The Newsletter

Elk Creek Lutheran Church

Volume 30 | September 2019 | No. 09

Raise the Roof!

Over $5,000 was raised at the "Raise the Roof" event!
Thank you to the event organizers for all their hard work, the kickball participants, raffle ticket buyers and everyone that came out and supported the cause!
Stop by the church to check out the new roof!

SUNDAY SCHOOL
Resumes
Sunday, September 8th
Sunday School from 9:15-10:15
Church at 10:30
Potluck lunch to follow!
We look forward to seeing everyone.

Day of Enrichment

Synodical Women's Organization – Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
Saturday, September 21 at Osseo Lutheran Church
Registration at 9 am ~~ Meeting at 9:30
Lunch will follow event
Cost $20

Please join us for a morning of fellowship and inspiration. Our focus will be on our commitment to grow in faith; to become engaged in ministry and action; and to promote healing and wholeness. We will also have an informational session to introduce you to the exciting new directions we're taking to expand our communications.

Guest Speaker: Lisa McCormick will share her compelling personal faith journey as a parent advocate for victims of sex trafficking.

In honor of

Mike & Lynn Nelson's

40th wedding anniversary

Kellen & Lindsey, Keith & Nicole, Kevin & Tara

along with their families would like to invite everyone to

cake and coffee at church at 9 am, Sunday, September 29th

Financial Peace University

Ryan & Crystal Johnson are leading a 9-week Financial Peace University course starting September 15th. Class will meet each Sunday night at 6 pm (and last about 2 hours) at church. The course was developed by Dave Ramsey, financial guru, and offers step-by-step instruction to help individuals and families pay off debt, save, invest in the future, and to give! This class is for young and old alike. The class is currently on sale for $109.

Feel free to contact Crystal at 406.480.0729 for more information or check out our class's unique website to learn more and register.

https://bit.ly/2HtFpk4

August 4, 2019

Elk Creek women met for their monthly meeting at 9:00am before the church service, Secretaries report was read motion to approve Becky, 2nd by Mary. Treasurers report July Income $512.75, checking balance $1716.07 other accounts same as previous month, report was placed on file.

Old Business: Splash folder for the month will be distributed today, rest will be mailed. The rest of the old business has been taken care of.
Thank You read from Heifer and order forms available if anyone wishes to do individually.

New Business: Crystal got a Thrivent Grant for Church in the barn. Retreat at Luther Park August 15 -16. Mary Reidell to talk on Malawi instead of India. Cost $62.00 for 2 days. Beck and Allen will be volunteer Janitors, and check on any questions. Allen will ring bell, all if council approves.

Meeting closed by President Jan with offering and Prayer.

Minutes taken by Stephanie for Barb.

The choir will be resuming practices on

Wednesday, September 18 at 7:15 pm

in the church basement. All are welcome to attend!

August 6, 2019 Congregational Council Meeting (Unapproved)

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by President Jim Odness. Members present were Jim Odness, Keith Nelson, Linda Odness, Bruce Thompson, Pastor Ahles, Stephanie Rumstick, Becky Rongstad, Brandi Berg, Tom Johnson and Cedric Anderson

Pastor led us in prayer and devotion with a reading from Jeramiah 3:1-31 in which he shared that through the covenant we have with God all will now the Lord. God's word is written on our hearts and the word of God is within us and is not a Law. Likewise where we good God is always in us and that means that he is always working in us. So as a community we need to keep in mind as we make decisions and act as leaders of our church that we are doing so as people of God.

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

Treasurer's Report was not presented by Brandi with motion to approve as presented by Linda, seconded by Becky, motion carried

July

- Checking Account - $9,19.00 Building Fund Checking - $7,077.47
- 2050 General Fund - $33,448.00 Memorial Fund - $3,048.80
- Church Savings- $5,625.47 13 mo. CD - $10,100.79

Pastor's Report

- Pastor conducted 3 worship services, attended 5 text studies, made 3 home visits and provided communion to 3 Shut-ins.
- He officiated at graveside interment for Virginia Rongstad, as well as a memorial service with interment for Leahray Holmen
- Pastor spoke at July Celebration at Pleasantville ball field and attended VBS on July 10th.
- Pastor's will be attending Continuing Education in Atchison, Kansas
  August 15 – 21 (7 days including 1 Sunday)
  Vacation – August 22 – September 1 (11 days including 2 Sundays)
  While Pastor is gone Lois Bucholtz at UCC will be available as need (414) 526-5320
  Pastor will secure a Pastor for service on August 18 with communion service and Brandi will see if Scott Brown could lead us in worship on August 25th and September 1.
  It was decided that there will not be communion on September 1 as Scott is not an ordained pastor, but will have it on the September 15th.
- Pastor reminds us of the upcoming VBS on August 14
  VBS- Intergenerational – Once/month Wednesday Evening Gathering
- Raise the Roof Fundraiser – Saturday, August 24 at Pleasantville Ball Park

WELCA

- Ladies held a brief meeting
- Reminder to ladies of the congregation that the Ladies Retreat at Luther Park is August 15=16.
- Just updating that both vacuum cleaners need to replaced
- Ladies offered to pay for replacing the shrubs in the front of the church

Parish Secretary Update

- No report

Janitor

- No report

Sunday School

- No report

Parish Council

- Next meeting will be held on September 17th, at Elk Creek beginning at 6:30

Old Business

1. The roof has been completed and it looks fantastic!! The remaining bill for the roof is $11,920.00 with discussion regarding how to pay this. Linda made a motion to close the church savings account and transfer monies to the building fund checking account with the remaining balance on the roof to be paid from the building fund checking account, Stephanie seconded, motion carried.
2. Jim updated the status of the landscaping in the front of the church which will be postponed until later in September.
3. Motion was made by Linda to pay the remaining balance for the replacement air conditioner at the Parsonage

from the general fund account, Cedric seconded the motion, motion approved.

4. The new Eternal Flame candle is in use and the alter guild will be assume responsibility for keeping it filled.
5. Gutters at the parsonage still need to be cleaned out and Keith and Jim will take care of this in the next few weeks.
6. Just a reminder that the Raise the Roof Event at the Pleasantville Ball Park, with tickets for the raffle still available.

New Business

1. Brandi shared that after reviewing the job description for the janitor it appears that all need to be updated and she and Linda offered to work on these over the next few months and bring the new descriptions back to the council for approval.
2. Discussion regarding replacing the two vacuums at the church, with a decision that one of them should be a canister type that allowed for easier cleaning of the stairs. Becky made a motion to spend up to $800.00 on two vacuums, Stephanie seconded the motion, motion approved.
3. Bruce & Rosanne are no longer going to do the cans. Following some discussion it was decided that for now we will discontinue the can collection as the youth currently do not have a need for the funds and in if in the future they do this project should be managed by them.
4. Discussion regarding what if anything should be done about the green louvers on the church steeple. Keith will look into options. Jim shared that he was contacted by a member how has offered monies to go toward completing work that might be needed on the steeple.

Motion to adjourn made by Tom 2nd by Cedric, motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:25, we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Odness, Recording Secretary.

Thrivent members have the opportunity to direct Choice Dollars ® through Thrivent Financial's Thrivent Choice® program.

By directing Choice Dollars® eligible members recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable outreach grant dollars among thousands of participating nonprofit organizations and congregations. We would like to remind you as Thrivent members that you have this option and to update you on recent deposits made to Elk Creek Lutheran Church.

August deposit: $13.00.

Our summer VBS

Rooted in Christ

was a MAJOR success!!

Many thanks to the planning committee, folks providing food and helping in the kitchen, attendees, and all that supported our event in unseen ways.

Please help us gather feedback by taking this short survey regarding VBS.

Kindly submit by **Sept 8**. Thank you!

https://bit.ly/2UdXyrt

Lines from LaVerne… No matter what your age is don't forget to have humor in your life. We can be serious and responsible and still have fun and laugh a lot. One of the greatest stress relievers God has given us is laughter. Its like good medicine. Laughing makes us feel better and releases healing throughout our body. The pressure of life fades when we laugh. We feel restored and rejuvenated. When was the last time you had a hearty laugh? Maybe your laughter is rusted and needs to be overhauled. Even your energy will pick up if you lighten up and laugh every single day. Many are too stressed to have fun. They need to restore balance. All work and no play is not healthy. God made us all unique and we may not be a jovial person by nature but we can train ourselves to laugh as often as possible. Even medical science is catching on to the benefits of laughter as therapy. Just watching and listening to children at play helps to change some patients outlook and they recover sooner. I never want to be a grumpy old woman. I still want to be happy and be able to have joy in my life. A smile on my face and a laugh in my heart. Laughter helps to kep you young because you reduce your stress. The couples and families who laugh together stay together. They have stronger relationships and tighter bonds. I love to hear the laughter in my house when we are all together. Laughter is a great addition to every home. The enemy cannot stand the sound of joyful laughter. He cannot stand the sound of husbands and wives and family members having fun together. He wants them to have so much strife, tension and pressure that we never have any joy in our homes. Don't fall into that trap. Keep a fun atmosphere in your homes. Don't get all caught up in the pressures of life. Being willing to laugh at yourself and at life's ups and downs may be one of the greatest gifts you can have. Some throw fits when they make mistakes. Some throw golf clubs. Others throw their bats and helmets. A few throw punches. How much fun are they to be around? The person who laughs at mistakes and goofs are the people we want to share our time with. Hey, we are all human! If we never make a mistake, we never did much. People around me tend to alugh a lot. Smiling attracts people. They probably make many friends on that account. Psalm 2:4 says God sits in the heaven and laughs. Psalm 37:13 explains why He is laughing. "the Lord laughs at the wicked, for He sees that their own day (of defeat) is coming." He knows the end of the story. He knows the final outcome. The good news is, you and I win. God always causes us to triumph. When it gets tough and things don't look like they will work out, you can laugh by faith, knowing that God has already written the final chapter. Your mind may have doubts. But remember to laugh in faith like Abraham, because it is just a matter of time before those promises come true. Laughter boosts our immune system. Welcome joy into your home as a permanent resident. Job 8:21 says, "He will yet fill your mouth with laughter." God's dream for you is to be filled with laughter. He gave laughter the power to heal your body, soothe your spirits and mend your relationships. Don't take humor lightly. Dare to laugh openly, especially at yourself. Give your loved ones the gift of your laughter. You honor God when you do this and He will reward you. He wants us to be happy.

Your Lay Minister,
LaVerne

Council Meeting is Tuesday, September 3 at 7 p.m.

Thanks to Stephanie Rumstick for seeing this and knowing we needed just ONE more exceptional thing to add to our newsletter. I know THIS mama needed to read these words and be reminded ♡

Take your kids to church.
Make the effort. Wake them up early. Fool with the belts and the buckles and the fancy hair bows. Endure the sleepy, grumpy faces and the misplaced shoes. Run around like a mad woman gathering everybody's everything and trying to get out the door on time. Hop to the car with a shoe in one hand and your make-up bag in the other. Give those babies a pop-tart and some milk and let 'em eat it in the car. If it's raining, get wet. If it's cold, get a jacket. If you're tired, go tired. But take those babies to church. You know why?

Because Jesus is there.

He's there. And He'll meet them there. And you too, Mama.
He'll be there in the sweet smile of their Sunday School teacher as she greets them into their room. He'll be there in the goldfish and the apple juice and the filling of their little bellies and hearts. He'll be there in the hug from a sweet friend and the encouraging smile that assures you that they "just barely made it" too. He'll be there in the sacred words read from the Bible speaking truth to their little impressionable hearts. He'll be there in the worship and the raised hands and the watery eyes and whispers of praise.

So take them. Carry all of their Bibles and drawings and toilet paper tube creations. Sit by them in worship. Open your Bible and open theirs. Show them how to find the scripture the pastor is preaching from. Show them how to worship. Explain to them why He's worthy of worship. Let them see you laugh and cry and praise and study. Forgive their wiggles and paper rustles and know that they're listening even when it seems like they aren't. Ask them questions and answer the ones they ask you. Introduce them to Jesus. Tell them of His greatness - his power - his faithfulness. Tell them with your words and show them with your life. Tell them what he's done for you and how you've been changed by His grace and forgiveness and goodness and love. Tell them how they can be too. Point them to Jesus. Over and over and over again.

Take your kids to church. They'll love it there. It's the only place where they can go and just be themselves. They don't have to "be" good enough or smart enough or athletic enough. They don't have to perform for approval or achievement. They just get to go and hear how much God loves them. Just because they're them. Just because He created them, they're valued. Wanted. Their worth isn't based on the grades they make or their ability to throw a curveball. It's not dependent on their performance or skill level. And they need a little more of that, don't you think? A little more grace and a little less pressure. A little more love and a few less demands.

Take them to church. Before you take them to the ballfield or the dance studio or the gym. Before you take them on vacation or to grandma's or to the backyard to play. Take them to church. Let them know it's a priority. Show them it has eternal value. Let them see you set aside schedules and extra-curricular activities and work and busy-ness to be present with the Lord in His house. I promise you won't regret it. I promise you it won't return back void.
Take them to church.

Author unknown.

Rally Sunday is Sunday, September 8th. Sunday school begins at 9:15 with church to follow at 10:30. Potluck after ☺