

# CROSS ROADS NEWSLETTER

## ELEVA LUTHERAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 2020

### A Note from Pastor Bob

Dear Friends in Christ,

Fall has always been one of my favorite seasons. I have always loved the anticipation of a new year of school, the fall holidays that come along with festive decorations, and the color of the autumn leaves. I also rejoice when I see the fields being harvested as farmers gather in the fruits of their labors. For me, fall is punctuated with other celebrations as well. The last Sunday of the month is Reformation Sunday where we celebrate our Lutheran heritage. Under normal circumstances we would be confirming our ninth and tenth graders on that Sunday as well. Unfortunately, this year we will have to find an alternative because it is still not safe for us to gather as a large group in the sanctuary. Still these landmarks allow me to pause and realize that there is so much along my life's journey for which I can rejoice - people, places, opportunities that have shaped and added meaning to my life.

We all can point to seasons of our lives that hold great meaning for us. Perhaps you note a season of the calendar year which seems to carry within it cherished memories triggered by smells and sights and tastes that flood your heart with a rush of nostalgia. Perhaps the season you call to mind is one of study at an educational institution, or one of parenting small children who were still young enough to climb on your lap at the end of a long day. Perhaps the season you call to mind is a season of creativity or travel or of years lived when your Grandparents were nearby. Perhaps the season you recall is one of loss or of a struggle overcome. Certainly, this year of 2020 will be remembered for a long time. Such a reflection can often spark a spiritual insight where we can see clearly that in good times and in difficult times, God is with us: comforting us, challenging us, inspiring us, and caring for us along each stretch of our journey.

Within the life of our faith, we have cause to celebrate together - giving thanks for the assurance that in each and every season of our lives, God is with us still. We celebrate the rich promise of our faith that in life and in death we belong to God and that Jesus meant it when he said, "And remember I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20b).

As we settle into the fall, and welcome all that this season in our life brings, may we find moments to truly celebrate the journey - the journey of our own lives, and the journey which we share with others. Let us try this month to pause in prayer at the end of the day and give thanks for that which has held special meaning; to cherish time with loved ones; to maintain a Sabbath-keeping practice of rest and restoration to sustain us through dark, chilly winter days; to try something new, remembering that there are, no matter what stage of our life's journey we are on, opportunities for new beginnings and fresh starts.

And then let us bring our stories and questions, our hopes and our inspiration to this dynamic community of faith so that we can bear witness to the good news all around us in the life of faith that we share together. So I invite you to come celebrate the journey and praise the Lord!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bob Schoenknecht





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-

Just a note to let you know that we are still alive and active tho' we aren't meeting. We cancelled the meetings which we had tentatively hoped to have for fear of putting anyone at risk of catching the virus. We haven't had much income this whole year but are meeting our financials so far.

Our prayer chains are getting shorter so if you fell that you could spare a few minutes now and then to help in prayer PLEASE contact me. We have innumerable answers to prayers over the many years that we have been privileged to serve in this capacity. There is power in prayer!

May you and yours be well and happy!

Your servant in him -

*~ Vonnie ~*

Eleva ELCW President  
715-287-4223



~Memorials and other Special Gifts~

In loving memory of my Husband **Ray Johnson** to the debt fund from Betty Johnson.

In memory of **Richard Palmer** to Eleva Lutheran from Jim and Judy Foss.

In memory of **Joyce Hageness, Dick Palmer** and **Marvel Rasmussen** to the Elevator Fund from Vern & Liz Franson.

To the Elevator Fund in loving memory of my husband **Gerald Johnson** who passed away 1 year ago September 18, 2019, from June Johnson.

In loving memory of my mom, **Gloria Eisold** to the general fund from Karen & Gary Barneson.

To the elevator replacement fund in memory of **Vern Rissler** from Don Miland.

In memory of **Vic Wenaas** from family and friends to the Building/Improvement Fund.



<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.

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.



Thank you all for your continued support. Offering can be mailed to PO Box 147, dropped off at church, you can give online or let me know if you are interested in setting up automatic withdrawals. To give online go to our web page [elevalc.org](http://elevalc.org), on the top banner you will see *Giving*. Click there to go to our online giving portal through Kindrid. You can set up giving using your bank account or a credit/debit card, it will give you the option to set up a one time donation or better yet make it a recurring one. Please let me know if you have any questions.

-Denise



*ELEVA LUTHERAN CHURCH WELCOMES*

*Brayden Owen Hodges* as he was baptized on Sunday September, 27th with the water of the Holy Spirit. Owen was baptized at Eleva Lutheran Church by Pastor Bob Shoenknecht, his parents are Clifford “Adam” and Andrea Hodges. Brayden’s sponsors are Lisa Field and Amy Colvert. May God bless this new member and his family.



## Communion on Sunday October 4th

On Sunday October 4, 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 of 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.

Sunday October 4<sup>th</sup> is also World Communion Sunday. World Communion Sunday offers congregations a distinctive opportunity to experience Holy Communion in the context of the global community of faith. The first Sunday of October has become a time when Christians in every culture break bread and pour the cup to remember and affirm Christ as the Head of the Church. On that day, they remember that they are part of the whole body of believers. Whether shared in a grand cathedral, a mud hut, outside on a hilltop, in a meetinghouse, or in a storefront, Christians celebrate the communion liturgy in as many ways as there are congregations. World Communion Sunday can be both a profound worship experience and a time for learning more about our wider community of faith.



## Quick Facts about Who Participated in the CAT (Church Assessment Tool)

- **151** responded which is 151% of average worship attendance – this means your data is solid and reliable.
- **Age demographic:** 12% 16-34; 17% 35-44; 18% 45-54; 13% 55-64; 39% 65+
- **Households:** 36% have four+ people; 8% are 3-person; 42% are two person; 14% are single person households.
- **Tenure:** 70% have been members 20+years; 13% under 11 yrs.
- **Worship trend:** 15% indicate worshipping more than 3 years ago; 35% indicate less than 3 years ago.
- **Gender:** 31% male; 69% female
- **Education attainment:** 26% high school diploma; 32% some college; 28% college graduate; 3% some post graduate work; 11% graduate degree.

## Financial Information

The CAT asked one person from each household to reveal information regarding annual income and contribution to the church.

- Average annual household income: \$75,633
- Average annual contribution to ELC: \$497 (1st percentile in database of 2000 churches)
- Average percent of income given: .66% (The average across ELCA congregations is 2.3%)

# Eleva Lutheran Church Sunday School Registration: 2020-2021



Greetings Eleva Lutheran Church families! Due to the uncertainty of the current pandemic situation, we are planning to offer an at-home option for Sunday school until we are able to safely gather together in our Sunday school classrooms. We encourage families to take advantage of this opportunity and pick up packets each month to complete at home with their children to continue our journey learning about our faith in Christ.

Please complete the following registration form, <https://forms.gle/sqg6gKS8Hy4fpQT06> ,

for your children in grades 4K through 6th grade. We plan to distribute the first monthly packet on October 4, and will share instructions for picking up the materials before that date using the contact information you provide in this form. There are no fees if you participate in Sunday school this year.

If you have any questions regarding Sunday school, please contact Kelly Tollefson-Oium by email at [ktollefsonoium@ccf.us](mailto:ktollefsonoium@ccf.us) or by phone at 715-797-0487.

If you are not part of our Eleva Lutheran Sunday School Facebook page yet you can request to become a member as we will also be posting things to that page throughout the Sunday school year.



Don't forget to check out our Facebook site, there is something new everyday.

## Transition Team Update:

The Ministry Site Profile was approved by church council on September 28. The Ministry Site Profile form (MSP) provides congregations and church-related organizations a single, common form to use to describe their mission and their search for a rostered minister.

The MSP is filled out by leaders within the congregation or organization, under the guidance of the synod bishop or Call Process Administrator. Once completed and submitted, the MSP will be stored within the ELCA's Mobility Database System.

The Eleva Lutheran MSP has been submitted and is ready to be reviewed by potential candidates for a call as pastor. To request a copy of the Ministry Site Profile please call the church office at 287-4231 or email [elevalc@trivest.net](mailto:elevalc@trivest.net). The transition team will now begin the interviewing phase of the call process.

## Eleva Lutheran Church Council

### Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting:	Monday, August 10, 2020	Time:	6:30 p.m.
Minutes Prepared By:	Kim Flaherty	Location:	Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Present:	President Jessica Franck and Secretary Kim Flaherty
Council Members:	Bill Smith, Corey Peterson, Mary Berg, Tony Tollefson, Jennifer Rombalski, Kirsten Jaskowski, Mike Lueloff
ELCW President:	Vonnie Olson
Office Administrator:	Denise Clark
Pastors:	Bob Schoenknecht & Tom Bryan

**Call to Order:** The August 10, 2020, meeting of the Eleva Lutheran Church Council was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by President Jessica Franck.

### **New Business:**

#### CAT update

A 2-hour CAT survey update was given by our consultant, Kurt Jacobson.

The Council discussed our Pastoral Compensation package, as we move forward in the call process. The

Council discussed that we want to keep these provisions from the 2013 proposal:

solo pastor to serve our congregation

Master's degree

over 3 years of experience

Parsonage offered

4 weeks of vacation

Social Security tax off-set  
sabbatical policy  
background check  
continuing education covered

Mike Lueloff made a motion to approve these provisions, seconded by Bill Smith. Motion carried.

**Old Business:** Jessica Franck reported that Eleva Lutheran’s Amazon Smile account is up and running – so anytime you shop on Amazon, part of your order goes towards raising funds for Eleva Lutheran! Jessica Franck also brought up our work towards an outdoor service in the future. At this point, there will be no outdoor service, due to spiking numbers of COVID-19 in our area. The Council will revisit this idea again at our September meeting.

Pastor Tom discussed the idea of a live stream communion as an option to connect members of the congregation. Doing this in a live stream format may be a bit more engaging. This could also be accessible through our phone system for call-in worship. The Council supports this, as many people have been missing the connection of communion. We discussed the option of either ordering communion kits or making our own for those interested. In the future, we may also consider a worship sign-up sheet for 3-5 people at a time to come to the recordings of the worship. In this way, members would be also to worship in the space. However, we will hold off on this plan until numbers decrease.

Pastor Bob discussed some options for Confirmation in October. One option would entail family groups in the church. Each student could sign up for a time, with immediate family only, wearing masks. If this option is pursued there will be cleaning and sanitizing in between families. We could also set up an outdoor service, if need be. Jessica will consult with the Worship Committee to get their thoughts. Jessica Franck reported that there are no updates on Sunday School, but they will continue to discuss options. Corey Peterson mentioned getting some estimates on an updated heating and cooling system for the church.

**Reports:** All monthly reports will be tabled until next month for discussion and review.

**Next Council Meeting:** The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, September 14, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Jessica Franck to close the meeting, seconded by Kim Flaherty. Motion carried to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. We closed with a Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kim Flaherty*

Kim Flaherty, Church Council Secretary

**The next Church Council Meeting is on Monday, October 12th at 6:30 pm**

## **FINANCIAL REPORT AUGUST 2020**

### General account:

- Deposits: \$8,570.30
- Expenses: (-) \$11,609.21

### Balances of accounts on 5/30/2020:

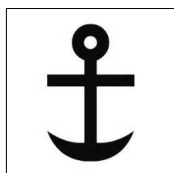
- General Fund: \$9,640.42
- Building Fund: \$1,359.18
- Local Missions Fund: \$3,055.24
- Seminary Fund: \$98.57
- Memorial Fund: \$2,548.34
- Altar Guild Fund: \$334.46
- Men’s Group: \$2,242.39
- Elevator Replacement Fund: \$3,718.81
- Genesis Youth: \$8,891.19
- Music: \$2,028.00
- Missions & Benevolences \$2,946.97

**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

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OCTOBER 2020

**ELEVA LUTHERAN CHURCH**

[www.elevalc.org](http://www.elevalc.org)

Office: 715-287-4231      Email: [elevalc@triwest.net](mailto:elevalc@triwest.net)  
Dial-up Worship Sundays at 9, 10, and 11 715-287-4137

Interim Pastors:

Pastor Tom Bryan  
715-829-2624  
[prtwb@hotmail.com](mailto:prtwb@hotmail.com)

Pastor Bob Shoenknecht  
715-797-3424  
[rschoenk@luthersem.edu](mailto:rschoenk@luthersem.edu)