



The psalmist writes ... “when I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?”

Our time on this earth is such a brief moment when compared to the ages. But sometimes our brief moment coincides with another fleeting moment. That once in a lifetime chance happened a few days ago. A new comet, new to us that is, christened NEOWISE and seen for the first time, neared the earth... coming as close as it ever would, yet still 64 million miles away, until returning again in 6,800 years. We, the current inhabitants of earth, would be the only witnesses in 6,800 years ... 6,800 years just to travel home to the outer solar system and return! Imagine!

The rarest of opportunities to be exactly at the right place at precisely the right time. What do we do when presented with a rare opportunity? Do we seize the moment, or do we let it slip through our fingers and be faced with regrets someday? That night the moment was seized and a view to heaven appeared.

God’s unbelievable creation ... Isaiah writes, “lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might, and because he is strong in power, not one is missing.” So too, he knows our names ... each one of us. In the dark of the night, sitting on a dock, looking to the northwest sky, one came to experience the words ... “the heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims his handiwork.”

One’s eyes adjust to the darkness. Will the comet be located to even view? That cosmic snowball of dust, rocks and ice; only 3 miles in diameter; nearing the sun’s heat and spewing gases and rocks to form a glowing head larger than a planet with a tail of dust stretching for millions of miles into space; seen for the first time ever by NASA scientists only four months ago, but likely formed 4.6 billion years ago in our solar system.

Where is it? Look for the Big Dipper, that huge, so familiar constellation that locates the tiny North Star for us. But tonight the Big Dipper would find the comet for us! How many times during the darkness of our lives have we looked heavenward and found our guide, our Heavenly Father, to point to us the way?

And there it was! Visible to the naked eye ... an amazing part of God’s creation! The night was perfect to see a sky filled with stars of all sizes, planets from our solar system shining against a hazy backdrop of billions of stars. Realizing, while sitting in the silence and stillness of the night, that the light emitted from those stars and the comet had already traveled millions and millions of miles to finally be seen at this very second.

Sitting in what feels like a sphere of blinking lights, glimpsing celestial majesty and looking into eternity, one experiences awe and wonderment ... knowing how they came to be, yet accepting in faith what we cannot truly comprehend. Pause to marvel, to be thankful that we can look up into the darkness and find such a powerful God, who is there to satisfy our every need, to protect us from the dangers of this earthly world, to bring joy and peace into our lives, to comfort us in our grief, to listen to our prayers, to provide us the reassurance that regardless of our sins, His love for us remains greater than the depths of the universe. We experience profound humility ... we are a mere speck in the scheme of things. We discover a God who loved and cared for us so deeply that He sent us his Son to point the way to salvation and eternal life. We find a God who in the beginning created the heavens and the earth.

The universe with billions of galaxies, each with billions of stars ... lift up your eyes and see.



“Come, grow with us...”

Dear readers,

The purpose of this publication is to provide our church community with news, information, spiritual support and humor. We have returned to monthly publishing of the Evangel .

Co-editors, Donna M. & Jo L.

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We are trying,

As we prepare to reopen, we find ourself going one step forward, and 2 steps back. We have been advised by the ELCA legal team to be sure our liability insurance covers any Covid related issues. We are working on that. Also, pulpit supply has become an issue. Most churches have a dedicated full time Pastor, and unfortunately, we do not. Many of our pulpit supply options have chosen to not return to that task at this time....again, Covid issues.

Our timing may not be what God has planned for us.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart
 and lean not on your own understanding.

Proverbs. 3:5

There is comfort in knowing that God will lead us, and we must not become so focused on our own plans that we ignore God’s direction and timing.

Yes, we will be back to “together” worship, we are just not sure when; please note there are many of us working to that goal.

Be safe and healthy and patiently wait for God to lead us.
 Roxanne

“Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life.”

Psalm 143:8

Our Thanks

We would like to thank Roxanne, Jo and Donna for keeping our church going and helping us find a new pastor. We truly appreciate all the hours you have put in. You are a blessing to us all. God bless you.

Diane P.

Blooming Lovely

The Pentecost Sunday geraniums around our sign on Acacia Road were showing their blooms last week. We are thankful for the recent rains, and for Carole and Ray Denny who planted the donated geranium plants and who have also been making sure that they are watered. Thanks also to Carroll Eckman for preparing the planting bed.



Farewell Gathering for the Denny's

Ray and Carole will be leaving Babbitt in the next week or two. Their contributions to our church family are too numerous to list but I need to mention those that I know about. Ray served two terms on the church council from 2010 –2015. His work as a part of the property committee continues today. Ray volunteers as an usher, a scripture reader and greeter, and has participated in several of the Lenten Wednesday plays. Carole has been a co-vice president of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for the past 8 years serving on the Funeral Committee. She volunteers to plant and maintain the geraniums in the planter on Acacia Road, and has helped to serve root beer floats during Peter Mitchell Days and National Night Out. She assists with ushering and is a greeter. We will miss them not only for their dedication to our church, but for their generous giving of their time and talents, their friendship and their Christ-like love for all.

Please join in saying farewell to the Denny's

1:00pm Sunday, August 9, 2020

in the park by the church

bring a chair, wear your mask

social distancing will be encouraged

Refreshments will be served.

Prayer List

If you have updates for anyone on this list please call the church office at 218-827-2659

- Michelle Putzel
- Rob Swartz
- Lorraine Huset
- Rick & Pr. Dorothy Sand
- Mary Ann & family
- Lydia, Drew and family
- LuAnn Carlson
- Jay Sweet
- Tony Zieska
- Marlene Akkanen
- David Lindgren
- Ben Marks
- Bryan McDonald
- Jim Herberg

If we do not have a contact name or if no indication was made for how long to pray for someone, our practice is to remove names after 3 weeks on the Prayer List.



Due to the church office closure August 15-September 7, the September 2020 Evangel will be printed and mailed on August 14th.



Ruby's Pantry

Ruby's Pantry will hold a Pop-Up Pantry at the Babbitt Municipal Center on **Saturday, August 22nd** (fourth Saturday). Registration begins at 9:30am, distribution from 10-11:30am. Bring two-three bins to hold your items. You do not need to get out of your car but please wear your mask! Enter at 71 South Drive and follow the instructions given by the volunteers. Volunteers are always welcome! Please come at 9am.



Church Lawn Care

Volunteers are needed for weekly lawn care at the church for August, September and October. Volunteers sign up for a week at a time. If you can help call the office at 827-2659. Please leave a message if calling after hours.

Church Office Schedule

The church office will be closed for office hours beginning August 15 thru September 7. During this time please mail your offering. We have arranged for someone to come by and pick up the mail and messages a couple of days a week. If you need access to the building please contact Roxanne Sader 827-2414.

Online Worship Resources

Elim Lutheran—<https://www.elimlc.com/covid-19-resources> Pastor Jim Hagan preaching
 Gloria Dei—<http://gloriadeiduluth.org/worship/livestreamingworship.html>
 Zion Lutheran Superior, WI—https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCs74h1pTJ_Rh2IqPj311ig/
 Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd—lcsduluth.org
 Grace Lutheran, Libertyville, IL—<https://gracelutheranlibertyville.org/online-worship->

VLM Work Day

Although the scheduled work day was cancelled there is still much work that needs to be done. If you or your small group (less than 10 people) can help out with a project or two just contact the VLM office for a list of available projects and to schedule a date that works for you.

www.VLMcamps.org vlm@VLMcamps.org
 800-331-5148 • 218-666-5465



Are you interested in going to the 2021 ELCA Youth Gathering? At this time the leaders are still planning to have this event. The dates are **June 29—July 3, 2021** and the location is Minneapolis. The gathering is open to students who will be in grades 8-12 for the 2020/2021 school year. The cost of the Gathering is \$350/person plus housing, transportation and food. Scholarships and fund-raising will help with costs but in order to plan anything we need to know who wants to go! **If you are interested please contact the church office and be sure to leave a message if you call after hours!**

Word in Season

The Word in Season devotional booklet for July, August & September is available! If you would like to have a copy mailed to you please contact the church office (218-827-2659). Leave a message with your name and address if calling after hours. Or stop by the church office during regular office hours and pick up a copy. Supply is limited so get your copy today!



Q: What kind of shoes do Ninjas wear?
 A: Sneakers.

Thank You for Giving Generously



2020 Budget & Current Exp. Offering* (thru Jul 28th)

2020 Adopted Annual Budget	\$ 97,970
2020 Monthly Budget	\$ 8,164
2020 Budget thru July	\$ 57,148
Current Expense Offering YTD	\$ 41,431
Mission Support Offering YTD	\$ 1,595

Sunday Worship Guide

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires are known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit. That we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Gracious God,

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of +Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day (pg 8)

First Reading (pg 8)

Psalm (pg 8)

Second Reading (pg 8)

Gospel

Alleluia. Many will come from east and west and will eat in the kingdom of heaven. **Alleluia.** (Matt. 8:11)

Gospel Reading (pg 8)

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

The Apostles' Creed (pg 9)

Prayers of Intercession

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Merciful God, your reign is revealed to us in common things: a mustard shrub, a woman baking bread, a fishing net. Help your church witness to the surprising yet common ways you encounter us in daily life.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

When your word is opened, it gives light and understanding. Increase our understanding and awe of your creation; guide the work of scientists and researchers. Treasuring the earth, may we live as grateful and healing caretakers of our home. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As the birds of the air nest in branches of trees, gather the nations of the world into the welcoming shade of your merciful reign. Direct leaders of nations to build trust with each other and walk in the way of peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Your Spirit helps us in our weakness and intercedes for the saints according to your will. Help us when we do not know how to pray. Give comfort to the dying, refuge to the weary, justice to those who are oppressed, and healing to the sick. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You show steadfast love and direct us to ask of you what we need. Help this congregation ask boldly for what is most needed. Refresh us with new dreams of being your people in this place and time. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In you our lives are never lost. Strengthen us by the inspiring witness of your people in all times and places. Embolden our witness now and one day gather us with all your saints in light. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (pg 9)

Blessing

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, ✚ Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen.**

Sunday, August 2, 2020

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer of the Day: Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-5

Psalm: Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

Second Reading: Romans 9:1-5

Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

Sunday, August 9, 2020

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer of the Day: O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:9-18

Psalm: Psalm 85:8-13

Second Reading: Romans 10:5-15

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

Sunday, August 16, 2020;

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer of the Day: God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Psalm: Psalm 67

Second Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

Sunday, August 23, 2020

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer of the Day: O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

Psalm: Psalm 138

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-8

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

Sunday, August 30, 2020

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer of the Day: O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21

Psalm: Psalm 26:1-8

Second Reading: Romans 12:9-21

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
 born of the Virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
Special Meeting on July 14, 2020

President Roxanne Sader called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

Present: Roxanne Sader, Mary Muellerleile, Allan Eckman, Jo Langan

Absent: Nancy Mettler, Shanna Sundblad,

Due to the lack of a quorum for the July 1 meeting there were no secretary's and treasure's reports.

The following items were discussed.

- A. The use of the fellowship hall on August 1 was requested by the family of a member to celebrate the member's birthday. After reviewing the safety plans provided by the family in regard to the Covid pandemic, the council agreed to permit the use of the fellowship hall and bathrooms.
- B. The council agreed to allow TOPS to begin meeting at BELC again. They will be restricted to the entry area only.
- C. The current results of the survey sent to members to collect information concerning the number returning for worship services after reopening was shared. At the time there were 27 yes votes and 11 no votes.
- D. The council decided to have a farewell for Ray and Carole Denny with the time and site to be determined after contacting them.
- E. A tentative reopening date was discussed. Motion by Mary Muellerleile, second by Allan Eckman to set Sunday, August 9, as a target date for reopening. Motion carried. Communion will be served on that Sunday.

To allow a council meeting to be held prior to the target date, **the next council meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 5, at 6:30 pm.**

Motion to adjourn by Jo Langan, second by Mary Muellerleile. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Jo Langan

Prayer Chain Update

The Prayer Chain is an important ministry offering special prayers for our church family and extended community members during times of illness, deaths, hardships and more. At some point we have all needed those extra special prayers. Those prayers have been and will continue to be the link between the need and our Heavenly Father who has promised to listen and hear our prayers to Him.

Participating in this ministry is fairly simple and as we update the process we will be bringing some current technology to make sure that all receive the request for prayer. We will begin using this method around September 15th. To be a part of the Prayer Chain you need to have either an email address or a cell phone capable of receiving text messages. Donna McKibbon at the church office will be the contact point for people needing prayer and will send a group text and a group email to the Prayer Chain participants.

If you are already a member (and wish to remain a member) or would like to be a member of the Prayer Chain Ministry please fill out the information below and return it to the church office (mail it, drop it off at the church office, or call Donna with your information 218-827-2659).

Thank you for your continued, caring prayer support.

I am/want to be a member of the prayer chain!

Name _____

Please contact me: at Email _____

text to phone number _____



Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Church Office Hrs (unless noted otherwise in the calendar): Tue, Wed & Fri 10:00 am—1:30 pm

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost No Worship Service Scheduled	3	4 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM Church Office Hours	5 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM Church Office Hours 6:30 PM Council Meeting	6	7 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM Church Office Hours	8
9 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost No Worship Service Scheduled	10	11 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM Church Office Hours	12 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM Church Office Hours	13	14 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM Church Office Hours	15
16 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost No Worship Service Scheduled	17	18 No Church Office Hours	19 No Church Office Hours	20	21 No Church Office Hours	22 Ruby's Pop Up Pantry at Babbitt Municipal Center 9:00 AM Volunteers 9:30 AM Registration 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM Distribution
23 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost No Worship Service Scheduled	24	25 No Church Office Hours	26 No Church Office Hours	27	28 No Church Office Hours	29
30 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost No Worship Service Scheduled	31					

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