

Announcements

WELCOME BACK, DEBBIE!

We're really excited to have you back with us!



WOMEN'S RETREAT - AUGUST 28TH-30TH 2026 AT CAMP KIRCHENWALD - DEADLINE IS TODAY!

Registration forms can be found in packets located in the welcome center or narthex. The Schriberhaus Lodge at Camp Kirchenwald is handicapped accessible and air conditioned. Each room contains four beds and a private bathroom/shower. Need to carpool? Let the office know! **Registration information and payment is due TODAY.** Questions? Contact Pastor Rosalie.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING- FOR NEW AND EXISTING VOLUNTEERS!

GATHER.GROW.GO
VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN



Our Sunday morning volunteers are vital to enhancing our worship and fellowship experience. It takes a dedicated team to ensure that our congregation and guests enjoy a meaningful journey from arrival to departure, uplifted by the Gospel, the sacraments, and a caring community.

This summer, we invite our members to explore opportunities for engagement as part of our stewardship emphasis. Whether you are new to volunteering or have served as a greeter, usher, communion assistant, lector, assisting minister, or in the altar guild, we invite you to attend our training sessions on Sunday, August 16th, and Sunday, August 23rd, from 11:00 AM to noon.

Even if you're unsure of where you want to serve, please join us. You might discover the perfect role God is calling you to!

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DRAHUS

Starting August 31, 2026, I will be taking a three-month-long sabbatical. This is my fifteenth year serving at ELC as pastor, and our time here has been filled with many blessings but also challenges. Ministry can be very rewarding, but also very taxing, especially in times of crisis. I am looking forward to this time of rest, study, and renewal, and I really appreciate all your support and prayers. I am also grateful for the support of Pastor Rosalie, who will be serving on her own during my sabbatical. I have no doubt that she'll receive tremendous support from the congregation!

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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.

CHURCH RALLY DAY / SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF

Our annual Rally Day/Sunday School Kick-Off at ELC will be on **September 13th** after our Unity Service! Our Fellowship Committee is providing fried chicken and drinks. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share! We are also planning something new for later in the afternoon, so mark your calendars!

