:30 AM	Traditional Services @ 8:00AM Celebration Services @ 10:45AM

Like us on Facebook
elcwaynesboro

YouTube
@elchomeorg

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Waynesboro, PA
Permit No. 119

To:

Postmaster:
Dated Materials
Please Don't Delay!

MOVING? PHONE OR E-MAIL OR ADDRESS CHANGING?

We want to stay in touch! Please let the church office know of your new address, phone number or E-mail as soon as possible. Thank you!

HOSPITALIZED OR CHANGE IN HEALTH?

If you or someone you know becomes ill, injured, hospitalized, or is moving, please let the office know. Unless you or someone you designate contacts the church office, we may not know about this. Privacy laws have changed—the best way we learn of your health issues is when you tell us.

VANCO FAITH

ELC'S MOBILE APP IS EASY TO USE!

You can download the Vanco Mobile app for free from the App Store or Google Play. From there, you can make a one-time donation or set up recurring giving right through the app. Just select your fund and amount, enter a payment method, and complete the donation. If you have questions or need assistance with our new mobile app, please contact the church office.