



The following students have participated in the communion preparation class and are now communing with us at the Lord's Supper:

Evan Gibson

Brylie Johnson

Gavin Johnson

Heath Johnson

Emma Lyngen

Council Meeting
Tuesday, June 5
at 7 p.m.

Noisy Offering

Sunday, May 13 Noisy Offering was collected by the Sunday School students and \$155.96 was collected to go towards the Sunday School Program.

Thank you to all of those that contributed!



Sunday School
MAKES A DIFFERENCE

*Luther Park Bible Camp is participating in the 'Our Family Direct Your Labels Program'. Each time they collect 500 UPC bar-codes, they receive \$25. Please save your **OUR FAMILY UPC** bar-codes and bring them to church. There will be a container to deposit them in.*

Vacation Bible School at Immanuel in Strum will be August 5-9. Sunday, the 5th it will be 5:30-8pm and Monday-Thursday it will run from 3:30-8pm and supper will be provided. Students K-6 are invited to attend. There may be a small cost to participate. All questions can be directed to Michelle at Immanuel 715.695.3511.

CHANGE?! A Normal Part of Life!

Isn't it amazing how quickly in just a month's time, the strong hold that winter had on us has vanished. The landscape has been transformed from a foot and half on snow of mid-April to the lush green of Spring. The fields are being planted with various crops, gardens beginning to grow, and the hillside trees break out with leaves and flowers and the buzzing of birds and bees. How quickly the earth accepts, receives and surrenders to the change of the seasons; and it happens year after year after year. Change is a normal part of life around us.

Except when it's NOT! What do you mean the worship schedule is going to change on the first Sunday of June? Some of you are not happy moving from 9a.m. to 10:30a.m.(Immanuel) or 10:30a.m. to 8:30a.m.(Elk Creek). Will you continue to come? Will you go somewhere else for a year? Will you just not attend at all? OR, maybe you will give it a try; see what it feels like. Sort of like the Dr. Seuss Book, "**Green Eggs and Ham.**" Throughout the book we read, "*I do not like them green eggs and ham, I do not like them, Sam I am!* But at the end, when he tries those green eggs and ham, Sam ends up liking them. So, why not give the worship time change a try, because change is a normal part of life around us.

There always seems to be a guarantee in life that change will happen. Change brings fear and anxious moments because we do not feel in control of life. Yet the Good News is that God gives us hope for a future where change brings growth as we become more like Jesus Christ in how we respond and act to the changes around us. The words of Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane help us to grow into God's future for all of us: Jesus said to his disciples, "*I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.*" And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, "*Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.*" (Mark 14:34-36)

Many of you perhaps know of Reinhold Niebuhr's "Serenity Prayer."
God, give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, Courage to change the things which should be changed, and the Wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.

*Living one day at a time, Enjoying one moment at a time,
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace, Taking, as Jesus did,
This sinful world as it is, Not as I would have it, Trusting that You will make all things right, If I surrender to Your will, So that I may be reasonably happy in this life, And supremely happy with You forever in the next. Amen.*

Pr. Ahles

***Worship Service
Time Change!
Beginning June 3,
Church will now be at
8:30 am**

Many thanks to all who showed up to help with the cemetery and church clean up. It is amazing how working together can really improve the appearance of our facility. Thank you to those who provided the tasty food as well.

--The Cemetery Board

May 1, 2018 Congregational Council Meeting (Unapproved)

Meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. by President Steve Ebert. Members present were Steve Ebert, Linda Odness, Brandi Berg, Jan Berg, Lynn Nelson, Jim Odness, Keith Nelson, Bruce Thompson, Tim Radatz and Pastor Ahles

Pastor led us in Prayer with a reading from Psalm 24. The King of Glory is our Lord and living God among us and as leaders of the church it is our responsibility to work together with his guidance for the betterment of our congregation.

Treasurer's Report provided and presented by Brandi Berg

- Checking Account - \$15,570.82
- Building Fund Checking - \$9,689.52
- 2020 General Fund - \$30,316.09
- Parking Lot Fund \$2,886.00
- Church Savings- \$19,323.95
- Memorial Fund - \$3,637.52

Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Bruce; 2nd by Linda; motion approved.

Secretary's report for the March Congregational Council Meeting was read by Linda Odness; with changes made, motion to approve as amended made by Lynn, 2nd by Tim; motion carried.

Pastor's Report

- The Joint Parish Council met on April 24, 2018 and Pastor provided report of activities since last Joint Parish Meeting in January. He reported that in addition to services he has made 32 general visits and Communion for 28 Shut-ins. He is planning on continuing education from June 11-14 and has performed 5 funerals and 4 baptisms between the two congregations.
- He also extended a big thank you for all the support and prayers and words of encouragement during his family's time of bereavement.
- The next Joint Parish service will be on August 12, 2018 with "Church in the Barn" at Tom and Bonnie's Johnson's barn.

WELCA

- Awards Sunday will be on May 20, 2018 with a potluck meal following the service

Parish Secretary Update

- Nothing new

Parish Council

- Steve Ebert shared that they met on April 24, 2018.
- Beginning June 3, church services will change to 8:30 at Elk Creek with Immanuel going to 10:30.
- Baccalaureate service will be on May 20, 2018

- There was a discussion regarding developing a joint account, employer account with one employer number to pay for all of the bills regarding the Pastor, no decision was made.

Old Business

1. Travis Electric has installed the safety lights.
2. Halama's Flooring will not stretch the carpet in the church as they did not install it.
3. We were reimbursed for the additional charges on Workman's Compensation Insurance
4. Jim will contact Osseo Plastics to set up a time to have the floor redone in the dishwasher room.
5. Elevator was squeaking, it was lubricated and this appears to have taken care of the noise
6. Danny Gray was contacted regarding the windows in the breezeway at the Parsonage and he will look into getting some and installing them.
7. The Facility Use Committee will meet soon, the ladies will be generating a guideline for kitchen and lower level usage.
8. Steve and Jim will set up a meeting with the County Highway Commissioner to gather additional information regarding use of concrete versus blacktop for the parking lot.
9. On April 18, Tammy Danenberg provided education to a few members of the congregation on use of the Clavinova.
10. Brandi made a motion to get the lawn tractor that Brad uses serviced at Haug, Keith 2nd, and motion carried.

New Business

1. We received a letter from the N.W. Synod asking us to increase our donations to \$1000.00.
2. Linda made a motion to transfer \$5000.00 from the general checking account to the 2020 Fund, Keith 2nd, motion carried.
3. Harlan Vold checked the fire extinguishers and he recommended they be filled in the fall.
4. Lynn made a motion that the Memorial Secretary will record the memorials received and then place the monies in the offering plate in a marked envelope to be recorded and deposited by the Sunday counters, 2nd by Linda, motion carried.
5. Jim made a motion to spend up to \$1000.00 for a new computer and programs, for church usage, Tim seconded the motion, motion approved. Brandi and Crystal will take care of making the purchase.

Motion to adjourn made by Linda, 2nd by Bruce; motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:40. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Odness, Recording Secretary.

X	Tom Wagener	X	Pastor Ahles		Mike Nelson
X	Camille Skoug	X	Steve Ebert	X	Vicki Hanson
X	Jim Odness		Charlotte Myhers	X	Barb Fischer

Joint Parish Council Meeting April 24, 2018

6:30 pm

Meeting of the Joint Parish Council was opened with devotions by Pastor Ahles. Minutes from previous meeting were reviewed, correction made: Mike Nelson was not present at the meeting. Motion to approve by Camille, 2nd by Steve. Minutes were placed on file.

Pastor's Report:

Written report was given; Including number of services conducted, confirmation classes, choir rehearsals, 32 general visits, 28 Shut-in with communion, 13 hospital visits, local meetings and Text study. Baptisms and Funerals. Pastor has vacation plans April 25 – May 1st. (Pastor Tobiason will be available for emergencies during this time). Pastor also thanked everyone for their support, prayers and words of encouragement during their family's time of bereavement.

Old Business:

Worship Schedule: Will change on 6/3/18 to Elk Creek @ 8:30 am, and Immanuel at 10:30 am. Discussion on how rushed it is for Pastor between services, and when Sunday school is at each site. A half hour is cutting it very tight between services.

Pastor will be at Synod Assembly that weekend. Will dispense with Communion that (both churches) Sunday as no ordained Pastor will be available. Some discussion on this, will check into the possibility of Hannah Olson being available this Sunday for services.

New Business:

Joint Bank Account: There has been a problem with Portico getting checks from separate church accounts for payment. There seems to be misunderstanding of percentages 65/35 not 50/50. Pastor suggested that at previous parishes there was a joint account that payments for such things as Pension, Health, mileage costs currently split between the churches, were paid from. Each church would deposit their part into the account for payments to be made. Pastor to bring proposal to next meeting. Discussion on a 3rd person to monitor or track these funds.

Continuing Education: Pastor brought information on workshop he would like to attend June 11-14. The cost is \$200.00 to attend as an Auditor. Motion by Camille 2nd by Barb to approve Pastor going to this workshop June 11-14. He did not attend the Rural Ministry conference in March, and money from this was refunded.

Baccalaureate Services May 24th: Pastor to assist with this Service and recognition of High School seniors.

Pre-School: Tom spoke briefly on their preschool and some recent problems. Things are back on track, Pastor is looking forward to getting out his guitar and being more involved with the children of the preschool.

Joint Service The end of April will be in Strum. Matt Nelson to lead worship, Amber and Tim Radaatz to do a talk on soil. Brunch will be served following the service. Next Joint Service falls on Strums semi-annual meeting. A joint service will not be held on this 5th Sunday of July, but will be held on August 12th by Strum hosting Church in the Barn. It will be held in Tom and Bonnie Johnsons Barn. Meal to follow service.

Feed my People: This may be moving to Whitehall.

Next Meeting: August 21st 6:30 pm at Elk Creek.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Barb Fischer, Sec.

Elk Creek WELCA meeting

5/06/18 @9:13 am

Meeting opened by President Berg with Creed and Verse. Secretary's report was read and placed on file. It was noted that no meeting was held in April due to snow storm, and other scheduled events.

Treasurer report: March Income \$1,359.16, expenses \$744.96

April Checking Balance \$10,434.76, Expenses \$711.40

Max Rate \$ 4,433.73

Seminary Fund \$10,226.40

Motion by Linda, 2nd by Stephanie to accept Treasurer's report, placed on file. Pancake breakfast had a profit of \$909.00, thanks donations and Thrivent Action plan.

Old Business:

Morning of Renewal (4/18) was attended by 1 delegate (Linda Oddness) and 6 others. Linda was able to get 6 cases of Diapers at \$12.00 a case. Hopefully will be able to get more when they offer this again, later in the year. Diapers donated to Diaper Program in Whitehall.

New Business:

Jan attended the Council meeting. They are discussing replacing the carpeting in the entryway and up the aisle in church. Church in the Barn will be held August 12th. This will be a joint service (no joint service 7/29 ILC's annual meeting). Council is developing guidelines of fee's and expectations for people using the church (Member/Non-member). From this the Ladies discussed labeling cupboards

with contents to assist those not familiar with our kitchen.

The need for Stoll's, another set of Chalices for communion, and benches in the cemetery were some needs that were identified. Stolls and Chalices were felt to be most important at this time and could be purchased from Memorial Fund. Memorial committee to be consulted. The Cemetery has a separate memorial fund that could be used for benches.

Noisy offering will be collected next Sunday, money to go to the Sunday School.

Will look into Our Family UPC labels for Luther (500= \$25.00). More information will be put out about that in the bulletin. Flowers are purchased annually for the Cram grave, Jan will get the flowers. Lynn donated 6 water Carafes and some ceramic loaf pans for use in the kitchen.

Invitations from Osseo Salad Luncheon, on May 9th. There is another coming up in June and will be announce in church when it arrives. Luther Park has Art in the Park on August 5th. Ladies will send a quilt.

Tickets are needed for the Bazaar quilt, made by Jean Schermetzler, to sell at Lake Martha Days. Lynn will print off. Circles will also donate cash prizes for the raffle (\$75 and \$50).

Sunday School awards day 5/20. Potluck afterward, Group 1.

Circle at Linda Odness 5/21 at 7 pm.

Change in Service times beginning 6/3 to 8:30 am.
WELCA meeting will be held at 9:45 with service
time change.

Groups serving at Dove should bring 3 dozen of
something to serve. Offering was collected, and

meeting was closed with Lord's Prayer.
10:05 am

Respectfully,

Barb Fischer, Sec.

Lines from LaVerne... Hope from God

There comes a day when one realizes that most everything is gone, but God always remains. God has made himself known in the inner consciousness of mankind. Some want to go their own way, so they ignore the instinctive inner knowledge that God created them. We all have our own hunger for God. In order to satisfy this longing we need communion and fellowship with him. In other words we need to read our Bible and spend a lot of time praying and talking to God. Isaiah 26:9 says, "my soul yearns for you O Lord in the night, yes, my spirit within me seeks you earnestly." God has a plan for our lives that will help us to a place of peace and contentment. He has a good plan for all who put their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord of their lives. On top of all that God wants to be involved in the small details of our lives. Can you imagine anyone else who would be interested in the small details of your life? In Jeremiah 29:11-14 he tells us that he has plans for us. Good plans to give you hope and a future. Call on me and I will listen to you. Seek me and find me. When you seek me with all your heart then you will find me, declares the Lord. John 14:26 says that the Holy Spirit would continue to teach us all things and bring to our remembrance all that God has said through His word. His disciples had been with him for 3 years but Jesus had more to teach them. Jesus always knew what was the right thing to do, because He only did what He saw His Father do. As our Lord, we can trust Him to lead us to the right path every day. He, Jesus, is God's only Son, we are His adopted children. We need to imitate Jesus in all we do. Jesus is our teacher of truth, our counselor and our helper. God knew we needed help, so He sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in the inside of every Christian. The Holy Spirit promises never to leave us or forsake us. Jesus said it was best for all of us that he should go away. He went away so the Holy Spirit could come to us. The Holy Spirit can be with each of us wherever we go, Jesus could only be at one place at a time. Jesus would not leave us as orphans, but you will know the Holy Spirit because He lives with you constantly. Jesus said He would come to us and that we would realize He is in us. Jesus wants to lead us step by step. He cares for us, He even knows how many hairs are on our head. He wants to set you free from worry and fear. Jesus knew that the narrow path would lead to life and that the broad path leads to destruction, and he told us to stay on the narrow path. If we are going down the wrong road we need to turn around before we reap bad results. We have a guide. God is our guide. God helps us prepare for the future. The Holy Spirit gives us the message that has been given to Him from the Father. He prepared Noah for the flood. He prepared Moses to go to Pharaoh and ask for the release of the Israelites, but he was told, also, that Pharaoh would not let them go. No one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. God has a unique plan for you. The Spirit of God will lead us and God is our shepherd. God will tell us the way to go, but then we have to do the walking. We may even fall down but we must get back up. We can stumble but God always helps us with His strength, power and grace. Every time we face a fork in the road, He will guide us. Remember to pray and to thank Him for his many blessings. Don't just call on Him when you are in deep trouble. Keep in touch with him so he will know you. Have a great summer.

Your Lay Minister, LaVerne