

CROSS ROADS NEWSLETTER

ELEVA LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2021

PASTOR BOB'S NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

We've all just been handed something incredibly special: a "brand, spanking-new" New Year. And for most of us 2021 couldn't come soon enough. While we are still dealing with much of the frustration, sadness, and restrictions brought on by the Covid pandemic, we have seen just a glimmer of light on the horizon that lifts our spirits.

Newness is something that is immensely popular in our American culture. Who doesn't enjoy that "new car" smell, or that fresh-out-of-the box aroma of a new pair of leather shoes, or the feel of that nice Christmas sweater you just opened? Even now, New Year's resolutions have that new car smell to them. Our resolve is high to make this year different than other years. But if the truth be told, the average time between the moment we make our resolutions and their demise is a short three weeks. By that time all the newness has been aired out of them and they become mere chores. It's one of the reasons I don't make resolutions.

Instead, I'd like to offer up a different focus for our New Year's optimism. Let's focus instead on gathering provisions for the journey. We're also a culture that, when faced by the unknown, like to stock up on what we need. We are now in the winter season when often we hear of a winter storm bearing down on us from the north. When that happens, you can go anywhere and you'll see people "stocking up" for the possibility that they'll be sheltering in place against a blizzard. This year we have come to know quite a bit about 'sheltering in place' but I've often been fascinated why a snowstorm requires bread, milk, and eggs, any more than any other day in the year. But apparently it calms our anxious spirits to make sure we have these staples in the refrigerator.

So, focusing on the year ahead, my question for you is this: what are the most important "provisions" that you will need for the journey? When you think about the most challenging times in your life, what are the most important things that have tided you over? Personally, I can think of some precious things that have gotten me through difficult times. Most of these things take up little or no physical space, which makes sense because Jesus always encouraged his disciples to travel light. In Mark 6:8-9, Jesus charged them *"to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics."*

His point was to clear the disciple's vision of material things so that they could focus on the most precious provisions of all: other people, and the presence of God in those people. Of the most precious things on my journey, I count the kind presence of friends during difficult times. I recall in my mind the sound of their voices. I also gather up within my soul those moments when I have been transported by beauty far beyond the ordinary: a hopeful verse of scripture; a word of comfort from a spiritual friend; the loving presence of my family. And those transcendent moments when I hear the voice of God through music or song.

These are my provisions for the times the wind blows or a pandemic rages. So, at the beginning of this new journey of 2021, as you put away your milk, eggs, and bread, I ask you to contemplate this: who and what are the real provisions of your life? Think of them, and tuck them away in that special part of your heart that you reserve for precious things. I wish you all a happy new year and a safe, productive, and hopeful journey into the future.

Blessings,



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 to everyone who made our "different" Christmas so meaningful! It will be so nice though, when we can worship together again in the church.

My request for Prayer Chain volunteers resulted in two more members~ Thank You so much! We can use more so please call me if you wish to help/

We were happy to get all of our Christmas gifts and financial obligations taken care of and may have a little left over for something else. We'll work on it.

I would like to repeat my Christmas greeting for the New Year. "May the Christ Blessings of Family, Friends, Faith, Hope, Love,

"AND NOW THESE
THREE REMAIN:
FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE.
BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE
IS LOVE."

♥ 1 Corinthians 13:13



~MEMORIALS AND OTHER SPECIAL GIFTS~

In memory of **Rev. Clifford Pedersen** to the Parsonage Improvement fund from Connie Pedersen.

In memory of my mom- **Gloria Eisold** to the Parsonage Improvement fund from Karen and Gary Barneson.

In loving memory of **Alvin & Doris Semingson; Brandon Semingson; Vic & JoAnne Wenaas; Sandra & Daniel Van Pelt;** and **Ernie Dahl** from Sid and Lois Semingson.

In memory of **Roger Wampole; Ralph Sandberg; Lonnie Ludwigson** and **Ken Swartz** (our nephew) from Bill and Chris Smith.

In memory of our dads, **Gordon** and **Joe** who both died at Christmas time, from Gary & Diane Hillestad.

In memory of **Clare Hayden** to the general fund from Vivian Hayden.

In memory of my dad **LaVern Engen**, who would have been 90 on December 29th, from Rick Engen.

In memory of my sister in law **Jean Quale** to the Elevator Fund from Jane and Carroll Enos.

In memory of **Mike Schafer** to the Elevator Fund from Jane and Carroll Enos.

Update from: Eleva Lutheran Transition Team



From Left to Right: Chris Smith, Linda Barneson, Jessica Franck (Church Council President), Adam Zwiefelhofer, Amanda Iverson, Jon Zander, Lanny Ludwigson

Recently, the ELCA synod contacted Eleva Lutheran about an opportunity to interview an interested pastoral candidate. The transition team will be moving forward and interviewing in January. At this time we are unable to share any details as this process is confidential. The team will communicate further updates with the entire congregation as more information comes in. As you know this process is extensive and pastoral candidate information is very sensitive until the call committee makes a recommendation to the council and congregation. The call committee will be very detailed and thorough during the entire call process. One bonus is the ability to watch potential pastoral candidates preach and lead worship virtually prior to meeting them in person. We're very excited to keep moving forward in the call of the next pastor at Eleva Lutheran and will work carefully and diligently with the entire congregation in mind.



Thank you to those who have designated Eleva Lutheran as your charitable organization through AmazonSmile. If you do any shopping on Amazon, please consider switching to AmazonSmile. It 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.

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.



January Parsonage Progress



Perhaps you have seen an orange dumpster outside the parsonage which means progress is definitely being made at the parsonage! Still working on items that need to be finished prior to the painting and cleaning so please be patient and then additional volun-

teers will be called when everything is ready for that part of the

project. All CoVid 19 guidelines are being exercised for everyone doing work.

Andy and Jim Pedersen (sons of Pastor Pete and Connie) came to help with some projects one day. Andy & Jim called the parsonage home in the late 1960s and 1970s. The stories and memories they shared are priceless of their days growing up in the parsonage. And so heartwarming Andy & Jim got to share their memories with the next generations of Pedersens that came along to help as well.

The church council is humble and thankful for all your generous donations and all the volunteers that have stepped in to help. The donations and volunteers are greatly appreciated and folks seem to be having fun!

Bills are beginning to appear and hoping to be able to stay within the budget projections. As with all remodeling projects one thing leads to the other. An important item that has been

added is the need for insulation in the crawl space and joist pockets beneath the living room. The Council approved the bid of \$850.00 to do this additional item at this time. A couple other additional items are being reviewed. Depending on the cost these items may be put on hold for now. Donations are still being accepted and perhaps having extra funds would be a good plan.

If you happen to be driving by one day





THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone that helped with the Christmas services.

Thanks to the many talented singers and musicians, readers, Pastor Tom, Pastor Bob, Annette Forthun, Natalie Evenson and Mary Berg and anyone else that helped decorate the church.

A special **thank you** to Cory Peterson for the MANY hours spent putting all of the services together.

There were a lot of questions about what Christmas services would look like, or if we would have them at all.

So, **thank you** again to all of the people that helped to provide such wonderful Christmas services.



Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday February 7th. . .

As with so many things in the last year the meeting will be different than ever before. Details for the meeting will be ironed out at the January council meeting.

Eleva Lutheran Church Council

Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting:	Monday, November 9, 2020	Time:	6:30 p.m.
Minutes Prepared By:	Kim Flaherty	Location:	Virtual Meeting via Zoom

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

Call to Order: The November 9, 2020, special meeting of the Eleva Lutheran Church Council was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by President Jessica Franck.

Devotional: Kirsten Jaskowski offered a devotional for this month. Tony Tollefson will do the devotionals next month.

New Business: There was no new business to discuss this month.

Old Business: Corey Peterson reported that the parts for the heating and cooling replacement have been ordered. Jessica Franck also reported that \$6000 has been generously donated for parsonage repairs up to this point. Dick Evenson also found a reasonable two sink vanity for the project. Adam Zwiefelhofer reported that there has been some progress within the Call Committee. Their mock interview process went very well. At this point, one candidate has respectfully declined to be interviewed. However, there may be another prospective candidate coming soon.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Bob reported that this year's Confirmation classes have been going very well. There has been good attendance and participation throughout the groups. The students are currently working their way through God's promises in the Old Testament. Pastor Bob requested that it would be very helpful for the Church to purchase a Zoom license/account to make the Confirmation process more effective. Access to a Zoom account costs \$150/year. Adam Zwiefelhofer made a motion to purchase a Zoom account for the church to be used by anyone that would be doing church business. The motion was seconded by Mary Berg. The motion carried. Pastor Tom reported that he has connected via phone with families that have lost someone this year. He reported that these calls have been helpful, and members have really enjoyed connecting and talking about their loved ones.

Secretary's Report: The secretary's minutes from October were reviewed. Corey Peterson made a motion to accept the Secretary's report, which was seconded by Bill Smith. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: The Council reviewed the treasurer's report for October, and some minor questions were answered. Bill Smith made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Reports, seconded by Kim Flaherty. Motion carried.

Other Reports: Bill Smith reported that the Men’s Group has not been able to meet but reported that Dave Rotvold’s surgery went well. Jessica Franck reported that the Board of Education distributed the second Sunday School packet pick-up for students to do at home. Other things have also been posted on Facebook for families to access. The teachers are currently brainstorming some ideas for and Advent project for the Sunday School kids. Adam Zwiefelhofer thanked Corey Peterson for his Google Form sign-up for those that plan to sign or offer to share their musical gifts with us. Members of the congregation also shared some ideas for the upcoming worship services. Adam also mentioned that the Barnesons would be happy to provide music for a good portion of the Christmas Eve candlelight service. Pastor Bob asked if there were some families interested in reading the Advent litanies and lighting the candles throughout the Advent season. Pastors Bob and Tom will continue to plan this out. The Altar Guild proposed putting ornaments on the Christmas tree for every Sunday School child. During the four Sundays of Advent, the names of the children will be read during the service. The children will receive the ornaments during or after the holiday season. Mary Berg requested that that message be included on Facebook around November 29. There will also be a Thanksgiving Eve service the Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving – the Pastors are excited to share this service with the congregation.

The ELCW, Trust Fund, Local Missions, and Youth Groups had no reports.

Open Discussion: Mary Berg asked if the parsonage repairs should go ahead, if funds were not fully raised. Jessica Franck voiced that she felt that the funds would be collected, and if they are not fully collected, the Council will use the line of credit to make up that difference. Pastor Tom mentioned that as previously discussed, we should have a committee that makes sure that the parsonage is continually maintained. It was suggested that Mary Berg consider some individuals that would be helpful in forming a committee to work on the property, parsonage, and facilities of the Church. Mary will bring us some names next month for those that are a good fit for this committee. Mary Berg made a recommendation to convene a committee to further investigate a possible ventilation system in the church. Pastor Tom reported that Mike Wenaas said that he would be willing to lend his expertise in this area, along with Jesse Jaskowski and Larry Peterson. The Council will check with Mike Lueloff and Tony Tollefson to see if they might be interested in joining this committee as well. Mary Berg also would like to discuss the state of our signs along Highways 10 and 93 during next month’s Council meeting.

Next Council Meeting: The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, December 14, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. A motion was made by Bill Smith to close the meeting, seconded by Corey Peterson. Motion carried to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

We closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

The next Church Council Meeting is on Monday, January 11th at 6:30 pm

FINANCIAL REPORT

General account:

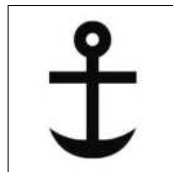
• Deposits:	\$9,590.57	• Seminary Fund:	\$98.57
• Expenses:	(-) \$11,274.75	• Memorial Fund:	\$2,548.34
• <u>Balances of accounts on 11/30/2020:</u>		• Altar Guild Fund:	\$334.46
• General Fund:	\$1,074.31	• Men’s Group:	\$2,558.89
• Building Fund:	\$1,891.68	• Elevator Replacement:	\$4,308.81
• Local Missions Fund:	\$2,493.44	• Genesis Youth:	\$8,891.19
		• Music:	\$2,028.00
		• Missions & Benevolences:	\$4,151.97
		• Parsonage Fund:	\$9,623.95

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

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