



Church in the Barn

Sunday, August 15 @ 10:30 am

Johnson Party Barn

N44866 County Road E, Osseo

ALL are welcome!

Driver your tractor, if you'd like!

Lunch will be provided 😊

Please complete the survey at the end of this newsletter and return it. We value your feedback!



Pastor's Upcoming Vacation

July 29th - August 7th – vacation

August 8th - 13th - Cont. Ed. @ Luther Park Family Camp.

WE WELCOME EVERYONE TO COFFEE HOUR WEDNESDAYS AT 10 AM IN THE CHURCH BASEMENT. JOIN US FOR COFFEE AND CHATS!

Council Meeting is Tuesday, August 3 at 7 p.m.

Youth Group (students grades 5-12)

Mark your calendar for **August 12**

6-8 pm for the Youth Gathering at the Berg Farm (N42515 County Road E, Osseo). Feel free to invite your friends also to participate.

Treats are welcome!

Contact Jessica Berg with questions 651-925-7854.



HAVE YOU BEEN LOOKING FOR A WAY TO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR MISSION PROJECTS?



August we will be collecting

School Care Kit items:

- Pens (no gel pens)
- Crayons (16-24 count)
- Blunt scissors
- Pencil sharpener
- Notebooks (70 pages)
- Block erasers



Council Notes

Elk Creek Lutheran Church Council Meeting -- July 6, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Keith Nelson at 7:06 PM. Members present were: Cedric Anderson, Jan Berg, Brian Christopherson, Ryan Johnson, Rhonda Koval, Anson McCune, Keith Nelson, Lindsey Nelson, Lori Nelson, and Stephanie Rumstick.

Devotions and Prayer -- Keith began by reading Galatians 6 : 1-14. He emphasized verse 9 - Pastor Sherm's favorite saying "Let us not become weary in doing good." He then led the Council in prayer.

Secretary's Report -- Brian made a motion to approve the Secretary's Report as presented; Anson seconded; motion passed.

Treasurer's Report -- was presented by Keith with information provided by Haukeness Financial Service. Lori made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report ; Anson seconded; motion passed. It was noted that the Thrivent Account information will be listed in the Annual Report

Keith also provided the Council with a report on the Profit & Loss Budget Performance because we are 6 months through the year. He noted that the Offering given thus far is more than double what we had budgeted.

Elk Creek Lutheran Church Accounts

- General Checking Account - \$23,484.55
- General Savings Account - \$38,882.00
- Building Fund Checking - \$7,770.00
- Memorial Fund - \$3,388.86

Joint Parish Financial Accounts

	Elk Creek	Immanuel	Total
Beginning Balance -	\$4,662.89	\$6,994.23	\$11,657.12
Deposits & Interest -	\$3,405.46	\$5,108.19	\$3,405.39
Payments -	\$3,213.43	\$7,282.27	\$8,033.58
Liabilities -	\$4,854.92	\$7,282.27	\$12,137.19
Ending Balance -	\$4,854.92	\$7,282.27	\$12,137.19



Pastor's Report --

Pastor conducted 5 worship services. He attended 4 Coffee Fellowships and provided Holy Communion to 10 during visits to shut-ins and had visits with 13 shut-ins. Pastor delivered 9 Daily Devotions on Facebook and will be meeting with Blake and Bryssa Johnson during July so that they can complete their Confirmation class instruction and set a day for their Confirmation. Pastor attended 4 Dairyland Conference Pastor's Text Studies, the Elk Creek Lutheran Youth Group meeting at Kevin and Jessica Berg's farm, the Elk Creek Lutheran Women's Picnic & Bible at Becky and Allen Rongstad's pond, and the Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting at the church. He baptised Luci Jannett Berg, conducted the family visitation and funeral service for Josie Robinson, and led the June 23rd services at the Pigeon Falls Nursing Home.

Pastor attended the Ordination Service for Pastor Bethany Walker at Luther Park and met with Mark Flesberg at Stokes Funeral Home to plan for the July 17th funeral of Anna (Anderson) Flesberg. Keith noted that Pastor is on vacation from July 5 - 12, so John Batem will be preaching on July 11. He has not yet been ordained so Holy Communion will be presented during the July 18 service. He added that the Pastor will also be on vacation from July 29 - August 7 and will be at Luther Park Family Camp from August 8 - 13 for Continuing Education. Pastor Ahles' Office Hours at Elk Creek are

generally from 8:30 - 12:30 on Wednesday mornings. Pastor Ahles can be reached at [cell] 533-0939 or [parsonage] 694-2427.

WELCA Report -- The Women's Group will be meeting at 9:30 Am on Sunday, July 11. Discussions will include funeral lunches and Church at the Barn. Lindsey made a motion to rescind all restrictions on meals served at the church or by any of the church's groups. Anson seconded and the motion passed.

Choir -- No report

Memorial Committee -- No report

Sunday School -- No report

Janitor -- No report

Office Staff -- No report

Youth Group -- The Youth Group will be meeting at the Berg farm on July 8 and August 12.

Joint Parish Council Report -- Keith indicated that the Joint Parish Council met on June 15. There are no updates to the Parish Agreement. In September they will meet to discuss the budget and a performance evaluation of the pastor. A survey will be sent to all parishioners.

Old Business --

- **Church Services** -- A reminder that anyone willing to provide special music during the service should contact Becky Rongstad. We would welcome adding your musical talents to the service. Keith noted that he appreciates having more people involved in the service as readers, ushers, and candle lighters, and that he looks forward to having additional vocalists lead the singing of the Kyrie. Communion with the plastic cups is going well. It was noted that Drive Your Tractor to Church and Church in the Barn will be held at the Johnson Party Barn on August 15. The service will begin at 10:30. Becky asked that the Clavinova be brought to the barn and then returned to the church. Pastor will be preaching. It was agreed we are blessed that so many people have been willing to give their time, efforts, and money to our church now and in the past.
- **Carpet** -- The carpet is currently being installed. They hope to finish by July 10.
- **Curtition** -- The curtition has been delivered. It just needs to be installed. Brian is in charge of getting the curtition hung with the help of several volunteers.
- **Window Glass** -- Repairs are waiting on the company. Keith will call to remind them.
- **Front Doors** -- Cedric has the new brushes which will replace the old ones. He is just waiting for the carpet layers to finish before installing them.
- **Copier / Printer** -- Pastor had indicated that the new copier was much slower at printing the bulletins than the old copier. It was suggested that we may want to also keep the old one for use in making multiple copies. Keith will speak with Crystal Johnson about this.
- **Electrical Box** -- The electrician has the necessary materials, but the new box has not yet been installed since it is not a rush because the heaters in the Sunday School rooms are not currently needed. The box is not currently in use.
- **Refrigerator** -- The part has been installed and the refrigerator is working properly.
- **Fire Extinguishers & Elevator** -- These were inspected and certified in June.
- **Picnic Tables** -- Ryan indicated that an 8' x 6' cement picnic table (which weighs 2,500 pounds) would cost \$865.00 from Wieser Concrete Products Inc. The delivery charge for 1-3 tables would be \$420 and for Wieser to create the 8' x 10' x 6" slab for each table would be \$740. It was noted that the cement would be presealed and that each table could include an inset memorial plaque. An inset memorial plaque would cost \$100.. It was indicated that the families of Louise Johnson and Josie Robinson would each be interested in helping pay for a picnic table. Following discussion, Lindsey made a motion that the Memorial Committee be directed to work with the Johnson and Robinson family to order 2 tables be purchased and delivered to the church. Becky had indicated that her son Nathan would probably be willing to help with creating the cement pads to go under the tables. We felt that volunteers would probably be willing to do the work to create the cement pads. Ryan will organize this. It was noted that the rocks by the cemetery and the guardrails around the church need to be sprayed and the overgrowth removed. Possibly this could be done on the same work day.

New Business --

- **Bills to Pay** -- Pay for Elevator Inspection and Fire Extinguisher Inspection.
- **Donations to Others In Need** -- Keith noted that the Congregation had originally pledged \$3,00 to be paid to Luther Park Building Project during 2020-2021. This has not been paid. Lindsey made a motion to send the \$3,000.00 to Luther Park from the checking account. Anson seconded and the motion passed.
- **A Thank You note** from Jessica Berg of Thrivent was read.

Next Meeting -- The next Council meeting will be on August 3 at 7 pm.

Adjournment -- Brian made a motion to adjourn; Cedric seconded; motion passed. The meeting was closed at 8:55 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Lori Nelson, Recording Secretary

Vacation Bible School is back!!

- Theme: River of Life
- Mark your calendars:
 - **Wednesday, August 4** (5:30-8pm)
 - **Wednesday, August 11** (5:30-8pm)
- A light supper will be served with activities and lessons to follow.
- It is again multi-generational! Bring your kids, bring your grandparents! Everyone is welcome.
- We are looking for volunteers to bring food. There is a sign-up in the Narthex.



Lines from LaVerne... God has blessed us eternally in Christ by choosing us to be His. To all who received Him and believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God. We are heirs to His kingdom and co-heirs with Christ. You have been guaranteed eternal life, as evidenced by the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life. You have hope in Christ because of your glorious inheritance. You are the recipient of God's incomparable grace that saved you apart from anything you have done or can ever do. You can know the love of Christ which will enable you to receive God's fullness. This is the greatest blessing ever. If you look for material and relational

blessings, you may miss other significant ways in which God is blessing you. The true definition of a blessing is the assurance that you belong to God. How blessed we are to be secure in Christ. When you became a Christian, you were a new creation. You are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus. Don't just pretend you love others, really love them. Hate what is wrong. Take delight in honoring each other. Serve the Lord enthusiastically. Help those in need. Invite guests home for dinner. Pray that God will bless your enemies. Be happy with others when they are happy. If they are sad, share their sorrows. The nine characteristics of biblical fellowship: share our true feelings, encourage each other, support each other, forgive each other, speak the truth, in love, admit our weaknesses, respect our differences, and no gossip. Looking at this list, it is obvious why genuine fellowship is so rare. Dear Lord, I praise you for choosing me, for adopting me, and making me. I thank you for forgiving my sins and sealing me with the Holy Spirit. Thanks for continuing to bless me and for protecting me. Thank you for your constant love; I pray that with your help, I can help others to open their lives and their hearts to you. What does Christ our new manager want us to do? Spend a little time with Jesus. Read God's written word in the Bible. Bow your head and pray and thank God for all His blessings.

P.S. Reach out to Jesus. He is reaching out for you.

Your Lay Minister, LaVerne

WELCA of Elk Creek met for a meeting July 11, 2021.

Meeting called to order by President Jan at 9:32 am. Secretary's report from meeting held in April was read and approved as read. Additional notes from council minutes have been placed in the book with meeting minutes for all the months the ladies have not met due to pandemic. Treasurer's report was given for April; income 276.25, 4075.00 expenses (\$4000 for carpeting) ending balance; \$2603.06. May income \$489.09, expenses \$1062.73, Ending balance \$12,289.14 (includes Seminary fund of \$10,246.20). June income \$2168.31, expenses \$11,311.23 (Seminary Funds were all transferred to Thrivent financial) ending balance 3,146.22. Anonymous monthly donation of \$200.00 towards mission needs has been received. Treasurer report was approved and placed on file.

Old business: Material for kneelers at communion rail has arrived. There was discussion on how to handle funerals going forward – whether to begin asking groups to bring both salads and cakes, or continue as the ladies have done the recently. Motion by Lori to go back to previous practice using large groups to serve. 2nd by Barb, motion carried.

Vacation Bible School to begin Sunday 7/25 after church and then the following 3 Wednesdays.

New business: Church in the Barn will be August 15th. Bonnie will supply lemonade, large groups will be used to bring Salads and Bars/Dessert. Will have BBQ and Hot Beef/Pork mixture sandwiches. Thrivent grant will be obtained to cover the meat and buns, plates, etc.

Thank You's were read from the following: STOP (Osseo post Prom) Louise Johnson family, Gavin Manka (Quilt), Apple Pregnancy Center Janet Johnson (Pastor Meyer) and Ruby's Pantry. Western Dairyland Newsletter had a nice write up about all the giving our Church and the Ladies have done, all to an invitation to Church in the Barn.

- Stephanie is making a request with Ashley Furniture for a donated Item for the Bazaar to held the first Sunday in October after church.
- Lori is making sun dresses from pillow cases to be donated to missions, and if you have socks missing a mate, they work great for stuffing dog beds which are taken to the humane society.
- The Church council has ask that memorial money be used to purchase concrete picnic tables (2) to be placed behind church near swing set.

Adjourned at 10:28 am.

Barb Fischer, Sec.



Ladies Bible Study

W/ELCA Bible Study
August 16 at 6:00 pm
At Stephanie Rumstick's home



Next WELCA Meeting –
Sunday, August 8th BEFORE church
at 9:15 a.m.

Holy and Blameless Before God

God's plan for our lives, is for us to become more than we ever thought we would be. Just think about that for a moment. Think about who you are. Think about what you're like. Think about who you have become. Think about who you would like to be. Depending upon our age, some of us get to think about who we have become, and some of us are still thinking about who we would like to be. Wherever we find ourselves in this thinking, God's plan for our lives, is to become more than we ever thought we would be; **Holy and Blameless.**

God has a plan. God has a plan and a purpose for all things. In Paul's letter to the Ephesians we hear that God has a plan for our salvation which was planned even before the world was made. God is not an abstract idea out there somewhere. God is personal. ***“With all wisdom and insight, God has made known to us the mystery of God's will, according to God's good pleasure that God set forth in Christ, as a PLAN for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth. In Him (Jesus) you also, when you heard the Word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit, who is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.”***

We are chosen, destined, and appointed to live for the praise of God and joyfully be God's forgiven people. You and I, like many others before us, have been called by God, just the way we are, to be more than we ever thought we would be. We are marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit, redeemed as GOD'S OWN PEOPLE! We belong to God.

Our Christian faith then is more than knowing “about” Jesus or knowing “about” God in Jesus. It is more than “admiring” Jesus. It is more than just gladly hearing the Word of Christ. It's more than a head trip, more than just thinking about who we are or who we want to be. Christian faith is about living as disciples who become what God wants us to be: Chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world to be **HOLY AND BLAMELESS BEFORE GOD**. That is who God wants us to be, HOLY AND BLAMELESS PEOPLE. Only in Jesus Christ are we made holy and blameless for the fullness of time. Yes, God has a plan for our lives, to become more than we ever thought we would be—**HOLY AND BLAMELESS!**

Pr. Ahles



**The fall bazaar will be on
Sunday, October 3!!**

***We encourage you to start preparing your
items for the big day 😊***

Elk Creek Church Ministry Survey

1. Name (optional - if you want to be contacted about your survey by a council member or Pastor circle one, or if you don't want to be contacted that's okay too).
2. What things do you feel are done well at Elk Creek Lutheran Church?
3. What things do you feel we could improve at Elk Creek Lutheran Church?

4. The Church

Please rank on the lines below based on 1-not important, 2- somewhat important, 3-Indifferent, 4-important, 5- very important. Then circle the 3 things that need the most improvement or areas of growth for our congregation

Direction of the Church Council _____

Building, Grounds and Facilities _____

Children - learning, activities, participation _____

High school youth - learning, activities, participation _____

Adult education- Bible Studies _____

WELCA ministries _____

Men's ministries _____

Working with other churches and the ELCA _____

Evangelism - reaching out and inviting others _____

Community/area involvement and witness _____

Worship music _____

Church website _____

Online/electronic giving _____

Contemporary worship/music _____

Supporting individuals in the midst of a crisis _____

Worship at places other than church (P-ville, on the farm, homes, etc.) _____

Other _____

5. The Pastor:

Please rank on the lines below based on 1-Strongly agree, 2- Agree, 3-Indifferent, 4-Disagree, 5-Strongly disagree with the statements. Then circle the 3 things that need the most improvement or areas of growth for our Pastor

Inspires a sense of community _____

Communicates a clear understanding of the Bible _____

Communicates a clear understanding of Lutheran heritage and theology _____

Is innovative - envisions and implements new ideas _____

Recruits and equips leaders _____

Shares leadership, works mutually with staff, leaders, volunteers _____

Makes self-care, family life, and spiritual discipline a priority _____

Creatively relates to children and youth _____

Shares musical and artistic gifts _____

Preaches law and gospel as it applies to the current lives of people _____

Plans and supports small group ministries _____

Serves as an effective counselor _____

Ministers to those who are unable to physically be at services _____

Understands and embraces change _____

Professionalism _____

Other _____

6. Are there any other areas of Pastoral Leadership or the Church that you would care to comment on or suggestions you would care to make?

Thank you for taking the time to help our congregation prosper.

You may email the survey back, or give it to a member of the survey committee

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Lori Nelson 715-200-2223 lorinelson921@gmail.com

Keith Nelson 715-797-6475 Christianone3434@Gmail.com