



The Youth Group presents
THE NATIVITY EXPERIENCE

*The Nativity Experience will be
Saturday, December 9th at 5:30 pm
behind the church.*

**(Full Dress Rehearsal for ALL KIDS and
VOLUNTEERS and set-up will be
Fri, Dec 8 at 5 pm and Sat, Dec 9 at 12 pm.)**

SUNday SCHOOL:

Dec 3 – Christmas program practice during Sunday School (9:15)

Dec 10 – Christmas program practice during Sunday School (9:15)

Saturday, Dec 16 – Full dress rehearsal 9 am

Sunday, Dec 17 – Christmas program performance 10:30 am

Dec 24 – No Sunday School

Dec 31 – No Sunday School

Christmas

Program

Sunday,

December 17

10:30 am



Mission of the Month: **BIRTHDAY BOXES!!**

There will be a box in the Narthex to
put your donations in.

Thank you to Lynn Nelson for organizing
another successful

*"Craft for a Cure to End
Alzheimer's"*

Thank you to the generosity of those that
attended and/or supported this event.

\$1,435 was raised and sent to the
Alzheimer's Association earmarked for
research.



Sing-A-Long
& Appreciation Dinner
Wednesday, Dec 13
Meal at 6 pm
(sign up in Narthex)

thrivent[®]

Thrivent Members:

- 1) 2023 **Action Teams** are available until the end of December! For eligible members you may have **\$250** to use as seed money for a project to serve the community.
- 2) A friendly reminder to direct your **Thrivent Choice Dollars!** Elk Creek is an option for directing funds through Thrivent's Choice Dollar program.

Ruby's Pantry

2nd Tuesday of the month

4:00-5:30 pm

Osseo Fire Dept (behind Stockmans)

\$25 cash donation

You will receive an abundance of grocery items. No income or
residency requirements.



WELCA November 12, 2023

Meeting was called to order by President Jan at 9:35 am 11/12/23. Creed and Theme Verse were recited. Secretary's report (9/17/23) was read by Debbie.

Amendment to minutes - Bazaar Setup was done on the Sunday of Gods work, our hands. Motion to accept amended minutes by Lori.

Treasurer's report read from October Newsletter.

Proceeds from Bazaar: \$6265.00, other October income: Lions Dinner \$200, Rongstad Funeral \$650. Total income \$7413.37 October Expenses \$808.04. Ending Balance \$14,983.52. Report was accepted and placed on file.

Old Business: Discussed Childrens needs for the 3 schools. Rosanne made a motion to donate \$200 to each school (Osseo, Eleva/Strum, Whitehall) to be put toward winterwear. 2nd by Deb, Approved.

New Business:

Motion by Rosanne to give half of the Bazaar Lunch proceeds to the youth, 2nd by Deb Approved.

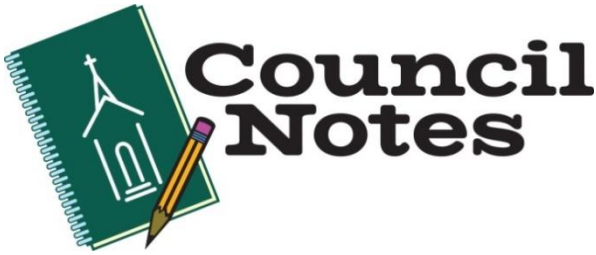
Annual Giving: Motion by Lori, 2nd by Becky to give \$200 to Alzheimer's- approved. TCHC motion by Lori to give \$300, 2nd by Deb, approved. Motion to give the same as 2022 for Food Pantry's (\$500) and Rubys (\$200) and Christmas for Kids \$150 Osseo, \$200 Strum, \$100 Whitehall - Motion for these by Becky, 2nd Lori, approved. Motion by Lori, 2nd by Deb to give same as 2022 for the following: Hope Gospel \$200, Western Dairyland \$500, ELCA Good Gifts \$500, Heifer Intl: \$200, New Horizons \$500, To each school \$200 for Backpacks for kids weekend food program. Increase Project Comfort to \$200, Sleep in Heavenly Peace \$300. All approved. Local public libraries - \$200 each for library books. Shop with a Cop for Trempealeau Co. \$300. Veteran Home in Strum \$200. Motion Lori, 2nd Deb, approved.

Will finish donation ideas in December. Meeting adjourned at 10:24 am.

Minutes by Deb Ebert for Barb Fischer.



**Council Meeting is
Tuesday, December 5
at 7 p.m.**



Elk Creek Lutheran Church Council Meeting -- November 7, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Ryan Johnson at 6 PM. Members present were: Jan Berg, Mark Blabac, Brian Christopherson, Ryan Johnson, Anson McCune, Lori Nelson, Lynn Nelson, and Stephanie Rumstick.

Prayer -- Ryan led the Council in prayer.

Secretary's Report -- It was noted that the Secretary's Report for October of 2023 had been sent to each of the Council members electronically, corrections made, and it had been approved prior to it being printed in the November Newsletter.

Financial Report -- was presented by Lynn with information provided by Haukeness Financial Service. Lori made a motion to approve the Financial Report as presented; Mark seconded; motion passed.

Elk Creek Lutheran Church Account

- General Checking Account - \$ 48,456.74
- General [2050 Fund] Savings Account - \$ 38,908.30
- Building Fund Checking - \$ 9,514.98
- Memorial Fund - \$ 6,201.26
- Thrivent Accounts Balance - \$ 27,269.46

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

Joint Parish Financial Accounts

Assets	Elk Creek	Immanuel	Total
Beginning Balance -	\$ 4,839.53	\$ 7,369.30	\$ 12,208.83
Deposits & Interest -	\$ 3,570.05	\$ 0.79	\$ \$ 3,570.84
Payments -	\$ 258.67	\$ 388.00	\$ 646.67
Liabilities & Equity -	\$ 8,150.91	\$ 6,982.09	\$ 15,133.00
Ending Balance -	\$ 8,150.91	\$ 6,982.09	\$ 15,133.00

WELCA Report – Stephanie noted that the Bazaar netted \$6,000+ and we want to thank everyone who attended and/or supported the Bazaar. The group will discuss the distribution of funds during the 9:15 AM meeting on Nov. 12. We are looking for local needs. A Giving Tree will be put up in the narthex of the church with nametags for the Sheriff Department's "Christmas For Kids" program. It was noted that they will be doing a Cookie Exchange (3 dozen, please) on December 17 following the Sunday School's Christmas Program and that the annual Appreciation Dinner and Sing-A-Long will be on December 20.

Youth Group -- Lori reported that the Youth Group will be putting on the Living Nativity at 5:30 PM on December 9. They are inviting participation from the youth at Strum.

Choir, Memorial Committee, Sunday School, & Office Staff -- No reports

Old Business --

- **God's Work, Our Hands** – This was held following church services on October 15 and much was accomplished.
- **Search for a New Pastor** – Ryan noted that following this meeting, the Council members will join the members of the Joint Parish Council, the Call Committees, the Immanuel Church Council, and a Synod Representative to discuss the Call Process. Each church has been

completing a Ministry Site Profile which must be submitted to the Synod before anything further can happen.

- **Parsonage** – Ryan indicated that the plumbing and sewer line problems at the parsonage have been fixed. The well at the parsonage has been turned off and the heat will be set at 55 degrees. Pastor Ahles has hired a cleaning service which will be working there between Nov. 13 and 17. It was decided to table the walk-through until after the cleaning has been finished. It was noted that several bed frames and possibly other items which Pastor Ahles does not want remain in the garage. Stephanie will contact Sofas for Service about the bed frames.
- **Finances** – Following discussion, Anson made a motion to invest in four 13 month \$10,000 CDs and two \$5000 from CCF Bank at 4.94%; Mark seconded; and motion passed.
- **Tree** – Anson indicated that the tree has not yet been purchased or planted. We will probably need to wait until spring to plant it.

New Business --

- **Budget** – Lynn gave each Council member a copy of the 2023 budget including information as to “where we are today.” She will be providing members with an additional version with space for possible budget allotments for the 2024 year. She asked that we look these over so that we can discuss this at the December meeting.
- **Water** – Ryan indicated that the water was tested recently and everything was good.
- **Communion** – It was noted that Communion is only supposed to be given by an ordained pastor. Jan made a motion that we temporarily have Communion only once per month on the first Sunday of the month; Stephanie seconded; and the motion passed.
- **Insurance Renewal** – Mark made a motion to pay our workman’s Comp. Insurance and renew it through the next year; Brian seconded; and the motion passed.
- **Bills** – Bills from Gibson Water Care; Haukeness Financial Service, and the dues for the Synod were presented. Lori made a motion to pay the benevolences and for the church program as directed; Brian seconded; and the motion passed.

Next Meeting -- The next Council meeting will be on December 5 at 7 PM.

Adjournment -- Lori made a motion to adjourn; Mark seconded; motion passed. The meeting was closed at 7:03 PM with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Lori Nelson, Recording Secretary

Special Council Meeting – November 7, 2023 [following the meeting of the Joint Parish Council, the Call Committees, a Synod Representative, the Elk Creek and Immanuel Church Councils]

The meeting was called to order by President Ryan Johnson at 8:15 PM. Members present were: Jan Berg, Mark Blabac, Brian Christopherson, Ryan Johnson, Dave Lyngen, Anson McCune, Lori Nelson, Lynn Nelson, and Stephanie Rumstick.

Ministry Site Profile – Following discussion, alterations were made to the Elk Creek Lutheran Church’s Ministry Site Profile. Brian made a motion to approve the Ministry Site Profile. Dave seconded the motion passed. It and the Ministry Site Profile for Immanuel will be submitted to the Synod on November 15 so that the Call Process can move forward.

Adjournment -- Lori made a motion to adjourn; Mark seconded; motion passed. The meeting was closed at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Lori Nelson, Recording Secretary

Lines from LaVerne... Here we are, it's Christmas time again. Once again, we are shown God's miracles. God is not concerned what job you have or how very well you have succeeded. He worries about your heart and how you really love your fellow man, and how you love and worship and believe in him, your heavenly father. He sent His Son to us so we could have eternal life, in spite of all of our sins. God said, never forget that you are a king, son, a prince of the most royal house in the universe. I, your father, I'm the king of kings and the Lord of Lords. If you forget, you are in danger. Trust in the dark night, in the light in the morning, and you will find that faith comes as an easy and natural habit of the soul. We should have no trouble, remembering that Jesus, as a little baby came on that glorious wonderful Christmas Eve for all of us. The greatest gift we could have ever been given. Love you.

PS I wish you all a wonderful Christmas filled with love and joy.

Your Lay Minister,
LaVerne



Results from the 2023 Bazaar:

Cake walk	\$60
Lunch	\$174
Country Store	\$152
Donations	\$890
Auction	\$4,002.50
Donation box	\$9.50
<i>(used donations)</i>	
Quilt tickets	\$977

TOTAL \$6,265

**Thank you to everyone that donated items, bid on items, purchased items, and helped with set-up, clean-up, and serving!*

For December, we invite you to help us collect items for

Birthday Box Kits

- Cake mix & frosting
- Birthday candles
- Containers of sprinkles, candies, etc.
- Disposable cake pan
- Party plates/napkins
- Balloons/streamers
- Small blanket or throw
- Small toy:
 - Coloring book/crayons
 - Book
 - Puzzle
 - Game
 - Stuffed animal, etc.



JOIN US!

Stouthearted Men & Friends in Concert
Sunday, December 10, 2023 2 p.m.
Whitehall Memorial Auditorium
Featuring the Norse Singers, special guests, and
many area musicians.
Free will offering at the door!

THE PURPOSE AND SYMBOLISM OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND CANDLES

The first candle, which is purple, symbolizes hope. It is sometimes called the “Prophecy Candle” in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

The second candle, also purple, represents faith. It is called the “Bethlehem Candle” as a reminder of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem.

The third candle is pink and symbolizes joy. It is called the “Shepard’s Candle,” and is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.



On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This final candle, the “Angel’s Candle,” symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: “Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men.”

The white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve. This candle is called the “Christ Candle” and represents the life of Christ. The color white is for purity—because Christ is our sinless, pure Savior.

For the full article see <https://www.mercyhome.org/blog/sunday-mass/advent-wreath/>