

CROSS ROADS NEWSLETTER

ELEVA LUTHERAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2020

A Note from Pastor Bob

Grace and peace to you, family of Faith. Happy Thanksgiving! As you prepare for the holiday of Thanksgiving this year, I invite you to consider a simple, but powerful word, still. **Still.** Descriptions of this word include “unmoving,” “peaceful,” and “nevertheless.” **Still.** It is an important concept to reflect on and be thankful for during this Thanksgiving season as we remember that we have a loving God that cares for us and watches over us. No matter what mistakes we’ve made, God still loves us. No matter how long the journey has been, God is still here. No matter what, still. Still is a powerful word, because it gives us assurance in difficult times. Still stands as a foundation during the storms of life.

On this Thanksgiving, our country and the world around us experiencing a world-wide pandemic that has changed our lives and affected many in our own Faith family. Since early March we have not been worshipping in our sanctuary and most of our favorite church activities have either been cancelled or moved to an electronic format. It is during these difficult and sometimes even dark times that it is easy for us to take our eyes off the Creator of all things and focus only on the mountains in front of us. This Thanksgiving, especially this Thanksgiving, it is important for us to fix our eyes on our Creator and drive a stake in the ground, saying, “Still.” Still, God is good. Still, God is bigger than any storm we will face. Still, God will make a way. Out of the darkness comes light. Out of the depths comes a cry of freedom. Out of the despair comes a song of hope. Out of sickness comes health. Out of scarcity comes abundance. Out of death comes life. This is reality, and the one behind it all is our God. In any and every situation, still... “Give thanks to God for God is good. God’s love endures forever!” (Psalm 136).

So, how do we give thanks to God? When we look in Scripture, there are three main ways described. The first way to give thanks is to say it (or sing it) to God. May each one of us take a still moment this Thanksgiving, reflect on God’s goodness, and tell God how thankful we are for each one of the blessings we can think of. A second way to give thanks is to share it with others. Many times in Scripture it says, “Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done.” (1 Chronicles 16:8). May we have the love, courage, and gratitude to talk about God’s goodness with our family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. The third way to give thanks to God is by blessing others in need. Have you ever tried to give a gift to someone who already has everything? Isn’t giving a thanksgiving gift to God the same? Yes and no. Yes, God doesn’t need anything we can give God, but God’s children do. “Whatever you did for the least of these, you did it unto me.” (Matthew 25:40).

This Thanksgiving, let us give thanks as we reflect upon all of God’s blessings in the past, present, and future. This Thanksgiving, in the face of our difficult circumstances, let us drive a stake in the ground with a still, unmoving, peaceful, and nevertheless attitude, and give thanks. This Thanksgiving, let us take a moment to “Be still and know that God is God,” and may our gratitude be evident in what we say to God, share with others, and give to those in need.

With great thanksgiving,

Pastor Bob Schoenkecht



If you would like to put yourself, a family member, or friend on the prayer chain, please call Vonnie Olson at 715-287-4223. The Eleva Lutheran Prayer Chain is available for anyone that would like to have a prayer said in strong faith with our Eleva Women. Prayer is a powerful thing and these ladies have been serving Eleva Lutheran for many years with thousands of prayers.

Keep the Prayer Patrol working for our families! Our prayer patrol is there for you whenever you need them.

Dear Friends In Christ-

Thank You Lord for Your Saving Grace -
Your Gift to all the human race.
Thank You Lord for Friends so dear -
Some so far away and some so near.
Thank You for our voice- praises to sing.
Thank You Lord for EVERYTHING!
Thanksgiving Blessings to you and yours-

Your servant in him -

~ Vonnie ~

Eleva ELCW President
715-287-4223



~Memorials and other Special Gifts~

In memory of **Vic Wenaas** to Eleva Lutheran from Larry & Julie Wayne.

In memory of **Vic Wenaas** to Eleva Lutheran from Jody Sandberg.

In memory of **Marvel Rasmussen** to Eleva Lutheran from Clara Walde.

In memory of **Richard Palmer** to the debt reduction from Carlene & Duane Schultz.

In memory of **Richard Palmer** to the elevator replacement fund from Marjorie Herbenson.

In memory of **Augie & Joyce Hageness** to Eleva Lutheran from Edith & Curtis Julson.

Christmas From The Heart

Christmas From The Heart will once again be taking place. This program is for students in our District so that they can have a very Merry Christmas. Gifts will be given along with a Food Basket for their family for Christmas Dinner. The Heart Tree is up. I could never do this project without the support of our Communities. God taught us Faith Hope and Love and the greatest of these is love. Thank you for sharing yours.

~Debbie Wright



We are looking for individuals to read scripture on Sundays. Interested individuals have two options to participate. You can record your lesson at the church on Thursdays between 4-5pm. Alternatively, you can record your lesson, either video or just audio, at home and email it to the church. Most computers or mobile devices have a voice/video recorder built in. If you need help recording your lesson, we will assist you. If you are interested please send us a Facebook Message, email the church office at elevalc@triwest.net or call 715-287-4231. We will send you your lesson and ask whether you prefer recording at the church or at home. Thank you.



Dear Members and Friends of Eleva Lutheran,

On October 22, 2020 a letter was sent out regarding the parsonage and the items that need immediate attention and the work that needs to be completed to get the parsonage ready for our next Pastor. Unfortunately, none of these expenses could be anticipated when the 2020 budget was being developed last year or adopted in February. As a result, we need to ask you to help cover the cost of the needed parsonage improvements. The church council would greatly appreciate it if you could take a look at the letter and donation form and help in any way you can. The work will need to begin soon to make sure the parsonage is ready for the new pastor. Please continue to take care of yourself and each other during this pandemic time. With our sincere thanks and appreciation during this season of Thanksgiving.

Church Council

Communion

We will continue with virtual communion on the first Sunday of every month. The communion service will be part of the regular worship service and will include a service of confession and forgiveness as well as the regular communion liturgy. There are three ways you can prepare for that service. First you can gather wine and some form of bread in your own home to use during the service. If that is not possible, you can come to the church during regular office hours to pick up prepackaged individual communion servings for each member of your family. Finally, if you are not able to come to church, you can call the office and volunteers will deliver the communion servings to you home.



ELEVA LUTHERAN CHURCH WELCOMES

Nora Ann Strong as she was baptized on Sunday October, 18th with the water of the Holy Spirit. Nora was baptized by Pastor Kermit Solem, her parents are Andy and Samantha Strong. Nora's sponsors are Logan and Alicia Merten. May God bless this new member and her family.

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



amazon smile

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/39-1305521>

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. The exciting news is that Eleva Lutheran Church is now one an option.

Little “Virtual” Christmas Eve

2020 has certainly created changes to our lives including Eleva Lutheran’s Little Christmas Eve Service that is held on December 23rd.

Due to our not being able to be together in person as a congregation on Little Christmas Eve this year, we still want to help make it be a very “Special Christmas Season” so the Worship Committee is preparing a “Virtual” service of story, word and songs.



We are looking for volunteers that would like to sing or play a favorite Christmas Carol or even do a Christmas reading! This can be anyone from all ages including any of our youth that play an instrument for a solo, duet or small group of singers or instrument players. This can be done by either your recording the selection from your home or if you would rather come to the church to have it recorded we would set up a time for you to do so!

We would like to include as many families as possible, so if a family would like to sing a carol or even just a **verse** of that carol that could be put together with families singing the other verses (such as a verse from Away in a Manger or Silent Night) this would be very special. We would also like any families to record a very short Christmas Greeting to send and this greeting could even be as short as **Merry Christmas from the Family!!*

Please go to the Eleva Lutheran’s website elevalc.org where more information will be available (after November 1st) along with a form under the online worship tab for your signing up for this service. Songs available under the churches copyright license also will be listed for the sign up. If you would rather you can call Denise at the church 715-287-4231 or email her @ elevalc@tcc.coop to sign up. Sign up will be all November long with all recording needing to be completed and sent to Cory Peterson Cory_Peterson@hotmail.com by December 20th.

We are hoping to have an overwhelming response of volunteers and families to help make this a very special service for December 23rd!

If you have any additional questions please feel free to contact any of our Little Christmas Eve Committee members:

Jessica Franck jessicamfranck@yahoo.com, cell 715-495-3572

Cory Peterson Cory_Peterson@hotmail.com, cell 715-533-0837

Chris Smith bcsmith@tcc.coop, home 715-695-3384

Thanks again for your help!
The Eleva Lutheran Worship Committee

Last February, like you, I was confined to my home because of Covid-19 and was "going through stuff." I came upon this story that Ben Rudy (a World War I veteran) dictated to Cliff. He told about his suffering from the Asian flu 101 years ago and the miracle that saved him.

It's hard to read because of the typos and x's. Typewriters of yesterday didn't make corrections.

This Veterans Day and every day we should remember and give thanks for the men and women who have so bravely served our country.

- *Connie Pedersen*

(Rev. Clifford Pedersen served Eleva Lutheran Church from September 1966 to September 1977 and was a World War II Navy veteran.)



World War I, so long ago, and yet ~~that~~ I must tell my story. Ben Rudy is my name. ~~and~~ I was a private in Company _____ in La Mans, France where my story was born. Days of preparation had fitted us to become a part of the _____ division which was to eventually pursh back the Germans from the territories of Belgium. The morning of February 19, 1919, as I was about the regular drills ~~I felt this sickness~~ ~~sick~~ of my company, I felt ill and weak, wanting only to rest and sleep. The afternoon sun ~~was warm for February, and beautiful day~~ was warm for this February day when the Comapny Commander thought it necessary ~~for~~ that I enter the dispensary for a check up. Two doctors manned this center, without ~~nurses~~ the aid of nurses, only an occasional GI mopping the floors. The ~~and~~ large brick building which housed the dispensary was full to capacity and more, all had come down with the Asian Flu, the dreaded sickness which was killing more soldiers than the entire war itself. By the time a doctor reached my bedside I was so miserably sick ~~feverish and~~ with a very high temperature. ~~It~~ The quickened pace of the doctor's examine only confirmed what I heard him whisper to ~~another~~ another man "Take these two men to the other building, there is no hope for either of them." ~~The next thing I know~~ What happened next was quick and precise. The two of us were heeled into another brick building into ~~an~~ an unheated room measuring ~~and~~ twelve by twelve. Both of us could not help but notice three bodies at one end of the room, dead and awaiting burial. A blanket was placed beneath us and one over us and then the door was shut and we were left alone, left to die. I prayed for the help of God and His mercy. I now knew that this was the end for me and this stranger lying next to me. A day had passed without a visitor, the next day brought two leutnants in the room, one gave me a short kick to see if I was alive and left. The following day, I cannot remember the ~~day exactly~~ date exactly, the door opened ~~and~~ and in stepped a lady, dressed in peasant clothes. What I noticed about her was her shawl which covered most of her body and her head, drapped in such a fashion so that we could not see her face. She spoke no words to us. I felt her hand ~~and~~ ~~and~~ as she slipped it under my neck and raised my head, and gave me and my buddie a drink of ~~liquid~~ sweet liquid ~~which~~ a taste something like goats milk. The lady left as quietly as she entered without a word to either of us. ~~Then~~ Again, she appeared on the following day and ~~repeated~~ repeated her kindness of giving us this liquid which had already brought to both of us a steady increase of strength. The third day, ~~brought~~ saw us both talking to each other and sitting up and in a matter of days we were well and hardy.

We asked the guards about this lady, telling him that we wanted to give this peasant lady our thanks and a gift. The guard responded by saying that "no lady had entered this building at any time, nor were women allowed in the camp on any day. We inquired at the nearest village, none could identify the lady with the black shawl. ~~even as I was then, that the bent old lady~~ ~~in a black shawl~~ My heart warms ~~every day~~ as I think back to the lady in black, ~~that~~ to that bent old lady with her sweetened medicine and I know she was an angel in disguise.

Eleva Lutheran Church Council

Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting:	Monday, September 14, 2020	Time:	6:30 p.m.
Minutes Prepared By:	Kim Flaherty	Location:	Virtual Meeting via Zoom/ELC
Present:	President Jessica Franck, Vice President Heather Emerson and Secretary Kim Flaherty		
Council Members:	Bill Smith, Cory Peterson, Mary Berg, Kirsten Jaskowski, Mike Lueloff, Adam Zweifelhofer, Martha Peterson, Jen Rombalski		
ELCW President:	Vonnice Olson		
Office Administrator:	Denise Clark		
Pastors:	Bob Schoenknecht & Tom Bryan		

Call to Order: The September 14, 2020, meeting of the Eleva Lutheran Church Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Jessica Franck.

Devotional: Pastor Bob offered a devotional to begin our meeting. Mike Lueloff will do the devotional next month.

New Business: Jessica Franck opened with discussion about an update to our heating and cooling systems. Cory Peterson talked the Council through a quote for 5 new air conditioning units, and a separate quote for a new boiler system. The cost for the air conditioning replacement would cost around \$19,000, while the boiler replacement would cost around \$14,500, to be placed in the education wing. These quotes do not include any electrical work that may also have to be done in these replacements. The Council will also get a few more bids pertaining to this project. The Council further discussed getting a bid for a more modern air exchange and ventilation system. The Council then talked about using some of the Estate Fund to pay for half, while a donor may come up with the other half of these costs. It may be possible to do a matching campaign to fulfill this need, also potentially allowing us to reopen our sanctuary a bit sooner. The Council may have to call a special Congregational meeting in order to discuss the potential use of this fund, which could be conducted via Zoom. Jessica Franck told the Council that Shari Olsen has resigned as chair of the Worship Committee. Bill Smith motioned to accept this resignation, seconded by Martha Peterson. Motion carried. Discussion followed the resignation approval. It was discussed that the parsonage is now empty again. Mary Berg offered six items that need to be addressed in the parsonage. These changes would include: refresh and clear entire property inside and out, repair flooring between kitchen and utility room, update the main bathroom, update the ceiling in the kitchen, fix the door latch/lock on the entrance door, and refinish the flooring in the bedroom and bathroom. These changes would be useful for renting, selling, or using as a parsonage for a new pastor. We may be able to sell some of the items left in the parsonage to put some of that money into repairs, too. Jessica Franck discussed the meetings the Board of Education had to come up with a plan for Sunday School. Since the church has not reopened, Sunday School will also be done at home. Students will have packets to pick up to work on during the year. These packets are family oriented, and full of ideas that families can do with their children. As grade levels have memory work and other things to do, those teachers will keep in touch with their students to ensure they are meeting all of those goals. If things improve, we may pursue a cross generational approach bringing families back in to worship, instead of using the close quarters in the Sunday School classrooms. In terms of first communion, the service could be done virtually or in person using appointment slots, social distancing, and masks. Debbie Wright will work with Pastor Bob to figure out a plan for first communion. Pastor Bob then introduced Confirmation plans. 7th and 8th graders received letters to provide contact information to the Church. Pastor Bob will try to start Confirmation on September 30th via Zoom, provided he gets all of contact information in a timely fashion. Pastor Bob would like to conduct a lesson from 4:00-4:30 pm, and another from 4:45-5:15. The classes will last 30 minutes with a homework assignment after each lesson. Pastor Bob would like to keep the 7th and 8th graders separate as he starts Confirmation. His curriculum will include the stories of the Old Testament as well as two sections of Luther's Small Catechism. All of the previous Ninth Grade Confirmation Class (eleven students) has completed their faith statements and all

but one has conferred with Pastor Bob. They are certified for the Rite of Confirmation. The question is how these students can be confirmed under our current restrictions. Pastor Bob has also assigned the final project to the previous eighth grade group (four students) and they are currently working on their faith statements. When they are finished, Pastor Bob will meet with them for their final conference. Pastor Bob talked about some options to keep confirmation as safe as possible for all families involved.

Old Business:

Adam Zwiefelhofer shared information about the Transition Committee. The Ministry Site Profile is nearly finished, and will be presented to the congregation on September 23, at 6:30 pm. This meeting will be led by Greg Kaufman. Greg will facilitate the process, and if the congregation approves, the Ministry Site Profile will be posted. As we get closer looking for a new pastor, the Council will need to firm up numbers on the compensation package we offer to prospective candidates.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Bob then talked about the roles of the interim pastors as the search for a new pastor evolves and changes. The Pastors have been working with the Transition and Call Committee to prepare the Ministry Site Profile. When this document is finished, approved by the council and submitted, the committee will transition to work as the Call Committee. Pastors Bob and Tom will then transition from interim pastors to bridge pastors. They will continue to perform all pastoral duties but will not be a part of interviewing or selecting your future pastor. It is particularly important that the Call Committee makes the final decision of which candidate to present to the Council and the congregation on its own.

Pastor Tom suggested that we might want to experiment in different ways to keep people connected with the fellowship and one way of doing that for some might be a weekly Zoom Bible Study. The Pastors would love feedback on any other ideas for connection that members may have. The Pastors would also be very interested in any ideas about the way we might bring the birth of Jesus alive during this strange time of the pandemic. The Council plans to meet on September 28th to explore other options pertaining to stewardship and finances. The Council discussed tabling the remaining agenda items until our next special meeting on September 28th, at which point we will finish our scheduled reports.

Next Council Meeting: The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, October 12, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Adam Zwiefelhofer to table to remaining agenda items and close the meeting, seconded by Kim Flaherty. Motion carried to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Dates of Meeting:	Monday, September 28, 2020	Time:	6:30 p.m.
Minutes Prepared By:	Kim Flaherty	Location:	Virtual Meeting via Zoom/ELC

Present:	President Jessica Franck, Vice President Heather Emerson and Secretary Kim Flaherty
Council Members:	Bill Smith, Corey Peterson, Mary Berg, Adam Zwiefelhofer, Jen Rombalski
ELCW President:	Vonnie Olson
Office Administrator:	Denise Clark
Pastors:	Bob Schoenknecht & Tom Bryan

Call to Order: The September 28, 2020, meeting of the Eleva Lutheran Church Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Jessica Franck, as a continuation of the September 14, 2020 meeting.

Old Business: Jessica Franck invited Dick Evenson to give us some updates on condition of the parsonage. Dick discussed the need for some remodeling on the building, including bathroom updates, and replacing some flooring, regardless of how it is used in the future. Dick Evenson, Jim Jaskowski, Nate Zahara and some others are working on coming up with some plans to improve the space, so that the Council knows which options are available for improvements. Adam Zwiefelhofer discussed that these parsonage improvements could be coupled with the church's heating and cooling system, as we move forward. Pastor Bob recommended that an itemized bid be put together, so that the Council can see the breakdown of what the plans and costs are all in play. Jessica Franck also discussed that the money collected from the previous renter be

used for bathroom costs, at least. This unexpected money would most likely help with the costs of the project. Dick will get a more detailed quote on these various projects and bring it back to the Council.

The transition team has been busy all summer long coming up with the Ministry Site Profile. Adam Zwiefelhofer suggested that the Council approve the MSP as written by the Call Committee. This will make the MSP live online, and visible to all Pastors looking for a new call. Heather Nicolet made a motion to approve the MSP including the change to the pastor's defined compensation; the motion was seconded by Bill Smith. Motion carried. Adam then explained the next steps in the process. There will be an orientation to interviewing next Wednesday night, followed shortly by mock interviews set up by Greg Kaufmann. After that, the real interview process begins for the Call Committee.

Secretary's Report: The secretary's minutes from July and August were reviewed. Attendance issues were updated. Mary Berg made a motion to accept the Secretary's report, which was seconded by Adam Zwiefelhofer. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report for the months of July and August were reviewed, and some questions were answered. Denise Clark reported that the budget has been fairly tight, but financials seem to be in somewhat decent shape despite the pandemic. Adam Zwiefelhofer made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Reports, seconded by Mary Berg. Motion carried.

Other Reports: Vonnice Olson reported for the ELCW. While the ladies have not been meeting in person, they remain in contact with each other. Bill Smith reported for the Men's Group that last week's meeting was cancelled, but they hope to monitor COVID-19 levels and look forward to meeting in a few months. Jessica Franck reported that the Board of Education has put out a Sunday School program for students to do at home. Parents should fill out the Google Form with their preferences concerning Sunday School participation from home. Jennifer Rombalski reported that the Youth Group trip remains on the books for next summer, as they plan to wait to see what the situation holds before cancelling. Jessica Franck reported that the Worship Committee will meet within the next few weeks. Jessica also reported that the Local Mission Committee has also been able to support some local families that have been in need recently.

Open Discussion: The Council will continue to wait on a quote from Erv Smith for heating and cooling. Heather will get the quote and email it out to the Council when it becomes available. Mary Berg recommended that someone from the Transition Team make an announcement to the congregation about the progress being made on our search for the new pastor. Heather Nicolet mentioned that several members have inquired about our process for reopening. Jennifer Rombalski said that COVID-19 rates in the area have been going up and done over the last few weeks and will most likely continue to do so, unless something major changes. The Council recognizes the need to continue to plan, and Pastor Bob reminded all of us that it takes a good plan, with a decent group of volunteers to make things happen in the future.

Next Council Meeting: The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, October 12, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Kim Flaherty to close the meeting, seconded by Bill Smith. Motion carried to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Flaherty

Kim Flaherty, Church Council Secretary

FINANCIAL REPORT AUGUST

2020

General account:

- Deposits: \$8,461.67
- Expenses: (-) \$11,670.57

Balances of accounts on 9/30/2020:

- General Fund: \$3,486.02
- Building Fund: \$1,756.68
- Local Missions Fund: \$2,524.34

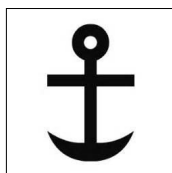
- Seminary Fund: \$98.57
- Memorial Fund: \$2,548.34
- Altar Guild Fund: \$334.46
- Men's Group: \$2,242.39
- Elevator Replacement: \$4,278.81
- Genesis Youth: \$8,891.19
- Music: \$2,028.00
- Missions & Benevolences \$3,351.97

Eleva Lutheran Church
PO BOX 147
Eleva, WI 54738
Address Service Requested

Please call the Church Office if you have
moved or your telephone number has
changed



CROSS ROADS



NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2020

ELEVA LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.elevalc.org

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prtwb@hotmail.com

Pastor Bob Shoenknecht
715-797-3424
rschoenk@luthersem.edu