



## Church in the Barn

Sunday, August 14 @ 10:30 am

Johnson Party Barn

N44866 County Road E, Osseo

ALL are welcome!

Drive your tractor, if you'd like!

Lunch will be provided ☺



## **Vacation Bible School is back!!**

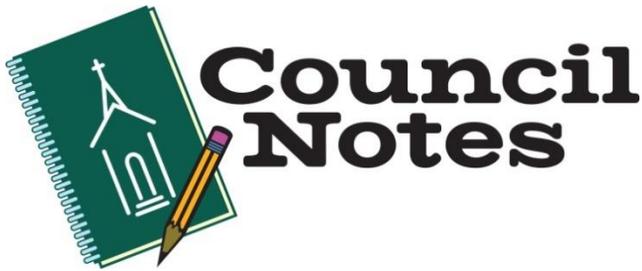
- Theme: ☺ ☺ ☺ On the Case ☺ ☺ ☺
- Mark your calendars:
  - Sunday, **July 31<sup>st</sup>** after church (9:45 am-12:30 pm)
  - Wednesday, **August 3<sup>rd</sup>** (5:30 pm-8:15 pm)
  - Sunday, **August 7<sup>th</sup>** after church (9:45 am-12:30 pm)
  - Wednesday, **August 10<sup>th</sup>** (5:30 pm-8:15 pm)
- A light lunch/supper will be served with activities and lessons.
- It is again multi-generational! Bring your kids, bring your grandparents! Everyone is welcome.



## August we will be collecting

### School Care Kit items for our Missions:

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



## Elk Creek Lutheran Church Council Meeting -- July 5, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President Ryan Johnson at 7:07 PM. Members present were: Jan Berg, Brian Christopherson, Ryan Johnson, Rhonda Koval, Dave Lyngen, Anson McCune, Lindsey Nelson, Lori Nelson, Becky Rongstad, Stephanie Rumstick, and Bruce Thompson.

**Devotions and Prayer** -- Ryan read a Thank You from Luther Park and led us in prayer.

**Secretary's Report** -- It was noted that the Secretary's Report for June of 2022 had been sent to each of the Council members electronically, corrections made, and it had been approved prior to it being printed in the July Newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report** -- was presented by Becky with information provided by Haukeness Financial Service. She indicated that Haukeness Financial Service has requested that the tax forms for the church be e-filed. This was approved. Rhonda made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented; Anson seconded; motion passed.

### Elk Creek Lutheran Church Account

- General Checking Account - \$42,022.51
- General [2050 Fund] Savings Account \$38,893.72
- Building Fund Checking - \$4,343.48
- Memorial Fund - \$4,140.09

### Joint Parish Financial Accounts

#### Assets Elk Creek Immanuel Total

Beginning Balance - \$4,095.40 \$6,143.38 \$10,238.78

Deposits & Interest - \$3,522.93 \$5,292.38 \$8,815.31

Payments - \$3,293.96 \$4,940.87 \$10,811.26

Liabilities & Equity - \$4,324.37 \$6,486.89 \$10,811.26

Ending Balance - \$4,324.37 \$6,486.89 \$10,811.26



### Pastor's Report --

Pastor conducted 2 worship services. He attended 2 Coffee Fellowships while selecting Hymns. He provided Holy Communion to 5 parishioners during visits to shut-ins and at area nursing homes. He attended the Bridal Show. He led a service at the Gundersen Tri-County Care Center on June 16. He was on vacation from June 23 to July 6. 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** -- Church in the Barn will be held on Sunday, August 14 with the service at 10:30 AM followed by a potluck lunch. It was noted that Group 2 will be serving following church services during the month of July.

**Youth Group** -- Lindsey indicated that the Youth Group will be having a Car Wash in Osseo from 2 to 5 PM on July 8 at 506 Charles Street. They would love to also have pre-packaged baked goods / treats which could be sold to Car Wash participants.

**Choir, Memorial Committee, Sunday School, & Janitor** -- No reports

**Office Staff** -- Ryan indicated that there is a problem with Crystal's computer. The keyboard has been swelling. After checking with Matt Weaver, she learned that this is dangerous as the machine could catch fire. Ryan was directed to get that computer out of the church building as soon as possible. Ryan said that the computer Brandi Berg had used while acting as treasurer is still around and that with Matt's help, Crystal may be able to use that. He indicated that Matt had given him prices for possible replacements -- a refurbished machine for \$1,100 plus Office Microsoft software or a new one for \$2,000. He also recommended that we purchase an Apple Care Program which costs \$100 per year. Lindsey made a motion that in the event that Brandi's computer doesn't work, Matt and Crystal be authorized to spend up to \$2,500 to purchase a new computer and the appropriate software; Anson seconded; and the motion passed.

**Joint Parish Council Report** -- Ryan and Lindsey summarized the Joint Council Meeting. It was decided that the expenses for the meat and other supplies from the Joint Church Service at Osseo would be paid from the Joint Account. There was a discussion about the rental price for Elk Creek's parsonage, followed by a discussion

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

of an issue with Pastor Ahles, especially keeping politics out of the pulpit and/or newsletter. Ryan and Henry Filla indicated that a number of people have complained to each of them. Pastor requested that people who are upset with his statements speak to him individually. It was noted that while we are doing okay financially, the number of people in the pews is down significantly.

#### **Old Business --**

- Detectors – Anson indicated that the new Gas Detector and the Smoke / Carbon Monoxide Detector have arrived and the Gas Detector has been installed. Bruce recommended that the Smoke / Carbon Monoxide Detector be placed in the hallway near the stairway and the basement Sunday School rooms. He will see that it is installed.
- New Gas Stove – Becky noted that the bill from Benedict's has been received; however it will not be paid until the stove is fixed. During the inspection by the representative from Chippewa Valley Energy, it was determined that the gas orifices on the stove are currently too large which means the flames are much too high. Benedict's has been contacted and they will fix the problem.
- Curtition – We haven't heard anything new.
- Seal Coating – Bruce has contacted 6 companies and is waiting to get bids. When he gets the bills, he will get a timeline for getting the project done. One company indicated that they would be unable to complete the project until spring of 2023. Bruce recommended that the cracks be filled before winter even if the seal coating doesn't happen next spring. We will discuss this at the August Church Council meeting.

#### **New Business --**

- Monthly Bills and Donations –
  - Cleaning Supplies & Elevator Inspection – The inspection was completed on June 7 and we passed. Anson made a motion to pay these bills; Bruce seconded; motion passed.
  - Lindsey asked about summer fill and the contract with Chippewa Valley Energy. Ryan will contact the Chippewa Valley Energy company and bring the information to the August meeting.

**Next Meeting --** The next Council meeting will be on August 2 at 7 PM.

**Adjournment --** Anson made a motion to adjourn; Lindsey seconded; motion passed. The meeting was closed at 8:15 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Lori Nelson, Recording Secretary

**Council Meeting is  
Tuesday, August 2 at 7 p.m.**

**Lines from LaVerne...** God himself proclaimed the 10 Commandments as the basis of a covenant between the people and God. A covenant is like a contract but more solemn and serious. More than an agreement, it is a binding commitment. In the covenant at Mount Sinai, the people of Israel agreed to live a distinctive life, striving to bring holiness in every aspect of their lives: their diet, their speech, their treatment of the poor, the



widows, the strangers. And everything they do they will be mindful of the fact that they are living and acting in the presence of God. God for his part promises to give them a land of their own. God told the people you'll never really be free until you learn to control your anger and your greed. God gave the 10 Commandments and these laws not to restrict the Israelites freedom, but to remind them he is a God who stands for freedom out of love and concern for their lives.

After the revelation at Sinai, God summons Moses to spend 40 days and 40 nights on top of Mount Sinai, where God will reveal to him all the particulars of the law contained in the 10 Commandments. He gave Moses two tablets of stone in which he inscribed the 10 Commandments as the essence of his covenant with Israel. Toward the end of the 40 days the

Israelites grew restless and were concerned that Moses would not return to them. So they prevailed on the brother of Moses to make a golden calf and worship that calf as their idol. They were not to worship idols and not to make graven images of God. That is exactly what they had done, Moses was sent back down the mountain to see how the people had betrayed him, Moses is angry seeing them celebrating and dancing around the statue of a calf. He hurled the tablets of the law to the ground shattering them. The purpose of the exodus was to set the people free, so they could pledge to God service and this was how they had misused that freedom. Maybe Moses thought there was no use to teach the people of God if they will not listen. How true that can be, but we are never to give up hope. God had Moses go back to the mountaintop and together they made a replacement set of the 10 Commandments. These are placed in the sacred receptacle sometimes called the ark of the covenant.

It is pictured that Moses is lovingly gathering up the fragments and placing them in the ash alongside the intact replacement set. His dream of forging a nation into a people who would unhesitatingly follow God's laws has been shattered. But he holds onto the broken pieces of the dream to remind himself or what he wants dreamed of doing and if the lesson he learned when he found out that his dream would not be realized. The journey from the confinement of Egypt to reach the promised land could have been completed in a matter of months. The Israelites were complaining and had no confidence and were ready for nationhood. No matter how many miracles God performed on their behalf, they continued to doubt whether God cared for them. Are we guilty of this as well?

If he cared why did he lead us into this barren wilderness? They could not believe that they deserve to be cherished. They would have to wander in the wilderness for 40 years. 40 years instead of a few months because they did not have faith in God. How sad is that? Does it seem possible it sometimes takes us years instead of days? We don't believe that we could be loved enough by God, even though we hear it over and over again that Jesus died for all of our sins. We know we don't deserve all the love he has for us and his extended grace as well. We need to have faith in our Lord always and he says he will never leave us or let us be separated. Why do we try to make everything so hard for ourselves? God is our shepherd. *PS pray continually I Thessalonians 5:17*



Your Lay Minister, LaVerne



Ladies  
Bible Study

**W/ELCA Bible Study**  
**August 20 at 1:00 pm**  
**At Tammy's Cottage on Lake**  
**Wissota**



**The fall bazaar will be on**  
**Sunday, September 18!!**

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

## Pastor's Upcoming Vacation

August 7th - 12th - Cont. Ed. @ Luther Park Family Camp.

Elk Creek Ladies Meeting, July 2022

7/17/22

Meeting was called to order by Pres. Jan at 9:45 am. Pledge and Theme Verse were recited. Secretary's report was approved with the following corrections: Ending Treasurer checking balance \$8630.86 (\$8630.90), Quilt ticket income from the Bridal show was \$150.00 (\$50.00). TCC should be WTCO now. Motion to accept the report with changes by Becky, second by Lynn, motion passed. Treasurer report June expenses \$319.47, Income \$1018.35, Balance \$8369.74. Savings remains same with the addition of 0.11 interest. Report was placed on file.

Old Business: Quilt Tickets sold at Lake Martha Days booth totaled \$211.00. Bill has been received from Maug cleaning for having the carpets in the lower level cleaned in the amount of \$582.00. This included cleaning of Sunday School rooms and Fellowship Hall. Thank You's have been sent to those who helped with the Bridal Show, the models and those helping to dress the models. July Mission Item is bars of soap. Becky has not yet received the Credit Card, and Fabric for mission has not been purchased. Sign has not been made for above the stove – will ask Crystal if she can do this.

New Business: July 23 a group of Norwegian's from Minnesota (approx. 20) will come for a tour and talk on the history of our Church, Altar and Cemetery- Allan Will give the talk. Dessert will be served to the group afterwards, and each will be given a cookbook. Several Ladies will make desserts to be served.

August 14 Church in the Barn- Group 1 (Stephanie) to serve – Desserts, Salads, and Ice will be needed. Ladies will talk to Pastor, to make sure Strum Immanuel is invited to the service that will be held at 10:30 am. Strum was asked to change times for this Sunday.

August Circle 8/20 will be held at Tammy Dannenberg's cabin on Lake Wissota, at 1 pm.

September 18th: Bazaar will be held. Will check with Crystal on who can update the website, as that still states November.

Correspondence: Thank you from New Horizons for the \$200.00 donation. Thank you from Family Promise (previously Bolton House) for the donation of 12 quilts.

Meeting Closed with offering and the Lord's Prayer at 10:45 am.

Barb Fischer, Sec.



## **Immanuel/Elk Creek Parish Council**, June 21, 2022, 6:35 pm, at Immanuel

Members present: Henry Filla, Ryan Johnson, Tom Wagener, Pastor Ahles, Tammy Danenberg, Gloria Wagener for Kris Husby, Vicki Hanson for Camille Skoug, Lyn Schlink for Bob Schlink and Lindsey Nelson.

Devotions: Job 12: 7 - 11 - Our lives are made up of patterns, which can be altered but brought back into balance with work. Use humming to bring your patterns back into balance. Pastor then led us in prayer.

Approved minutes of February 15, 2022 via previous email.

Pastor reported that attendance has increased somewhat, but we should be watchful and support one another as hopefully the pandemic is fading. He commended both churches on being financially able to meet their budgets while contributing to other outreach areas. Joint worship and parish picnic went well with special thanks to the musicians who helped out at this. Reminded everyone about the service in Pleasantville on July 3rd, Elk Creek's Church in the Barn on August 14 and Immanuel's 150th celebration on September 11th.

### Old business:

- Joint account financial report - Parish Checking Account - Ending Balance - \$10,238.78
  - Elk Creek ending Balance - \$4095.40
  - Immanuel ending Balance -\$6143.38
    - Question for Karin - Why are the Liabilities and Equity lines all \$0? Tom reached out to Karin and found out that liabilities and equities: the zeroes mean there are no past due amounts. This is kept in case one month there would be an amount due, etc.
  - Motion to approve the financial report pending clarification from Karin by Henry, second by Vicki. Approved
- Ryan made a motion to pay for the meat and supplies for the picnic from the joint account, second by Henry. Approved. Tom checked with Kris on this and reported that for the Picnic meat and buns the bill has been paid by Immanuel. When Kris is back from vacation, she'll let us know the amount for each congregation.
- Worship in-person updates, including picnic
  - Elk Creek - Worship in Barn will be at 10:30, August 14, so switch in time with ILC
  - Picnic went very well and the food was great. Offerings from this went to individual congregations if designated, Loose offering went to Trempealeau County Food pantry as agreed on by parish council members at the picnic.

### New business:

- Consideration of updates to Parish Agreement for 2023 - Each council should look at this before our September meeting
- Looking ahead to 2023 budget will be worked on at the September meeting
- Supply Pastor needed for June 26 will be Todd Holmen and July 3 (Immanuel only) is being worked on. Paul Tobiason (715-308-4069) will be an emergency pastor during Pastor's vacation of June 23 - July 6.
- Luther Park Family Camp - August 7th - 12th Pastor will be at this using continuing education time

### Announcements:

- Elk Creek Worship in the Barn - August 14 at 10:30 (Note change in service time).
- ILC 150<sup>th</sup> celebration September 11 at 10:30
- Members of the Parish Council have been approached by members concerning the issue of Politics in the Pulpit. This can cause division in our congregations and parish. The Parish Council would encourage people to pray about this, speak directly to the Pastor with their concerns, and report back on their conversations with a Parish council member.

Set next meeting date: Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at Elk Creek Lutheran at 6:30 pm.

Motion to adjourn by Gloria, second by Lyn, approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Adjourn-Lord's prayer

Respectfully submitted,  
Tammy Danenberg  
Parish Council Secretary

## **Let Hope Abound!**

It's good to be "back in the saddle" after my bout with the latest Covid variant that is spreading across the country. While my symptoms were mild and relatively easy for me to manage, it did interrupt what I wanted to do and accomplish during the last two weeks of July. Vacation Bible School is fast approaching for both congregations and Christine and I hopefully will still be able to attend a week of Family Camp at Luther Park with Mara & Elizabeth August 7 – 12. Without a doubt, interruptions will happen with my schedule from time to time, and I would guess they do for you as well.

Yet, nothing can compare to the tragic interruption that a good friend of mine is going through at this time. Last Friday (July 22<sup>nd</sup>), she received a phone call from authorities in Iowa that her daughter, husband and their 6- year-old daughter were shot to death at a camp site at an Iowa State Park. Their 9-year-old son somehow escaped the camp site to get help and he survived. This grabbed me deep in my gut and took my breath away. There have been other senseless mass shootings that have drawn my attention, but not like this. I was stunned that this could happen to a close friend of mine and her family. I wanted to scream out at God, WHY!!! Why did this happen to a good friend and her family that I love and care about? Grief abounds!

I don't have an answer to my question to God, yet I know that others have felt this way as well. When they find out that something tragic like this happens to them, they too are left questioning God: WHY!!! They too are stunned and want to scream out. I am not alone. Grief abounds!

Still, I am a person of faith. I believe God gives life, redeems life, saves life, and raises our love ones up to new life, even though death seems to have snuffed out life. My hope is in Jesus Christ who felt abandoned in death, yet was obedient in death, so that God raised him up to new life forever. This is my hope when grief abounds all around.

Therefore, as we move into the last month of summer, let us teach this hope to our children and grandchildren when grief abounds all around. Encourage your children and grandchildren to be involved in Vacation Bible School. Get yourself involved in VBS too. **Let Hope Abound!** Let us celebrate our God who gives life, redeems life, saves life, and raises up our loved ones and all of us to new life, forever. ***“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13)***

Pr. Ahles