



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

**Little Christian Library:** a ministry offering free Christian books and resources. With the help of two *awesome* men in our community and a Thrivent grant, our Little Free Library is stocked and ready to go! Special thanks to **Jim Odness** for donating supplies, building the library, and hanging it and to **Steve Ebert** for varnishing the library. There are now books available in our little free library for all ages.

The library is located on the storage building behind the church under the overhang. As you borrow the books, you may return them or pass them on! Also, you are welcome to donate books here. Feel free to share the location of our library with neighbors and friends in the community. It is there for all!



**Youth Group** (*students grades 5-12*)

Mark your calendar for **June 10** 6-8 pm for the Youth Gathering at the Berg Farm (N42515 County Road E, Osseo). Feel free to invite your friends also to participate. Treats are welcome!

Contact Jessica Berg with questions 651-925-7854.



Council  
Meeting is  
Tuesday, June 1  
at 7 p.m.

## Jesus Sleeps When the Wind Blows

There was this farmer who needed some summertime help. So, he placed an ad in the local paper, but did not have much response. Finally, one day a man stopped by the farm looking for work. The farmer said that he did need a helper to make sure all the chores were completed each day. The farmer asked if he had ever worked on a farm. The man replied, “No.” Have you ever worked with animals? The man replied, “No.” The farmer asked, “Well, what are you able to do?” The man replied, “I can sleep when the wind blows.” Hmmmm, thought the farmer.

But, having no other prospects, the farmer decided to hire this man who could “sleep when the wind blows.” Several weeks passed and then one night there was a terrible storm. The farmer woke up as the thunder and wind rattled the windows on the farm house. He went down the hall to his helper’s room but found him sound asleep. So, the farmer decided he could check on things himself. He went out to find the gates securely locked. The barn doors had been secured. The animals were all bedded down. Finally, as the farmer saw these things, he recalled the words of his hired hand, “I can sleep when the wind blows.”

In the Gospel of Mark 4:35-41, Jesus said to his disciples, **“Let us go across to the other side.”** And so, leaving the crowds behind, they took Jesus with them in the boat to go across to the other side. A great windstorm arose, and waves beat against the boat so that the boat was already being swamped. Jesus was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. “Jesus can sleep when the wind blows.”

Everything is safe and secure. Everything has been taken care of by God’s gracious handiwork. Jesus is secure in his knowledge of God and in his relationship with God. Yes, Jesus was glad to be with his disciples in the boat knowing that some of them had skills to ride out the storm. Yet Jesus was also with God when God speaks creation, **“Let there be light”, “Let there be sun and stars and the moon”, “Let there be day and night”, “Let there be lakes, oceans, dry land, birds and all manner of creatures”, and “let US create humans in our image”.**(Genesis 1) Jesus was with God when the wind swept over the face of the waters. And when God heard the cry of creation and the people, God came and dwelt among creation—among the people in Jesus Christ, full of truth and grace. So, Jesus has the ability to sleep when the wind blows. Hmmmm! What does this mean?

It feels good to be coming out of the storm of Covid-19 with the relaxing of the restrictions we have followed for over a year. God has taken care of us through His gracious handiwork with the scientists, epidemiologists, healthcare workers, etc. The Spirit of Jesus has been with us through the storm, trusting the skills of many in the boat of life. Rest assured in the Spirit of Jesus when the storms of life come. We too can sleep when the wind blows.

Pastor Ahles



**Make sure you join us at worship  
Sunday, June 6 for senior  
recognition, lunch after church,  
and our APPLE Crisis Pregnancy  
Center “Baby Shower”!**



**Elk Creek Lutheran Church Council Meeting -- May 4, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by President Keith Nelson at 7:02 PM. Members present were: Pastor Valerian Ahles, Cedric Anderson, Jan Berg, Brian Christopherson, Ryan Johnson, Rhonda Koval, Anson McCune, Keith Nelson, Lindsey Nelson, Lori Nelson, Becky Rongstad, and Jessica Berg.

**Devotions and Prayer** -- Pastor began by reading John 15 : 9 - 17. He asked Council members to interpret the reading. We agreed that if we all loved one another to that degree then we would have a lot less of the problems that we have in our world today. Pastor noted that it is always important to apply the words of the Bible and the words of his sermon to our lives and the world that we live in.

**Secretary's Report** -- Anson made a motion to approve the Secretary's Report as it had been presented; Brian seconded; motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report** -- The Treasurer's Report was presented by Keith with information provided by Haukeness Financial Service. It was noted that the Women's Group had donated \$4,000 for the purchase of the new carpeting and there was a discussion concerning the Easter flowers. Lori made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented; Rhonda seconded; motion passed.

**Elk Creek Lutheran Church Accounts**

- General Checking Account - \$30,130.47
- General Savings Account - \$48,878.86
- Building Fund Checking - \$3,769.95
- Memorial Fund - \$4,687.56

**Joint Parish Financial Accounts**

Assets	Elk Creek	Immanuel	Total
Beginning Balance -	\$7,550.87	\$11,326.3	\$18,877.10
Payments -	\$3,117.73	\$4,676.64	\$7,794.39
Ending Balance -	\$4,333.12	\$6,649.59	\$11,082.71
Total Liabilities and Equity -	\$4,333.12	\$6,649.59	\$11,082.71



**Pastor's Report** --

Pastor conducted 4 worship services and 4 live stream services. He attended 4 Coffee Fellowships and provided Holy Communion during 6 visits to shut-ins and had 4 additional home visits. Pastor delivered 17 Daily Devotions on Facebook and had phone visits with 2 family units. He met with three of the five class members of the Confirmation class 3 times and noted that Gavin, Noah, and Kaitlyn have been attending faithfully, This means that they and Blake have been given the option of being confirmed either during Memorial Day weekend or during the fall. Pastor attended 4 Dairyland Conference Pastor's Text Studies on Zoom. He led 2 separate services at the Dove Assisted Living and Dove Nursing Home and participated in the Synod Assembly Zoom Meetings on April 15th and 17th. He noted that he and a number of other area pastors had attended the Emergency Management and Law Enforcement Committee Meeting of Trempealeau County where a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary resolution was proposed and also met with the Sheriff to discuss the issue. He had also joined with a number of pastors in signing a letter which was sent to the Committee and to local newspapers regarding this issue. He noted that he had done this as an individual expressing his personal views and not as a representative of the church. 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** -- Becky indicated that the fabric has been selected for the Kneeling Rail and the pastor's Kneeler. The work will be done by Howard's. It was noted that a Baby Shower is being planned for the Apple Pregnancy Care Center on June 6. The group also recommended that the Council invest the \$10,000 which had been in a matured CD into a conservative account with Thrivent and to also invest the balance of the money held in the Seminary Fund into a separate account with Thrivent. It was noted that the Women's Group had been managing the Church's Seminary Account for many years.

**Youth Group** -- No report Jessica indicated that the Youth Group will be having monthly meetings at the Berg Farm throughout the summer.

**Sunday School** -- On June 6, there will be Sunday School recognition and recognition of Class of 2021 members Dawson Lyngen, Gavin Manka, and Isaac Filla. A meal will follow the 10:30 church service.

**Choir** -- No report

**Memorial Committee** -- No report

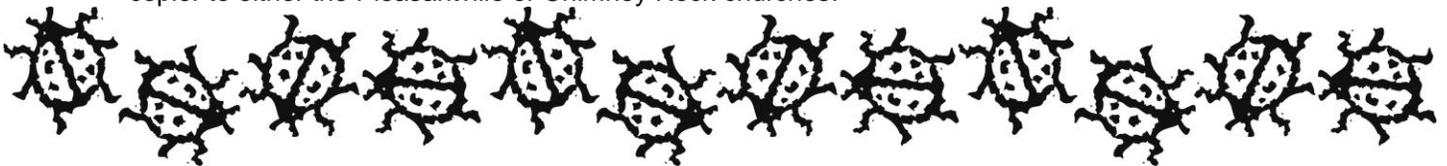
**Janitor** -- No report

**Office Staff --** No report

**Joint Parish Council Report --** No report

**Old Business --**

- Financial Investment -- Keith reminded Council members that we had been asked to talk to others and pray about investing the church's funds. Lori explained the history of the Church's former investments into the Stock Market and with Thrivent -- money was basically moved into CDs because they were offering higher interest rates. Jessica Berg reviewed the types of Thrivent accounts and emphasized that the funds are liquid. Anson made a motion to invest \$10,000 from the Checking Account and \$10,000 from the Savings Account into one of Thrivent's Moderate Conservative Allocation Fund account and to invest the balance of the Seminary Fund moneys (\$10,000+) into a Thrivent Moderate Allocation Fund account. Lindsey seconded the motion and following discussion, it passed. The two signers for the account will be Co-Treasurers Becky Rongstad and Anson McCune. Jessica asked that we consider what the long-term goals would be for the funds and the profits. She noted that this can be determined at future meetings and that any changes to the accounts need to be included in the Minutes of future Council meetings as a resolution to make a change in the account. Becky will write the appropriate checks and give them to Jessica along with the Women's Group's EIN [Employer Identification Number].
- Church Services -- Council members agreed services have been going well and Using the disposable cups with the wafers placed on top had worked well on May 2. Holding outdoor services at 10:30 AM for the summer was discussed and approved with the service on the first Sunday of each month being held indoors to make it easier for Communion. It was noted that on June 6, there will be Sunday School recognition and recognition of Class of 2021 . A meal will follow the 10:30 church service. It is also the date for the Bridal Shower for the Apple Pregnancy Care Center. Brian made a motion that the loose offering for that Sunday's service be donated to the Apple Pregnancy Care Center; Cedric seconded; motion passed.
- Room Divider Curtains -- Keith presented options from 4 companies for the 12' 4" x 8' (upstairs) and 6' 7" x 7' 9" (downstairs) replacement curtains. Lindsey added prices from an additional company. In each case, we would be doing the measuring and installing of the replacement. Lori made a motion to purchase a Nosewell Curtain for the basement for no more than \$2,600; Lindsey seconded; and the motion passed.
- Storm Window -- Keith has contacted the company and they will replace the cracked window when they were in the area.
- Council Room Lights -- Keith indicated that Jim and Linda Odness have purchased and installed the light. A big Thank You goes out to Linda and Jim Odness.
- Groundskeeper and Upkeep -- Ryan indicated that Brad Johnson will take care of the mowing again this summer. Compensation for him was discussed. Lindsey said the Youth Group will be painting the fence between the parsonage and the cemetery on May 23. Allen Rongstad has purchased the paint.
- Copier -- Anson indicated that the donated copier / scanner / printer / FAX machine has been delivered to the church and will be installed soon. The donating company has requested that a donation receipt be sent to them and a Thank You note will accompany it. This was followed by a discussion of possibly donating the old copier to either the Pleasantville or Chimney Rock churches.



**New Business --**

- Monthly Bills to Pay -- Custodian wages
- Mail -- A Thank You note from Feed My People was read. Pastor indicated that Tim Schaul also thanked those who had helped him.
- Electrical Problems -- Becky indicated there was a problem with the regulating of the heating of each of the Sunday school rooms, the Pastor's office, the outer office, and the narthex. An electrician who had been consulted said the problem was probably with the relays. Keith noted that others had described the electrical box in the basement Sunday school as "a mess." Keith will have an electrician come and look at this and to make a recommendation.
- Future Plans -- Lori indicated that her family intends to replace the swing set which was originally donated in memory of her father. She indicated that assistance will be needed when it comes to actually constructing the new equipment. Becky asked about adding 1 or 2 picnic tables to be placed on the east side of the building. Ryan will look into possible concrete picnic tables and will inform the Council.

**Next Meeting --** The next Council meeting will be on June 1, 2021 at 7 pm.

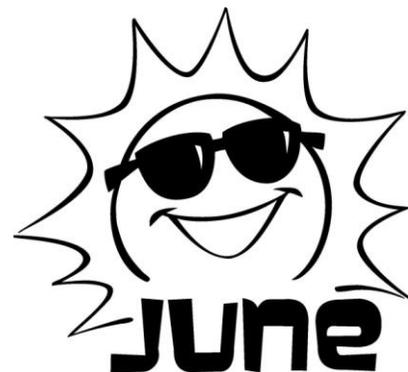
**Adjournment --** Lori made a motion to adjourn; Cedric seconded; motion passed. The meeting was closed at 9:30 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Lori Nelson, Recording Secretary

**Bible Study Monday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 5 p.m is hosted by Allen & Becky Rongstad at “The Pond”. Women AND men are invited. Please RSVP as burgers and brats are provided. Please bring a dish to pass. If you can’t be there right at 5, join us when you can!**

**Lines from LaVerne...** Love your enemies...do good to those that hate you. Matthew 5:44

Are you the calm patient person, who is not easily ruffled? Or do you ruffle easily? Are you the nervous, sensitive type? You must learn to like people if you want them to like you. Learn to overlook the things you dislike and see their good points. Do not allow problems to depress you. A young child has three emotions when he is born: fear, rage, and love. Going through life, he gets more emotionally complex. Some he learns how to control. We gain many fears which have no existence in reality. Fear can dominate your mind. You must learn to face what you fear or you will be a defeated person. How do you react when hearing a mean remark about you? Someone borrows without permission? The boss tells you to do a job someone else shirked? You have to practice love every hour of the day when living with people. Love in your nature will make people want to agree with you. You will want to associate with people who think as you do. Love asks you want to do things for others. Fear is one of the strongest emotions to influence people. The old fashioned evangelist with his threat of a fiery hell in the after life. The advertisements, some which imply that if you don't use this product, you may get a terrible disease. We must keep our mouth shut sometimes. This is why God gave us two ears and two eyes and one mouth, so we should listen twice as much as we say. My friends, let go of your fears, your worries, your tensions, and anxieties, and let God do it all for you. It's very comforting when the Lord is on your side.



*P.S. Remember now, let go and let God carry your worries and burdens.*

Your Lay Minister,  
LaVerne

**We plan to have a fall bazaar at church!**  
**We encourage you to start preparing your  
items for the big day 😊**

**Traveling Day Camp (VBS)**  
**July 18-23**  
**at Immanuel Lutheran Church**

This year's theme is  
**Transformation**



Do not be conformed to this world,  
but be transformed by the renewing  
of your minds, so that you may  
discern what is the will of God - what  
is good and acceptable and perfect.

**Romans 12:2**

Join us for Traveling Day Camp (a.k.a. Vacation Bible School) in July! Day campers will have the opportunity to explore and expand their faith through music, worship, Bible studies, crafts, recreation, fun and fellowship with the Luther Park Staff and other campers. Registration is open at [www.lutherparksummer.campbrainregistration.com](http://www.lutherparksummer.campbrainregistration.com) for children entering grades 1-6 in the fall. Cost is \$25 per camper for the week. For more information, please contact Michelle at 715-695-3511.



We are having a “Baby Shower” for the APPLE Crisis Pregnancy Center in Eau Claire. It will be Sunday, **June 6<sup>th</sup>** following our 10:30 worship service. Lunch will be provided. Donations can be new or gently used. A gift registry is available, but any items that families need to raise a child – from diapers & clothes to cribs & car seats - are appreciated. If you have not heard of APPLE, check out their ministry at <https://applepcc.org/>

This registry is not all-inclusive, but to give you an idea of items APPLE could use. Please feel free to enjoy shopping for items you think they could benefit most from. <https://bit.ly/3nyYhIK>

*The loose offering this day will also go to APPLE.*