



Church Service Time is 10:30.
We look forward to seeing you!



A Blessing Will Return

Beloved Family God,

Though Spring and Summer are only slowly happening all around us, we have come through a harsh winter of severe cold and heavy snow and roofs collapsing of the weight of the snow. Now I am thankful to see the trees with leaves and grass green and flowers blooming and bees making honey and farmers planting corn, soybeans and gardeners planting vegetables. The earth is blessed with seed and warm sunshine and rain that soaks in so that as the seed sprouts and grows, **A Blessing Will Return.**

I am also thankful for this United Lutheran Parish that took hold of doing Midweek Lenten services in a new way as *Lenten Supper Church*, AND the challenge to raise \$2/day/family during the 40 days of Lent. The results are amazing: over \$1,800 given at ILC and over 1,500 given at ELC. Thank you for being a blessing to others, here and around the globe.

I am also thankful for those who teach our youth entrusted to us. Public school teachers and staff, Sunday school and confirmation teachers and staff, and all the supporting staff of janitors, cooks, bus drivers, and office managers and secretaries; all are being a blessing to children to help them grow into good citizens of God's good earth. In addition, our musicians and choirs have enhanced our worship through Lent and Easter with their talents. Thank you!

As we move into the season of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit is on the loose around the Earth to bring God's blessing on us, let us find ways of using our talents and gifts from God, to be a blessing to others. Perhaps YOU will help and participate with Vacation Bible School Wednesdays (June 12, July 10, August 14). Or, we need ushers for the month of June. How about you? **A Blessing Will Return.**

I recently read a story published in the June/July edition of Country Woman Magazine, 2019 about Charlotte Endorf a local author and speaker of the small town of Hadar, Nebraska. Hadar had no community library, so inspired by the "Little Free Library" movement that was founded by Todd Bol of Hudson, Wisconsin, Charlotte set up a little library in her front yard and filled it with books for kids - adults who could stop by anytime

and pick up a book and bring it back, or take a book and replaced it with another book. This encouraged her neighbors and friends to read more and talk with each other rather than just watching TV or playing video games.

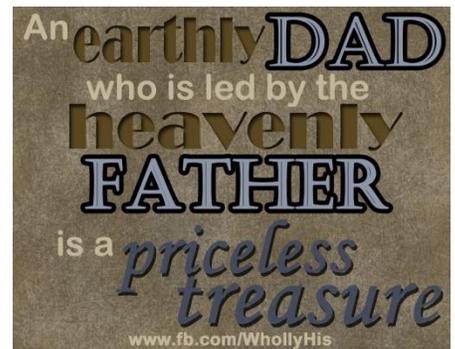
Yet, this story doesn't end there. Charlotte's Little Library returned a blessing. When Charlotte received a traumatic brain injury in a car crash, leaving her unable to speak or read, her therapists urged her to teach herself to read and speak again using children's books from her Little Library. So, she headed to her front yard and selected the simplest books and continued through elementary readers and finally graduated to adult books. Charlotte said it was the Lord's way of moving her. (*Sounds like the Holy Spirit to me.*)

Sometimes, a blessing given and done for others becomes **A Blessing Returned**. I encourage you to be a blessing for others during these summer months. Who knows, it could return to you and bless you. God Bless You!

Pr. Ahles



Council Meeting is Tuesday, June 4 at 7 p.m.



May 7, 2019 Congregational Council Meeting (Unapproved)

Meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by President Jim Odness. Members present were Brandi Berg, Jim Odness, Keith Nelson, Linda Odness, Bruce Thompson, Pastor Ahles, Stephanie Rumstick, Becky Rongstad and Tim Radaatz. Pastor led us in prayer and devotion using the Hymn "Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word". Pastor shared that Hymns teach us lessons of faith with regard to God's creation, Jesus' time on earth with us and through the Holy Spirit. Pastor reminds us to pay attention the words as we sing the hymns during the service so we can grow in our faith,

Secretary's report for the April Congregational Council Meeting was read by Linda; motion to approve minutes as amended was made by Bruce, Stephanie seconded; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report provided and presented by Brandi Berg

April

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Checking Account - \$18,593.07 | Building Fund Checking - \$5,376.47 |
| • 2050 General Fund - \$25,421.83 | Memorial Fund - \$3,398.56 |
| • Church Savings- \$14,374.52 | 13 mo. CD - \$10,038.72 |

Motion was made by Stephanie to approve report as presented, Tim seconded and motion carried.

Pastor's Report

- Pastor conducted 6 worship services, attended 5 text studies, and attended the Northwest Synod Assembly on May 4. He made 8 home visits, provided communion to 7 shut-ins and made 1 hospital visit. He performed a baptism, First Communion Preparation class, and Easter service at Dove.
- Pastor shared that he attended Boundary Training at the NWS office, Continuing Education Event-Reformation & Renewal at Dubuque, IA
- Pastor shared some upcoming events which including:

VBS- Intergenerational – Once/month Wednesday Evening Gathering
June 12, July 10 and August 14

WELCA

- Ladies will be ordering and managing distribution of the “SPLASH” – Faith Formation” program for our newest members children (birth-three)
- Quilt is ready for Luther Park Auction this fall
- Ladies will be donating up to \$10,000.00 for replacement of the roof.
- Ladies will be paying for ½ of the tuition for all children choosing to attend Summer Bible camp at Luther Park
- Quilt top is ready for the fall Bazaar

Parish Secretary Update

- No report

Janitor

No report

Sunday School

- Students will be planting flowers around the Church on “Mother’s Day”- Sunday May 12th
- Awards day/ potluck May 19 – Children singing.
- Next year will need one more teacher for Sunday School

Council would like to give a big thank you to all those who share their talents in teaching our children. It is wonderful watching the children grow in their faith as they also share with the monthly singing.

Parish Council

- No report

Old Business

1. Ben Aiona provided a bill for replacing the air conditioner at the parsonage damaged by snow, \$1795.00. Deductible on insurance is \$1000.00. Brief discussion was held regarding this situation. Bruce made a motion to submit a claim to insurance for the air condition, Stephanie 2nd, motion carried.
2. Brandi made a motion to transfer \$8000.00 from the church checking account to the 2050 fund. Linda seconded the motion, motion carried.
3. Keith made a motion to recommend Bjorkstrand roofing to replace the roof, Bruce seconded, the motion carried.
4. Brandi made a motion to hold a special congregation meeting on June 2, 2019 after church service to vote on the roof replacement. Stephanie seconded, motion carried. Meeting will be posted and information shared as defined by the constitution.

New Business

1. The Council would like to thank all those who came and helped clean up the cemetery “It looks great!”
2. Lengthy discussion regarding the appropriateness of employees, (janitor, church secretary and organist) being paid as a 1099 vs. W-2. It was decided that additional research/information will need to be gathered from the Synod and other’s familiar with church operations and tax laws to determine if we will issue 1099’s again or return to W-2 format for 2019.
3. Linda made a motion to reimburse the employer’s portion of taxes to the three individuals who received 1099’s in 2018, Tim seconded, motion carried.
4. A total of \$1557.00 was collect through Lenten meals and “40 Days of Giving” ELCA hunger campaign and this will be sent to the Synod as indicated.
5. Pastor would like the tractor tire and sand box removed from the yard at the parsonage. Jim will take care of the sand box and arrangements for the tire are in motion.
6. Trees are growing on the mound system, this will need to be taken care of.
7. Becky is getting a new plaque made for additional memorials.
8. Becky shared that the organ speaker is making noise again, Keith will take a look at this on 5/12/2019.

9. Pastor would like to consider additional alternative music for “Church in the Barn”, brief discussion, no action taken

Motion to adjourn made by Linda 2nd by Jim, motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:35, we closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Odness, Recording Secretary.



Lines from LaVerne... Have you ever said, “Why me, Lord?” God tells us that He is intimately involved in our daily lives. God assures us that through the atoning work of Jesus Christ, on our behalf, we can trust Him. God assures us that in all things and in all times, in life and in death, He is in total control. God has not left me abandoned. He gives each of us the response we need for the “why’s” of this life. God says “trust me.” Dear Lord, help us to remember that there are others in the world besides us. Philippians 2:3-7 says “³ *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.* ⁴ *Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.* ⁵ *Let the same mind be in you that was^[a] in Christ Jesus,* ⁶ *who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,* ⁷ *but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.”*

Keep your faith and remember to pray and always thank and praise our Lord every day.

Your Lay Minister,
LaVerne



The May meeting of the Elk Creek WELCA was opened by President Berg at 9:50 on 5/5/19. Creed and Verse were recited. Secretary’s report given, motion to approve by Linda, 2nd by Crystal and placed on file. Treasurer’s report given including Income and expenses for February and March. April income \$830.84, Expenses 15,856.00 Ending checking balance \$7470.44 Savings balance \$4,449.19, Seminary fund \$10,240.00. Pancake Breakfast income \$538.00, with no expenses due to Thrivent Grant. Motion by Stephanie to accept treasurer report, 2nd by Barb. Report placed on file.

From the Council meeting: Discussion on possible fund raisers for a Raise the Roof fundraiser.

Old Business:

Splash Program would help keep those not yet in Sunday School connected. Suggested a mentor for each family given the product and those attending Wednesday coffee hour to address and mail monthly program, or give to the family when in church. Cost is \$37.99 for a 3 year set, \$15.99 for individual year. Motion by Tammy, 2nd by Stephanie to purchase the program.

Discussion on a Roof Donation. Motion by Lynn to give up to \$10,000 was seconded by Crystal. Motion passed.

New Business:

Discussion on a booth at Lake Martha Days to sell cookbooks and Quilt raffle tickets. Quilting Ladies have a couple of Quilt options including quilting an Amish made Lone Star Deluxe quilt top donated by Mary Dubiel. Could have the quilt top on display at the Lake Martha day's booth selling raffle tickets. Linda will do a Thriven Grant to help pay for the quilting. Becky will register for a booth.

Thank you from Luther Park for support included a Bible Camp schedule. Suggestion to copy the schedule and give to parents of Sunday school children, with a note that the ladies would pay half. Thank you read from Tim Hall benefit, and New Horizon newsletter. Socks collected went to Beckon Hill.

Discussion on Fund raiser for the roof. A number of years ago a Bridal dress show was very popular. Tammy suggested to get a group together to explore this for the fall. Would need information about the dress- such as age, size (for models) and other interesting facts. Could call it "The Brides are raise the roof".

Vacation Bible School will be the 2nd Wednesday of June, July and August. All ages are welcome 0-122, FUN for all!

Motion to adjourn by Lynn, 2nd by Linda. Offering collected. Meeting closed with Lord's Prayer.

Barb Fischer, Sec.

"The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother."

--Max Lucado, Christian Author

