

ELEVA LUTHERAN CHURCH

CROSSROADS NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2022

Mark your Calendars

- Oct. 2** Blessing Home Communion Elements and Ministers
First day of Sunday School, 10-11am
Home Communion Visitation Team will meet after worship
- Oct. 9** Community Dinner, 5-6
- Oct. 15** Cleaning Day at East Bennett Valley, 8am-1pm
- Oct. 16** Worship service at East Bennett Valley, 3pm
- Oct. 19** "Raid the Pantry" food collection by confirmation students
- Nov. 6** All Saints Sunday, guest preacher and presenter Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson
- Nov. 13** Annual Harvest Dinner, 10:30-1pm
- Nov. 23** Community Thanksgiving Service, 7pm Hosted by Elk Creek Lutheran Church

Rally Day 2022



Hebrews 11:1-3 *“The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It’s our handle on what we can’t see. The act of faith is what distinguished our ancestors, set them above the crowd. By faith, we see the world called into existence by God’s word, what we see created by what we don’t see.” (The Message translation)*

Greetings to you, my siblings in Christ,

One of the questions people ask me is, “Pastor, I just don’t see how faith is relevant anymore, I mean, what difference does it really make?” Most everyone that asks me about this already has a pretty good idea of what they want the answer to be and are looking for affirmation of *their answer. I think their expectation is that I would offer some wisdom to clarify whether faith, and by extension, the church and even God, are something that we human beings have outgrown...or not! Much to their disappointment, I had no insightful wisdom, pithy answer, or interesting anecdote to share with them that would clarify the answer they were hoping for. If I’m honest, this is a question I’ve asked myself too!*

As I have aged, my answer is **YES**, faith is as relevant and necessary now as it has ever been. The dictionary defines faith as “complete trust or confidence in something or someone; belief that is not based on proof.” I would say, from the Christian perspective, it is complete trust and confidence in God that cannot be proven through our intellect or knowledge. Let’s face it, neither courtroom style deliberations nor mathematical proofs can account for the mystery of trusting God. In our culture, mystery is often seen as something that needs to be unraveled, to be explained and tamed so that we can understand it. The reality is that the mystery of God is beyond our human comprehension. We must embrace that reality when pondering faith.

Faith is a gift that comes from God. We are not born with faith; we can’t acquire it through study or knowledge. Faith cannot be earned. Faith cannot be obtained by exerting our own will or power. It has nothing to do with our worthiness. Faith is inspired in us by the Holy Spirit, drawing us to the invisible love of God that was made visible by Jesus Christ. Pure mystery!

Now, in this place and time, the world tells us that faith is irrelevant, and God is unnecessary. I would argue that the state of the world compels us to turn to God. Faith guides our choices and decisions every day so that we can live lives that are grounded in love, grace, and mercy rather than hate, fear, and anxiety.

We are God’s beloved children, and we are invited to make the world a better place. We are called to make God’s love tangible in the lives of the people around us. Faith is the thing that gives us the ability to live into that calling. Faith is the inner strength we need to express God’s love in the hurting and broken world. How this happens is a mystery! And I trust God to help and guide me!

Servants Together,
Pastor Karen

PARTNERS IN PRAISE

Submitted by Chris Smith

Choir practice on Wednesdays at 7pm!!

Partners in Praise Choir has resumed! There is still time to join and the choir would **love** to have anyone be a part of this special ministry at Eleva Lutheran. The camaraderie of working together in God's love to share a message of faith through music is indescribable! Remember, **NO** experience required, just a desire to be a part of something joyous, exciting and fun!!!

All are welcome 5th graders through age 100! Hard to believe but we will soon be starting practice on our Advent and Christmas selections so come now and enjoy the beautiful music for the upcoming holiday seasons!

Upcoming Visit with Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson



Laurie Skow-Anderson serves as the bishop of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin of the ELCA. Bishop Laurie will join us for worship on November 7th which is All Saints Day. She will be the guest preacher on that day and will offer a presentation after worship for the benefit of the congregation.

This is a great opportunity to show off our hospitality! **We need a few people to plan and coordinate the festivities on this special occasion.** If you are able to serve in this capacity, or have any questions, please call Denise at the church office 715-287-4231.

Bulletin Boards

There are several bulletin boards around the church building that would benefit from some attention. If you are someone that likes to create interesting, informative messages that serve to inform people and to share the Good News, we need your help! Pastor Karen is looking for 3 of 4 people that would be willing to brainstorm ideas so that we can better utilize this resource. Interested? Or curious? Call Pastor Karen, 715-864-4407, to learn more.

You're Invited!

Please join the confirmation students as we "Meet Our Neighbors"

October 26: Deacon Laura Ramlow-Malawi Companion Synod Coordinator

November 2: Sara Bishop-Synod Advocate for Right Relationships

November 9: Deacon Lidixe Montoya-Neighbor to Neighbor Ministry

All presentations begin at 5:20 and will last about an hour.

Cleaning the Kitchen

Thursday, October 13th, will be a cleaning day in the church kitchen. Looking for volunteers to come and help clean and organize the kitchen. We will work from 8:00-1:00. Many hands make light work plus it will be fun. If you have any questions contact Natalie Evenson (715-797-2812)

DIAL-UP WORSHIP DISCONTINUED

We could no longer the antiquated system used to provide the dial-up service for Sunday morning worship. After the Sunday morning worship service on October 9th, the dial-in option will **not** be available.

You can watch the Sunday morning services by tuning into TCC channel 8. Eleva Lutheran Church services will air every Wednesday at 5 pm and Sundays at 8 am. The 8 am broadcast will be the previous Sunday's service. You can also watch the livestream via the web page at elevalc.org/livestream, ELC Facebook or YouTube pages.

If these options will not work for you, please call the church office (715-287-4231) and we will try to work out a solution with you depending on your specific circumstances.

New Quilting Club Meeting

Are you a quilter that is unable to join the ELC Quilting group during the day? Do you want to learn how to quilt? If you answered YES to either of those questions, here is an opportunity for you! We will meet the *first Monday of the month at 6 PM*. The first organizational meeting will be on Monday, October 3rd where we will discuss ideas for quilt patterns and color schemes. If you have a quilt pattern that you would like to try, bring it along.

It is our hope to create quilts full of love and prayers to be gifted to the graduating high school students of our congregation. This group is open to anyone. **NO QUILTING EXPERIENCE** necessary. There are many tasks that go into creating a keepsake quilt, not all of them involve a sewing machine! If you have questions, please contact Natalie Evenson, 715-797-2812, or Pastor Karen, 715-864-4407.

ALL SAINTS DAY

Each year Eleva Lutheran Church remembers and honors people who have died during the year on All Saints' Day at the morning worship service. Family members are invited to worship with us as we honor and remember their loved one.

If you have a loved one that you would like us to include in this service, please contact Denise (287-4231 or office@elevalc.org)

East Bennett Valley Church-Worship Service

We will worship at the East Bennett Valley Church on October 16th at 3:00 in the afternoon. The church is located about eight miles southwest of Eleva on County Road V. This beautiful church exemplifies the white country church on the hill and offers breath-taking views of the surrounding countryside. This community worship service will be informal, with communion, and lots of music! Root beer floats will be served after the service. A free will offering will be collected to support the maintenance and restoration of East Bennett Valley Church.

East Bennett Valley- Cleaning Day in Preparation for Sunday Worship

Saturday, October 15th, will be a cleaning day at EBV Church. Bring yourself a sack lunch, your cleaning rags & buckets, multi-purpose cleaners, Murphy's Oil Soap, and vacuum cleaners to help get the East Bennett Valley Church ready for the Sunday afternoon worship. We will begin at 8:00 and hope to finish-up around 1:00. While this is technically a work day, it will be fun to spend time together, sharing memories and stories about the people who have been part of the church over the years.

Fall Harvest Dinner

Lutefisk, Lefse, Meatballs & all the trimmings!!!
Sunday, November, 13 from 10:30am-1pm

Both Dine-in & Carry-out available

Adult Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner: \$16

Adult Meatball Dinner: \$12

Children 6-12: \$5

Children 5 & under: Free



BASKET RAFFLE IS RETURNING!

We will have a basket raffle again this year, during the Fall Harvest Dinner. Please consider donating a basket. There is a sign-up sheet on the volunteer bulletin board to get involved. Information will be shared as the day of the Dinner approaches. Call JoAnn Adams (715-530-0224) or Natalie Evenson (715-797-2812) with questions or suggestions.

Dear Friends In Christ-

We will meet at the church at 1:00pm on Thursday October 13, 2022 with a business session, inspirational message, and pot luck lunch. Please plan to join us for an afternoon of friendship in God's Name.

Thank You to all who have so graciously served by providing cakes and volunteering your time when asked. We don't really understand how much it is appreciated until we are on the receiving end of such gracious hospitality

We are still working on the new handbook. If there are any changes which you wish to make as to serving group, funeral serving group, etc. please notify me.
Thank You to the "Helping Hands" who got the School and Personal Care Kits assembled after church for God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. Wouldn't it be something to see the delighted, smiling faces on those who receive them!

May we be blessings as we are so richly blessed!

Your servant in Him,
~ **Vonnie** ~
Eleva ELCW President
715-287-4223

Charity Circle plans to meet at
Connie Pedersen's on
Thursday, October 20 at 1:00pm.

Lydia Circle will meet Tuesday,
October 25 at 6:30pm.

COMMUNITY DINNERS

Everyone is invited to come and enjoy a meal and get to know each other better. The menu for October is chicken a la king, Waldorf salad, veggies, milk, coffee and dessert.
There is no cost for the meal.

Dinners are the second Sunday of the month and served from 5-6pm. Volunteers are needed at 4pm to set up and for clean-up after the meal. Also, if anyone would like to furnish dessert, that would be great. Suggestions for future menus would be greatly appreciated!

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, or you can contact me (695-3119) with your wishes and questions. Thank you, Inez

STORYTELLERS MINISTRY

We are part of God's story of love for the world, help us tell that story! Do you like to visit with people? Are you a gifted storyteller or writer? Do you like to use pictures or art to tell a story? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, the Holy Spirit may be tapping you on the shoulder and prompting you to be a part of this important ministry at Eleva Lutheran Church.

Jen and Gracie Rombalski are Storytellers Ministers and share the first of two stories in this month's newsletter.

If you are interested in being part of this ministry, or would like to share your story, please call Pastor Karen (715-864-4407) or Denise at the church office (715-287-4231).

"It's About the Connection" by Jen & Gracie Rombalski, Storyteller Ministers

Gracie and I had the honor of spending a couple of hours with the Berg's. This month we will share Mike and Judy Berg's story. Next month's story will be about Duke and Mary Berg.

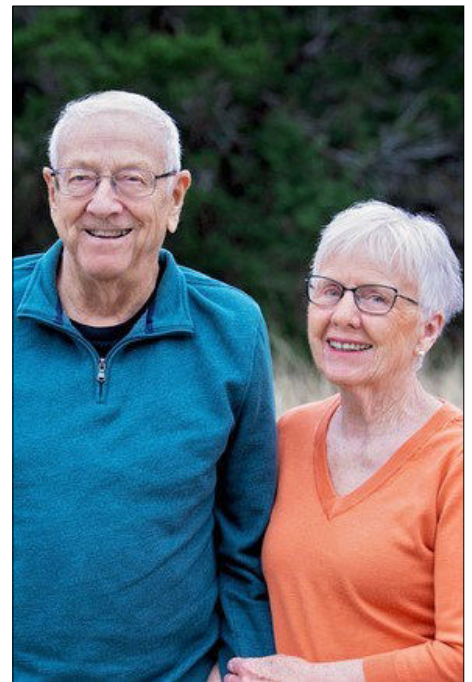
After high school, Mike served in the Air Force for four years. During this time, he began to miss being connected to a faith community. He and his fellow military friends would go to church together.

Judy didn't grow-up in a church. Despite this, she felt comfortable connecting with Eleva Lutheran through the marriage process, which started with pre-marital counseling. He and Judy were married at Eleva Lutheran by Pastor Larson. They celebrated their 58th anniversary this past August!

Mike and Judy regularly travel to San Antonio, Texas where their son and his family live. They sometimes attend a church there and though they appreciate the pastor's message, it's a big church and they don't know other members. In this way, it is very different from Eleva Lutheran.

Mike and Judy are an integral part of Eleva Lutheran. Church for Mike and Judy is about the relationships and a sense of community. Judy appreciates being at church in person and feeling connected to each other. Music is a big part of Mike's faith. Music is how he shares his faith with others.

Gracie and I wish to thank Mike and Judy for sharing a bit about themselves with us and with all of you. We are grateful for the time we spent together.



ELCA Hurricane Response

The situation: Hurricane Fiona made landfall in Puerto Rico on Sep. 18 – five years after Hurricane Maria devastated the island. A Category 1 storm, Fiona caused an island-wide blackout and brought catastrophic flooding, with some areas receiving more than 20 inches of rain. After hitting Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, Hurricane Fiona made landfall in the Dominican Republic, bringing severe flooding and 90 mph winds. The storm continues to strengthen and move northwest.

Our response: Lutheran Disaster Response is working with the Caribbean Synod to support impacted communities, some of which are still recovering from Hurricane Maria. While communities are more prepared than in 2017, significant relief and recovery is expected to be needed. Local pastors are waiting for water levels to recede to find out the extent of the damage to buildings. Anticipated immediate needs include clean water, food supplies and other basic necessities.

What you can do:

Pray. Please pray for the communities impacted by Hurricane Fiona. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need. Pray that God will deliver comfort to those who mourn and strength to those working diligently to rescue survivors.

Give. Your gifts will support survivors of Hurricane Fiona. Gifts to “[Hurricane Response](#)” will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by hurricanes until the response is complete. Or make a general donation to [Lutheran Disaster Response](#) so we can respond to disasters whenever and wherever they strike.

Connect:

To learn more about the situation and the ELCA’s response: Sign up to receive Lutheran Disaster Response alerts, Check the Lutheran Disaster Response blog, "Like" Lutheran Disaster Response on [Facebook](#), follow @ELCALDR on [Twitter](#) and follow @ELCA_LDR on [Instagram](#).

STRUM ROD & GUN



HOOT & HOWL

DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22ND

TIME: 3:00 - 8:00 PM

LOCATION: STRUM ROD & GUN CLUB

* Across from the Viking Clubhouse *

Event parking at the Viking Clubhouse

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 3 - 5 pm | Trunk or Treat with Local Businesses |
| 3:30 - 5:30 pm | Family Friendly Halloween Trail Walk,
Halloween Games & Costume Contest |
| 6 - 8 pm | Spooky Trail & Bonfire |
| 3 - ? | Bake Sale & Food Stand |

Thank you sponsors!



THANK YOU, TOM AUSTIN!

Thanks, Tom, for your generosity of materials and labor. Your work has our fence looking like new again!

-Eleva Cemetery Association

Strum Senior Dining Site Now Open

Immanuel Lutheran Church
109 Elm Street, Strum

Meals are served Tuesdays
11:30am to 12:30pm.

Reservations required 24 hours in advance by calling
Immanuel Lutheran Church at 715-695-3511.

~MEMORIALS & OTHER SPECIAL GIFTS~

Eleva Lutheran Church gratefully acknowledges
the following special gifts, memorials and sponsorships.

In memory of **Sylvia Nesja** to ELC from Paul & Sharri Olsen.

To the Elevator Fund in memory of my husband, **Gerald Johnson** who passed away 3
years ago, from June Johnson.

In memory of **Sylvia Nesja** to the ELCW from James & Lori Longhurst.

In memory of **Sylvia Nesja** to the ELCW from Richard & Darlene Pedersen.

In memory of **Sylvia Nesja** to the Elevator Fund from Barb Peterson.

In memory of **Sylvia Nesja** to ELC from Vonnie Olson.

In memory of **Sylvia Nesja** to ELC from Kathy Miland.

In memory of my parents, **Bernie and Betty Redsten**, to the Eleva Cemetery from
Carmen Davis.

Anonymous sponsorship of Boxcast.

Prayer is Powerful!

The members of the Eleva Lutheran Prayer Chain are ready and willing to offer intercessory prayers on your behalf. We honor confidentiality. You do not have to share specific details to be included on the prayer chain. If you wish, your request can be held in prayer during Sunday morning worship where the voices of the assembly raise our prayers before God.

If you would like to have us pray for you, a family member or friend; or if you would like to join the Prayer Chain as a “pray-er”, please call Vonnie Olson 415-287-4223, Pastor Karen, 715-864-4407, or Denise at the church office 715-287-4231.



There are Our Daily Bread devotional books available for anyone who would like to stop in and pick one up. We have some of the small ones and also the larger print ones available.

Account Balances August 31, 2022

Account Name	Beginning Balance	Deposits	Deductions	Ending Balance	Change
Altar Guild	313.46	-	-	313.46	-
Building Fund	639.17	55.00	-	694.17	55.00
Camperships	-	5.00	-	5.00	5.00
Christ Kids	962.26	-	-	962.26	-
Community Dinner	-	775.42	-	775.42	775.42
Elevator Fund	5,093.81	170.00	-	5,263.81	170.00
General Checking*	(1,517.11)	10,286.46	12,882.28	(4,112.93)	(2,595.82)
Halvorsen	654.99	-	-	654.99	-
Klinge Kor	919.72	-	-	919.72	-
Local Missions	1,849.04	-	30.90	1,818.14	(30.90)
Memorial Fund	2,598.34	-	-	2,598.34	-
Men's Group	6,576.01	-	-	6,576.01	-
Missions & Benevolences	1,402.83	230.00	-	1,632.83	230.00
Music	1,481.21	75.00	-	1,556.21	75.00
Parsonage	(0.00)	-	-	(0.00)	-
Seminary	98.57	-	-	98.57	-
Sunday School	8,664.51	10.00	-	8,674.51	10.00
Technology Fund	292.42	100.00	99.00	293.42	1.00
Trust Acct & Interest	74,186.60	-	775.42	73,411.18	(775.42)
	104,215.83	11,706.88	13,787.60	102,135.11	(2,080.72)
Genesis Youth	8,456.19	-	-	8,456.19	-

Corrections are being made to July's minutes, once approved minutes will be in the next newsletter.

Next council meeting will be October 10 at 6:30.

thrivent

Action Teams

If you are a member of Thrivent, you have the ability to make a positive impact in our community by applying for an Action Team. The application process only takes a few minutes and you get a kit in the mail to support the project including seed money in the form of a \$250 gift card.

The project can be a fundraiser, educational event or service activity. Here are a few examples of Action Teams used to support projects at Eleva Lutheran: Harvest Dinner, Meat and cheese for raffle bags; Thrift Sale & Brat Stand; Broiler Fest Pie & Ice Cream stand; Quilt batting & fabric for the quilts presented to the graduating seniors; Youth Discovery Night pizzas, and Parade pop sales.

As a member of Thrivent, you can apply for two Action Teams per year. If you are a member of Thrivent and are willing to help out by applying for an Action Team, please give the office a call and let us know. Thank you!

SPONSORSHIPS

Here are some other opportunities to support the operational costs that provide a comfortable worshipping environment. You could choose to sponsor or co-sponsor any of the following expenses for one or more months.

Xcel Energy ~ \$300

Midwest Gas ~ \$400

TCC ~ \$175

*BoxCast ~ \$99

Newsletter~ \$100

consider giving to one of these funds when donating in the memory or honor of a loved one.

**BoxCast makes our online service possible*

ELEVA LUTHERAN CHURCH

October 2022

Sundays	
9 AM	Worship Service
10 AM	Sunday School
Wednesdays	
5-7 PM	Confirmation
7 PM	Choir
Thursdays	
7 PM	STEP group

Office Hours
M & T 9-12
W 3-6 and by
appointment

715-287-4231

office@elevalc.org

www.elevalc.org

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
25 9 AM worship Rally Sunday	26	27	28 Confirmation 5-7 Choir 207	29	30	1
2 9 AM worship Blessing Home Communion 1 st Day of Sunday School	3	4 6 PM Evening Quilting	5 Confirmation 5-7 Choir 207	6	7	8
9 9 AM worship 5-6 PM Community Dinner	10 6:30 Council Meeting	11	12 Confirmation FCA Fields of Faith Event Choir 207	13 1 PM ELCW	14	15 8-1 Cleaning 20 EBV Newsletter Deadline
16 9 AM worship 3 PM Service 20 East Bennett Valley	17	18 5:30 worship Committee Meeting	19 Confirmation 5-7 "Raid the Pantry" Choir 207	20 Wondavi Area Clergy Event 1 PM Charity Circle 20 Connie's	21	22
23 9 AM worship	24	25 9 AM Sewing 6:30 Lydia Circle	26 Confirmation 5-7 Choir 207	27	28	29
30 9 AM worship Reformation Sunday	31	1	2	3	4	5

Eleva Lutheran Church
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CROSSROADS OCTOBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

ELEVA LUTHERAN CHURCH

In person Worship Sundays at **9AM**

Live-stream on Facebook and You Tube

www.elevalc.org

Office: 715-287-4231

Rev. Karen Ressel

pastor@elevalc.org

Email: office@elevalc.org

Office Hours

Mon & Tue 9-12

Wed 3-6

and by appointment

You can also find our worship services on TCC channel 8.
Eleva Lutheran Church service will air every
Wednesday at 5pm and Sundays at 8am
(Sunday Service that will be on WTCO will be the previous Sundays Service).