

Raise the Roof!

ROOF FUNDRAISER

Saturday, August 24th

Events to include:

- ~~**Raffle** (1/2 a beef and other items)
- ~~**Kickball tournament**
- ~~**Canvas Paint party**
- ~~**Concessions**

This event will be open to the public and we need your help to let your friends and family know! A flyer with further information is included at the end of the newsletter to share or post in your community.



After 25 years of service, Brad Johnson is retiring from his position as church custodian. We are very thankful for his service and dedication these last 25 years.

Thank you Brad!

IT'S **GREAT**
TO MEET
YOU!

Church in the Barn

Sunday, August 11 @ 10:30 am

Johnson Party Barn -

N74866 County Road E, Osseo

ALL are welcome!

Driver your tractor, if you'd like!

Lunch will be provided ☺



*We would like to welcome
Julie Imgrund as our new
church custodian!
She will be taking over the
position starting August 1st.*

Practice Identifies Disciples

How do we know that a person is a disciple of Jesus Christ? What would you identify about a person so that you could say, "There goes a faithful disciple of Jesus"? Some disciples wear a necklace with a cross around their neck, or a bracelet with a cross, or an ear ring with a cross, but that doesn't mean they are disciples because these days there are many people that wear crosses for a variety of different reasons other than to identify them as disciples of Jesus. Some disciples wear a black cross on their forehead for an hour or so on Ash Wednesday, but it washes away as an identifying mark. What identifies a person as a disciple of Jesus Christ?

There are no physical markings on the bodies of Christian disciples that identify them as followers of Jesus. Even though in baptism they are marked with the cross of Christ on their foreheads with scented oil, and sealed by the Holy Spirit, there is no identifying mark that sets Christian disciples apart from non-Christian people. So, again, what identifies a person as a disciple of Jesus Christ?

Here is what I look for in identifying disciples of Jesus Christ.

- 1) Disciples of Jesus worship together with other disciples on a regular basis.
- 2) Disciples of Jesus study the Bible together with the world around them.
- 3) Disciples of Jesus pray together to discover God's will for all life.
- 4) Disciples of Jesus invite others to engage in discovering God's will for all life.
- 5) Disciples of Jesus encourage each other and those who are broken by life.
- 6) Disciples of Jesus serve each other and those who are broken by life.
- 7) Disciples of Jesus cheerfully give of their resources for the benefit of others.

Every day of your life as a disciple of Jesus Christ you are called to practice being disciples by engaging in these identifying characteristics. On the day of your baptism God made you a disciple of Jesus Christ so that you will actively practice being a disciple, and people will identify you by saying, "Yup! *There goes a faithful disciple of Jesus!*" Jesus commanded his disciples to **"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."** (Mt. 28:19-20) Practice being a disciple of Jesus by worshiping, studying, praying, inviting, encouraging, serving, and giving. Then, I will know, you are disciples of Jesus Christ.

Pr. Ahles



Our June & July VBS were a MAJOR success!!

Thank you to everyone that was a part of those days...

Everyone is invited to attend our next session on

Wednesday, August 14 from 5-7 pm

Supper from 5-5:30 with activities, lessons, crafts and dancing to follow!

ALL AGES – young and old – will appreciate our inter-generational time together.

~ NOT APPROVED ~
**MEETING MINUTES OF THE JOINT PARISH BOARD OF
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND ELK CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Meeting Date: June 18, 2019

Time: 6:30 p.m. (Meeting called to order at 6:40 p.m.)

Location: Immanuel Lutheran Church

Members Present: Pastor Ahles, Tom Wagener, Camille Skoug, Marie Murrell, Vicki Hanson, Michelle Peasely, Becky Rongstad, Keith Nelson (standing in for Steve Ebert), Pam Johnson, and Jim Odness (*via speaker phone*)

Opening Devotions: Pastor Ahles shared a passage from 1 Peter with us and a message from a devotional that he had read recently that touched his heart, directing the reader to “Sing a New Song.” He played his guitar and sang as a new song he was working on, the first song he has ever written. He also talked about growing as disciples and trying new things as members of God’s church.

Last Quarters Minutes: The minutes of February Parish Council meeting were handed out. It was noted that the year was incorrect, and should be 2019, not 2014. Marie moved to approve with that correction, and Camille seconded.

Pastoral Report

- Pastor shared that he had talked with Pastor Emerson on how Strum’s confirmation class mentoring program had run in the past, as he is interested in reinstating the program. He will continue to pursue getting this up and running again.
- Reformation Sunday (October 27 this year) will serve as Confirmation Sunday for both churches. We have 3 students at Elk Creek and 5 at Immanuel who will be confirming their faith this year.
- VBS for Immanuel is July 5th-8th, from 5 to 8 pm, with a good neighbor theme. VBS for Elk Creek is the 2nd Wednesday of each summer month. They had a great first meeting in June, with all generations encouraged to partake, and a theme of growing in Christ.

Old Business

Group Exemption: Resolution for ELCA Group Exemption Form #6 was agreed to and signed as required.

Parish Financial Statement: Michelle presented the Profit and Loss handout and highlighted items of interest. There had been a double payment by Elk Creek last month, which was then reversed. Both Pastor Ahles and Christine went on Medicare as of May 1st. Portico (ELCA retirement program) is finally going smoothly. Michelle moved to approve, Becky seconded.

Shared Expenses: We will be reviewing the past year’s attendance in our September meeting to see if there will be any adjustment in the percentage of cost covered by each congregation. Although the agreement signed by each congregation’s leadership states that costs will be shared according to church attendance as a measurement that greatly affects income, Jim had found documents that discussions had centered around membership rolls being the marker. Our agreement is for one year at a time and will go forward as is until the one year agreement has expired.

Pastor Salary: We need to discuss at the next meeting any possible increase to Pastor’s salary, so that both churches can include this in their budgets for 2020.

New Business

Special Services Coming Up:

- July 7th Strum will have their service at 8:30 as planned, and Elk Creek will be participating in the Pleasantville community worship service at 10:30. Pastor Ahles will be helping to lead in the worship service.
- On August 11, Elk Creek will be hosting “Worship in the Barn” at the haybarn at Crystal and Ryan Johnson’s residence. All are welcome to attend the 10:30 service. Lunch will be served after worship. Special music will be provided by Brent and Ashley Johnson.
- Heart for Luther Park is coming up on Sunday, August 4th, a fundraiser to support the park. There is a day camp for kids age 5-12 following the worship service.

Parsonage Fuel: July 9th, Tom sent out an email regarding parsonage fuel and whether to prepay for a cheaper rate, having to commit to 1000 gallons. A decision was required prior to August 9th in order to get the preferred rate. We've been getting it from Chippewa Valley Energy. Steve asked Tom to look into another bid. Tom checked Countryside Co-Op, and Jim checked the tank. Tank was full. Prices were \$1140 for Chippewa Valley and \$1100 for Countryside (as a new customer). A new tank would be needed to switch, and other charges. On July 19, Tom had heard back from 6 to continue to contract to Chippewa Valley, so measure was passed.

Next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, September 17 at 6:30 PM, to be held at Elk Creek. Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer at 7:45.

Respectfully submitted by Pam Johnson

Lines from LaVerne... We say we live in a tensed up world.

This cannot mean that the world is full of stress, but only that the poor souls living in it suffer from stress. You do not need to live stressfully. You can overcome it. You can live in peace and quietness. Find your way to peace. Faith in Jesus Christ can give you peace. Sit down quietly, pray to God, stop thinking about yourself and think of others. Then peace and quietness will come to you. Try conquering tension so you can cope with stress. Stress is good as long as it is kept under control. Make sure stress is not changing to distress. If your life

is too complex, simplify it. It is important to know what stress can do to you. People under stress are more likely to get colds and other illnesses. The reason is that stress reduces the body's ability to resist infection and maintain its defenses. Learn to relax and quiet your body. Stress creates valuable driving energy when it is controlled. How about some personal quiet time? Spiritual silence. If you spend 20 minutes in the morning and another 20 minutes at night, you may master your stress and tension. Use that time to meditate on God. Ask God to help you control your stress and tension. God loves us all; what could be better?

Your Lay Minister,
LaVerne

**Council
Meeting is
Tuesday, August
6
at 7 p.m.**

July 2, 2019 Congregational Council Meeting (Unapproved)

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by President Jim Odness. Members present were Jim Odness, Keith Nelson, Linda Odness, Bruce Thompson, Pastor Ahles, Stephanie Rumstick, Barb Fischer, Brandi Berg, Tom Johnson and Tim Radaatz

Pastor led us in prayer and devotion with a reading from 2 Corinthians Chapter 9: in which God's promise to us is we will have all we need and abound in all we want. In the same we are given this through grace and not anything we can do will change this. We also have all we need to get to work for the kingdom of God.

Secretary's report for the May's Congregational Council Meeting was read by Linda; motion to approve minutes as read by Tim, Stephanie seconded; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was not present as Brandi with motion to approve as presented by Bruce, seconded by Stephanie, motion carried

May

- Checking Account - \$4,213.90

June

- Checking Account - \$10,495.15
- 2050 General Fund - \$33,448.00
- Church Savings- \$5,625.47
- Building Fund Checking - \$15,836.47
- Memorial Fund - \$3,048.80
- 13 mo. CD - \$10,100.79

Brandi shared that she is still working to cancel our current church credit card, but is very close and once this has occurred will open a new one.

Based on our midyear income \$741.40 will be transferred from the general checking to the building fund checking account as directed by the budget which allocates 2%.

Pastor's Report

- Pastor conducted 4 worship services, attended 3 text studies, made 7 home visits and provided communion to 5 Shut-ins.
- He had a baptism on June 30th and provided support for Jim and Anita Goplin following the unexpected death of their granddaughter. He also officiated the Memorial Service for Melissa Hatfield.
- Pastor's tentative plans regarding Continuing Ed & Vacation are as follows:
Continuing Ed. - August 15 – 21 (7 days including 1 Sunday)
Vacation – August 22 – September 1 (11 days including 2 Sundays)
- Pastor reminds us of the upcoming VBS and encourages us all to attend:
VBS- Intergenerational – Once/month Wednesday Evening Gathering
July 10 and August 14

The first event in June was well attended and all of those who attended found it to be great fun.

WELCA

- SPLASH” – Faith Formation” program for our newest members children (birth-three) is going well.
- Ladies have donated \$8,760.00 to the church roof project
- No additional information regarding the fund raiser for the roof.

Parish Secretary Update

- No report

Janitor

- No report

Sunday School

- No report

Parish Council

- Jim and Keith updated the council about the joint meeting. Much discussion regarding the current agreement of 65% for Immanuel and 35% for Elk Creek, with no action taken. Immanuel provided a copy of their annual report and this was shared with all current council member.
- Next meeting will be at Elk Creek at 6:30 on

Old Business

1. We have received a bill for the replacement of the air conditioner, \$1,795.00, at the parsonage and Jim will handle making a claim with the insurance.
2. The council would like to thank the Rustin family for the generation donation to the roof project.
3. The council would like to thank Leonard Robinson and Steve Ebert for mowing the brush and grass off of the septic system.
4. Jim contacted Smith Landscaping and received a quote of \$110.00 for two shrubs to replace those in the front of the church. The old ones will need to be removed and then new ones installed, with date yet to be determined.
5. Upon further investigation with individuals at Haukness financial it was determined that the organist, janitor and church secretary should receive a W-2 form as they have specific duties directed by the congregation. Tim made a motion to provide the janitor, organist and church secretary with a W-2 instead of 1099, Stephanie seconded the motion, motion carried.
6. Regarding music for “Church in the Barn”, August 11, 2019, Brent Johnson and Ashley Johnson will be sharing their talents.
7. Regarding the offering envelopes for 2020, it is felt that we can print our own envelopes, however not specifics have yet been determined.
8. Update on the roof. It is anticipated to begin in 6-8 weeks pending arrival of the materials. Due to an error in the availability of material we will be getting a shake type roof.
9. The on demand water heater will not be repaired at this time as a new one will be only slightly more than repairing the current one and it is felt that the large gas one is adequate.

New Business

1. We received thank you notes from two organizations that we donated monies to.
2. Pastor shared that the rain gutters at the parsonage need cleaning out and the church mailbox post needs to be repaired.
3. The Eternal candle will be replaced with a similar candle and Jim will contact the memorial committee to see about funds for this.
4. Council would like to remind families with small children who sit in the balcony to monitor more closely the toys played with. It seems that a toy fell over the rail recently and struck a member sitting below. We don't want anyone getting hurt.
5. There is a fund raiser for the roof being planned for August 24, at the Pleasant Ball Park, "Family Fun Day" with more details to come. Tentative plans are for food, inflatables, a raffle and Kickball game, however nothing has been finalized, look for more information to come.
6. Brandi made a motion for the loose offering monies collect at Church in the Barn to be donated to the weekend meal programs for the following schools: Whitehall, Osseo-Fairchild and Strum, seconded by Linda, motion carried.

Motion to adjourn made by Tom 2nd by Tim, motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:27, we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Odness, Recording Secretary.



WELCA Meeting of Elk Creek Lutheran Church

7-14-19

The meeting was opened by President Berg at 9:10 am with Creed and Theme verse. Secretary report read, motion to accept Secretary's report by Debbie, 2nd by Sheryl. Motion passed report filed. Treasurer's report was given; June income \$4013.13, including a generous donation from Achilly funeral, and transfer from savings of \$3000.00 to checking (towards roof payment). Expenses for June \$9068.51 leaving a balance of \$2013.42 in checking. Seminary fund 10,240.80 with 0.77 interest, Savings balance at \$1452.93 after transfer to checking. Report placed on file. July expenses so far include annual tuning and repair of the church's (3) piano's in the amount of \$313.00, and \$200.00 toward a camper going to Luther Park.

Old Business:

Money for the 2nd payment on the roof was given to the council in the amount of \$8760.00. Splash books are being distributed the first Sunday of the month to those in church and mailed to those not here. Ladies are working on some type of system to keep track of what is given/sent out. No update on the bridal show

fundraiser, will be postponed until next year. Church in the Barn will be served by Groups 3 and 4 helping and bringing salads and bars. Crystal will apply for a Thrivent Grant. Brent and Ashley Johnson will provide music. Amounts purchased previous year were also given to Crystal.

New Business:

Information from the July Council meeting was shared by Barb. They extended a Thank you to the Ladies for the roof donation. As part of budget 2% of income was transferred to the building fund. After consultation with Haukeness Agency, Organist, Secretary, and Janitor should be paid as employee's, not contracted staff. On demand hot water heater would cost \$500.00 to repair, and \$900.00 to replace. Currently using the tank water heater and watching LP usage. Concern over having enough hot water for Lutefisk Dinner was brought forward by the ladies. Council asked about the new shrubs for the front of church being purchased from memorial money. After discussion motion by Becky, 2nd by Debbie for the Ladies to purchase 2 shrubs from

Dennis Smith at \$50.00 each. Loose offering from Church in the Barn will be given to Osseo, Whitehall, and Strum schools for the weekend meal programs. Raise the Roof Family Fun Day fundraiser, something for everyone, will be held at Pleasantville Ballpark Saturday August 24th with all proceeds going to the Church.

Mail: Thank You's were read from; Luther Park for the Quilt donated (also an invite to Hearts in the Park August 4th), and RSVP Program for donation to their Birthday in a Box program. Suggestion add this to our 4th Sunday of the month dedicated to donating Items

for Mission kits. Will also change September donation to School Care Kit as supplies are now on sale.

Dairyland Conference Newsletter, and the Synod Interchange shared, looking for a place to put these for others to be able to read. We have not seen information on the Luther Park Retreat August 14-15, but we were encouraged to go to this.

Offering was taken, and meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Barb Fischer, Sec.



WELCA Meeting of Elk Creek Lutheran Church

6-9-19

The meeting was opened by President Berg at 9:10 am with Creed and Theme verse. Secretary report given, discussion that it was decided after the meeting to not have a booth at the Lake Martha Days Arts and Crafts fair since we did not have a finished quilt to show for ticket sales. Secretary's report accepted with this correction and placed on file.

Treasurer's report was given; May income \$388.20, expenses for May \$789.74 leaving a balance of \$7068.90 in checking. Seminary and Savings balances unchanged from May. Interest with CCF bank is given quarterly. Motion by Sheryl to accept, 2nd by Barb. Report placed on file.

Old Business:

Discussion that clarification on motion for roof donation by Lynn was needed. Lynn stated that her intent was to give up to \$10,000 if needed. Giving full \$10,000 would deplete our funds currently available. From the council meeting the roof replacement would be paid in 3 payments. One now, one at the start of work and one on completion of work. Payments would be

approximately \$8000 - \$9000. Request from council for ladies to pay 2nd payment.

Splash books have been addressed and are either being mailed or handed delivered. Will take inventory of what we have to be prepared for upcoming births or baptisms.

No further update on Bridal Show fundraiser. This may need to be pushed to next year.

New Business:

Brad has resigned as Janitor effective the end of July, he will mow through year end. Circle will be held at Rongstad's pond, Monday 6/10 at 5 pm. Group 4 serves for Church in the Barn. Will check on someone applying for a Thrivent Grant. Barb has amounts purchased from last year.

Becky left a quilt at Luther Park for the Quilt raffle in August.

Offering was taken, and meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Barb Fischer, Sec

