



**There will be NO
Lutefisk & Meatball Supper
this year.**

February we will be collecting
items for Fabric Care kits:

- 3 yards cotton or cotton blend fabrics
(no knits or 100% polyester)
- 2 spools of matching thread or neutral colored
(250 to 300 yards each)



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



Pastor's
Office Hours

**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**

*Ash
Wednesday*

**Ash Wednesday is
February 17th**

Leadership With Humility

For some time now, three events happen during the month of February. First, there is the Super Bowl with all its hype, advertising, and the making of heroes out of an activity that is only a game. Second, after the annual meetings, new church leaders are installed on to church councils and committees that help direct the activities of the congregation during the new year. Third, Black History is celebrated so that we don't forget that Black history is a varied and rich history of our country that must not be pushed aside and forgotten because it shapes and forms all of us into the future, with the variety of histories that make up our nation.

To help us observe Black History Month, I want to share a story of **Leadership with Humility** that I didn't know about until recently.

The year was 1940. A young black boy was walking through the street holding his mother's hand. They were living in South Africa under the Apartheid regime. It was the law that a black person who passed a white person on the street should step aside and let the white person pass. The boy and his mother saw a white man approaching them. They prepared to step aside, when, to their surprise, the white man stepped off the sidewalk and tipped his hat to the boy's mother in a sign of respect and honor.

The boy was shocked. He and his mother walked down the center of the sidewalk and smiled at the man. "Mother," he asked, "Why did that man stand aside for us and tip his hat? I thought that white men didn't do that? Why didn't he want us to step aside?"

"Because, my son, that man is a man of God," his mother answered. "That man is a priest." It was then and there that the little boy decided what he would do with his life. He too would become a priest. His name was Desmond Tutu. (From a sermon written by Rev. Kate Moorehead on Sunday December 20, 2020)

Desmond Tutu, Archbishop of the South African Anglican Church, is the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize winner for his opposition to Apartheid in South Africa. What I want to point out here, is that from a small step of humility that showed respect and honor for others, a young boy's direction in life begins. Leadership with humility can go a long way to make a difference in the world.

What does it take to be a humble leader in the world today? What does it take to be a humble president, a humble supreme court justice, a humble governor of a state or commonwealth, a humble mayor of a city or small town, or a humble pastor of two rural congregations? A lot of times the world looks down on humility as weakness. A humble person is often seen as a doormat, as someone who gets stepped on and easily manipulated by others with contempt.

True humility is what Jesus did for all of us on the cross. Jesus did not exalt himself as the only human who did not sin and brag before God how well he did to fulfill God's purpose for his life. Jesus humbles himself before God, taking on all the sin of the world, so that we are justified and filled with grace and mercy to lead with humility.

Therefore, as leaders and members of the Immanuel-Elk Creek United Lutheran Parish, practice humility before God and with others. Who knows we may influence a future Nobel Peace Prize winner!

Pr. Ahles



Our 2021 Lenten Journey

The stories of various woodland animals in *All Creation Waits: The Advent Mystery of New Beginnings* by Gayle Boss, illustrate themes of stillness, adaptation, transformation, endings and beginnings. While the book was written as an Advent devotional, the stories of various animals provide an entrée into Lenten themes of spiritual life and death and resurrection. They also touch on realities of isolation and adaptation people face during a time of pandemic. As Winter transforms into Spring, these stories will help people interpret their Lenten journey in rhythm with the natural world.

Worship will be live-stream each Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. from Peace Lutheran of Pigeon Falls and can be viewed anytime up 30 days after. Our journey begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17th and each Wednesday following through March 24th.

The following local pastors will rotate weekly for our mid-week message: **Peter Jonas**, Our Saviour's—Whitehall and Grace Lutheran—Pleasantville; **David Christianson**, Upper Pigeon Creek—Hixton, King's Valley and South Beef River—Osseo; **Valerian Ahles**, Immanuel—Strum and Elk Creek—Osseo; **Natalie Leske**, Trinity Peace parish—Taylor; **Rolf Morck**, Central Lutheran—Mondovi; **Mary Ann Bowman**, Peace Lutheran of Pigeon Falls. Join us for this Lenten Round Robin via Live-Stream!

Upcoming Worship services

Continue to watch the church Facebook group and your email for details.



***8:30 am** join us for in-person worship OR join us from your car in the parking lot via channel 87.9 FM

***10:30 am** livestreamed services from Strum (and is recorded so it can be viewed at a later time) <http://www.immanuel-strum.com/livestream.html>

Lines from LaVerne..... Can we relax? Must we rush to and fro constantly? If we go to a movie, it better be an exciting one to gain some excitement for our already overworked nervous system. If you are a successful businessman, you try daily to be more successful and you are keeping yourself in constant tension and fatigue, unnoticed until you are in a complete state of mental exhaustion. You go to bed, but get no rest, because you are planning for tomorrow. The mother and housewife is having the same problem, no real rest, in spite of all the machines we have nowadays to help us along, In the present century man has forgotten how to live. We are trying to burn the candles on both ends. We do not know how to let go of our anxieties. We have never learned to let go of our tension and fears. We have forgotten how to live. Enjoy the sunshine, the garden, take a quiet walk talking to God as you walk. Enjoy the simple things of life, the rain, rainbows, beautiful clouds, green trees, and flowers and birds. All the wondrous beauty around us. Even the snow on the trees and weeds sparkling like diamonds. How great to see. Worry can become a real habit and create this things called nervousness. We need to be able to relax, face the tribulations of fear in our lives, stop crossing our bridges before trouble even comes. Show me a worrier, and I will be convinced this person does not know how to relax. Let go of these things and let God handle them. God is your guide, holding you fast in His everlasting arms and protecting you. You need to get in the habit of trusting God and leaving your troubles with Him. This is the only complete and sure cure for your bad nerves.

Here we are, it's February and soon Valentine's Day. Aha! Don't forget, love is what makes the world go around, they say. If you learn to love one another and respect each other, you will have it made, dear friends.

Your Lay Minister,
LaVerne

P.S. I'm rejoicing, I'm well and happy again!

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Teachers and students have been meeting from 9:20-10:05 in their classrooms with masks.

Unfortunately, at this time, they are not singing.



Elk Creek Lutheran Church Council Meeting -- January 5, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Keith Nelson at 7:30 PM. Members present were: Pastor Valerian Ahles, Jan Berg, Rhonda Koval, Anson McCune, Keith Nelson, Lindsey Nelson, and Becky Rongstad.

Devotions and Prayer -- Pastor read from the book of Peter and followed it with a prayer.

Secretary's Report -- Anson made a motion to approve; Rhonda seconded; motion passed.

Treasurer's Report -- was presented by Keith with information provided by Haukeness Financial Service. Anson made a motion to approve; Rhonda seconded; motion passed.

Elk Creek Lutheran Church Accounts

- General Checking Account - \$17,692.08
- General Savings Account - \$38,523.53
- CD 4145 - \$10,269.85
- Building Fund Checking - \$9,410.31
- Memorial Fund - \$3,542.24

Joint Parish Financial Accounts

Assets Elk Creek Immanuel Total

Beginning Balance - \$10,128.83 \$14,218.37 \$24,347.20

Payments - \$3,067.85 \$4,601.77 \$7,669.62

Ending Balance - \$7,060.98 \$9,616.60 \$16,677.58

Pastor's Report --

Pastor conducted 5 worship services and 5 live stream services. He attended 3 Coffee Fellowships. Pastor delivered 15 Daily Devotions on Facebook and had phone visits with 10 family units, as well as 2 home visits. He helped with the planning and conducted the funeral service of Randy Maug. He met with the Confirmation class in person 2 times where they completed the Old Testament Unit. Pastor attended 4 Dairyland Conference Pastor's Text Studies on Zoom and 1 Synod All Conferences Zoom Meeting. He was on vacation from December 26 - 31. 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 -- No meeting, so no report

Choir -- No report

Memorial Committee -- No report

Youth Group -- No report

Sunday School -- No report

Janitor -- No report

Office Staff -- No report

Joint Parish Council Report -- No report

Old Business --

- COVID-19 -- The current state of COVID-19 in the county was discussed.
- Printer was discussed.
- Light in the Council Room was discussed.
- Tuck Pointing -- This has been finished and paid for. They will return in the spring to paint the shutters.
- Snow Plowing -- Brent (who works for Nathan Rongstad) will do the snow plowing of the church and the driveway of the Parsonage, plus the town of Hale has agreed to plow the lot for no charge if it is needed.
- Thermostat in the Pastor's Study has been fixed.

New Business --

- Bills to be paid -- Reimbursement to Allen Rongstad for the light fixture he purchased and installed in the Ladies Restroom. Lindsey made a motion to pay the bills; Anson seconded; motion passed.
- **Annual Meeting coming up on January 31, 2021.** Therefore the Nominating and Auditing Committees need to meet.
- Thrivent Dollars discussed.
- Adult Bible Study discussed.
- Thank You Notes -- A note was read from former pastor Jack Olson and from Good Gifts to the WELCA.

Next Meeting -- The next Council meeting will be on February 2 at 7:30 pm.

Adjournment -- Anson made a motion to adjourn; Rhonda seconded; motion passed. The meeting was closed at 8:12 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Jan Berg

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

The Cemetery Board wishes to acknowledge these gifts:

\$250 in honor of Jerald & Barbara Nelson by Evan & Owen Gibson

\$1,000 from Bob & Mary Gunderson for upkeep of the cemetery

Elk Creek Lutheran Church
W16316 County Road OO
Osseo, WI 54758