

## ***CHURCH IN THE BARN***



*THANK YOU for worshipping with us!  
Even though the day was extra hot and sticky,  
We had wonderful attendance. Lunch was excellent!*



*Thank you to EVERYONE that helped make this day a success!*

### **MANY THANKS!!!**

There is a beautiful bright spot in the sadness of our hearts as we grieve the death of our other son, Aaron. It is all of YOU in this United Lutheran Parish. YOU have given us words of encouragement, comfort, and understanding during this time. YOU have given us strength to put one foot in front of the other and move forward. YOU have given us faith when it's hard to believe that we lost both our sons this year. YOU have given us hope that there is a future for all of us together again through the promise of our resurrected Lord Jesus Christ. YOU have given us love, the love of God, even as we grieve. Thank you! Thank You!! Thank YOU!!! THANK YOU!!!!!! ( I don't know how to spell "many thanks" in Norwegian)

Pr. Ahles & Pr. Iverson

During the time Crystal is home with her new little one, Linda Odness and Rosanne Thompson will be filling in. Anyone needing to add people to the prayer concerns or messages in the weekly bulletin call Linda at 715.597.6056

## **RALLY DAY**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9**

**JOIN US AS WE START  
ANOTHER YEAR OF SUNDAY  
SCHOOL! POTLUCK TO  
FOLLOW 8:30 AM SERVICE  
(GROUP 2)**

### **Upcoming Event @ Elk Creek!**

*Saturday, September 22, we will be hosting the Synodical Women's Organization meeting for our region. We will need helpers as well as salads for the day. Mark your calendars ☺*



## God's Work. Our Hands.

For several years now, congregations of the ELCA around the country have designated a Sunday in September to do various service projects in their communities to help focus our attention on the work that God is doing through his people. It is called "God's Work. Our Hands." and is illustrated in bold black letters on a bright yellow background, often found on T-Shirts that people wear as they do their service projects. This year's celebration falls on September 9<sup>th</sup> which is also Sunday School Rally Day for a lot of churches around the country as well as in this Parish.

Underlying these service activities is the basic Lutheran concept that we who are baptized into Jesus Christ are called to serve every day as Sons and Daughters of God who live under God's free and unconditional grace. Because God lavishes grace upon us through Jesus, we are called to lavish grace upon others around us so that they too will receive God's grace for them and join in God's work of making the world a better place for all of us to live.

From chapter 2 of Paul's letter to the Ephesians:

*But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.*

We receive God's grace as a free gift, which is not because of what we do, but because God saved us through Jesus Christ. God has been immeasurably kind to us. Therefore, we are a new creation in Jesus Christ, sons and daughters of God, so that we will do the good works that God's hands prepared for us "...beforehand to be our way of life."

In other words, "God's Hands" becomes "Our Work."

Pastor Ahles

### FOOD PANTRY

The food pantry collection will resume Sunday, September 9. Please bring your non-perishable food items to be donated to area pantries.

Sunday, September 30 there will be NO service at Elk Creek. Our joint service will be at 10:30 at Immanuel in Strum.

## August 7, 2018 Congregational Council Meeting

### (Unapproved)

Meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by President Steve Ebert. Members present were Steve Ebert, Brandi Berg, Stephanie Rumstick, Jim Odness, Keith Nelson, Tom Johnson, Linda Odness, Bruce Thompson, Pastor Ahles and Tim Radatz

Pastor led us in prayer and devotion, with a reading from Isaiah 41 starting at the 8<sup>th</sup> verse. We are chosen servants and don't fear. As with all leaders the eldest generally lead, but we need to be open to change even though it can be scary. He reminded us that we are promised through scripture that God will strengthen us in times of need.

Treasurer's Report provided and presented by Brandi Berg

- Checking Account - \$11,103.70
- 2020 General Fund - \$35,345.53
- Church Savings- \$19,341.01
- Building Fund Checking - \$10,535.17
- Parking Lot Fund \$5332.43
- Memorial Fund - \$3,639.31

Motion was made by Jim to approve report, Tim seconded and motion carried.

Secretary's report for the July Congregational Council Meeting was read; motion to approve as presented was made by Keith, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim; motion carried.

### Pastor's Report

- Pastor Ahles shared he has stopped by at Vacation Bible School at Strum which is running from 8/5-8/9/2018 and was wondering about the lack of attendance from the Elk Creek children. During a brief discussion the issue of the time of the event was identified as being difficult for transportation and rather late for the younger children.
- Pastor shared that he did perform a few services in the past month, however with Aaron's death and need for family leave from July 13-July 31<sup>st</sup>. He is very appreciative of the support from the congregation and thanked the ladies for the meal after the memorial service.
- He is being encouraged to take a leave, but instead will be taking vacation and continuing education from the middle of September through the middle of October. Arrangements will be made to cover while he is gone.

### WELCA

- The ladies met and reminded all of Church in the barn at Johnson's on August 12, at 10:30
- God's Work Our Hands was discussed, but no decision has been made regarding the date or what will be done. If anyone knows of someone who could use some work done, they should notify the women or a church member.
- The ladies will be housing the Synodical Woman's Organizations Leader Training on September 22. They will be providing food for coffee break and lunch of sandwiches, salad and dessert. They will be making calls for donations as well as some help that day as officers are expected to attend the training,

### Parish Secretary Update

- No report

### Parish Council

- Meeting will be held on August 21, at 6:30 at Elk Creek.

### Old Business

1. Apron has been poured at the Parsonage. Steve thanked Tom and Keith for helping with the concrete.
2. Ouim has begun removing and preparing the parking lot, it will likely be finished in a few days
3. Osseo Plastic will be contacted to complete kitchen floor in dishwasher room, as it needed to be cancelled.
4. Roseanne Thompson, will be meeting with Crystal on 8/8 and Linda will meet with her on 8/22 to discuss coverage while she is off for maternity leave.
5. Brandi shared that the fire extinguishers were filled on 7/9/ 2018
6. Danny Gray will plan to move forward with the instillation of windows in the parsonage breezeway.
7. Beacker Glass of Osseo will be contacted to check on the status, timeline for replacing the glass.
8. Jim will make sure the sound system gets delivered to Johnson's for the Church in the Barn Service. Due to the road work on "E" decision was made not to use the clavinova, and instead Pastor Ahles and Christine will provide special music for the service.

**Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday, September 4**  
**at 7 p.m.**

9. Brandi shared that Portico report indicates we have not paid housing equity, she will check into this and report on what we owe.

#### **New Business**

1. Discussion was held regarding some suggestions on how we might spend some of the memorial money.
2. Discussion about selling a vintage t-shirt for the church that we could wear at events such as the Lutefisk dinner. Brandi will research cost as well as designs and share at next meeting.
3. Pastor shared that the chair lift has not been working correctly. Jim will contact the company as well as look into the maintenance program as the one year warranty is almost expired.
4. The bill for the parking lot will be paid with \$10,000 from the WELCA, \$5332.43 from parking lot fund leaving a balance which will be paid from the building fund checking account.  
Linda made a motion to transfer \$5000.00 from the church savings account to the building fund checking account to have adequate funds, Stephanie seconded and motion carried.  
Keith made a motion to transfer the parking lot savings money to the building fund checking account, Tim seconded, motion carried.
5. Keith is planning on having “A Night at the Ball Park” similar to last year. He will be posting information on Facebook to get input on interest as well as best date.

Motion to adjourn made by Keith, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim, motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 We closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Odness, Recording Secretary.



WELCA Minutes

August 5, 2018

The Elk Creek WELCA met after church at 9:45 am in the church basement on Sunday August 5, 2018.

We began with the Creed, and the theme verse. Stephanie read the minutes from the July meeting. Tammy made a motion to accept, seconded by Roseann.

Becky read the Treasurers report from June and July. It showed general fund at this time of \$10,016.63.

We discussed Gods Word –Our Hands. It was hoped that we will be able to involve the kids as well as adults in the project this year.

Getting new stoles for pastor that would be Elk Creek’s and stay in the church, and communion goblets was brought up. Tammy made a motion that the memorial committee investigate what was available and the prices of both goblets and vestments and bring back to our group. Motion was seconded by Roseann.

Church in the barn was discussed, Aug 12<sup>th</sup> – Pastor and Christine will provide the music.

Thank you’s were read from Wayne and Val Ebert, Heath Johnson, and Ruby’s Pantry.

Meeting closed with Lord’s Prayer

Minutes by Barb Nelson for Barb Fischer

## Lines from LaVerne...

Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. Our bodies are to be platforms on which the glory of God, the Father, is to be seen. God's greatest delight is to see His Son glorified because He has been given the place of honor in our lives. "Ye are not your own." So we talk about our rights to do such things as we want to, but your body belongs to God. We need to nourish our body and we have no right to destroy it as God made a body to be nourished. "Ye are bought with a price." We have been purchased with the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Reading the New Testament we recognize that we need to trust ourselves completely to Christ. We have no right to receive forgiveness unless we bow before his sovereignty. He must have dominion in order to express himself through those whom he purchased with his precious blood. The Lord Jesus can only express his humility and gentleness, sympathy, tenderness and the compassion of his own yearning heart, when our hearts want to obey the dictates of His heart. How many homes and how many churches are going through periods of great distress because some, who might have glorified God, did not seem to care to respect and love others. Our rights were lost in the Garden of Eden. Our rights were signed away at calvary and handed over to the one who has every right to us. You can trust the Lord Jesus. He loves you more than you love yourself. He can search into the very depths of your heart. He knows what goes on inside your mind. Are you afraid of going the way Christ wants you to? He knows you, he loves you, he cares for you. He says I want you, so I may express myself through you. I want your tongue to speak lovely things concerning me. I want your ears tuned in to My Word. I want you to listen. I want your lips to say beautiful things for me. I do not want you to speak cruel words at home. I do not want you to reveal that bad temper. Keep it to yourself, no one else wants it. Forget that pride that you have, be more humble. The Lord died that you might be made messengers of sweetness and love. Let Jesus express himself through our eyes. Let our knees be bent as we meet God every day. He is waiting to meet us in his tenderness and power. The Lord Jesus wants to express himself by His Spirit in and through us. May He give us the grace to meet Him. May we have a loving response in our hearts for Jesus who gave himself for us. Dear Lord Jesus I trust you. I want to be able to express yourself through me. I want to tell everyone how great thou are. I want to pray as King David did: "Restore to me the joy of salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me." Small things done with great love will change the world. Showing the love of Jesus through deeds of kindness is called "servant evangelism". We are all little disciples. We are walking each other home on this journey. Enjoy each day as that day will not be repeated.

Your Lay Minister,      LaVerne

### **GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS**

**Sunday, September 30 2pm**

**Members of the congregation of Elk Creek Lutheran Church will meet at Dove Healthcare in Osseo for their 2 o'clock service. We will sing. We will pray. We will visit with and share refreshments with the residents of Dove. We will hear a word from the Lord through the message of LaVerne Schaefer.**

**(We don't have a morning service at Elk Creek this day)**

**Let your hands be God's work with Dove residents.**