

THE MESSENGER



From the Pastor's desk...

Dear members of Fisher and Bygland parish,

Over the past several years I have carried over four weeks of continuing education time. At their joint meeting in June, the Bygland and Fisher councils approved my taking these four weeks during the month of August. I will be spending most of that time at our lake cabin on Lake Miltona in Douglas County.

So far, I am registered for the Festival of Homiletics, Boundaries Training, and a class on Hybrid Church, all online. I am also registered for an in-person class at Mt. Carmel Ministries, Alexandria, MN, entitled "Light for Daily Living from Luther." This totals three and a half weeks of classes. I will spend the remainder of the time reading and studying. I will also take time to worship at different congregations. I do not get to sit in the pew very often and I am really looking forward to it! I am also really looking forward to this continuing education time for renewal.



Yours in Christ,
Pastor Karen Young Trenne



FISHER NEWS

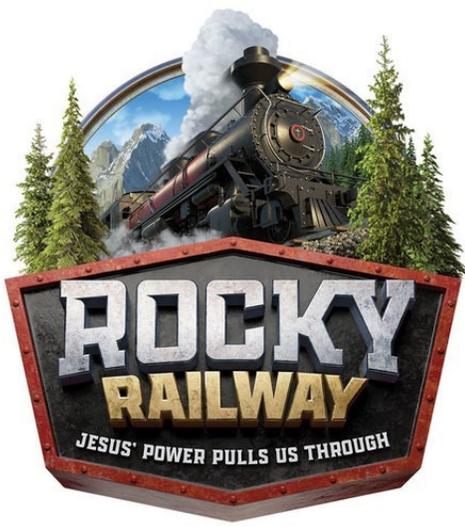
- August 9th & 10th: 9:00 AM Quilting
- August 18th: 9:00 AM Bible Study
- August 23rd & 24th: 9:00 AM Quilting



BYGLAND NEWS

**August 11th:
5:30 PM Bygland Picnic**





Fisher Lutheran's Rocky Railway Vacation Bible School Was Just the Ticket!

Children Kindergarten - Grade 6 climbed aboard the Rocky Railway for mountains of fun July 26-29. On this faith-filled adventure, the children discovered that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs! TRUST JESUS!!



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF KITS

LWR School Kits

Education is one of the strongest tools a community has for breaking the cycle of poverty. Ensuring that girls attend school, especially in places where their access is deprioritized, has even stronger results. School Kits contain essential supplies to help children – and in some cases, adults – continue learning in the face of serious obstacles. That learning leads to a better life for them, their families and their communities.



Please consider donating as many of the following items as you would like:

- FOUR 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 ½"; no loose leaf paper
- ONE 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- ONE pencil sharpener
- ONE pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- FIVE unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- FIVE black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- ONE box of 16 or 24 crayons
- ONE 2 ½" eraser

LWR Personal Care Kits

Cleanliness may not actually be next to godliness, but it certainly helps a person feel more human. When families find their homes destroyed, or must flee for their safety, soap and a towel rarely make the cut for what they can carry. Arriving in a refugee camp or other place of safety, they are scared, vulnerable and dirty from the travel. The simple items included in a Personal Care Kit provide much-needed self-care, critical germ fighting, and the chance to regain dignity amidst situations of fear and uncertainty.

Please consider donating any of the following:



- ONE light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- TWO or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
- ONE adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging*
- ONE sturdy comb, remove packaging
- ONE metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

**Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an*

individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap

Fisher Lutheran Church Council 5/19/2021

Members Present: Pastor Karen, Travis S., Bernie I., Adam M., Tami N., Bruce N., Caroline T., Tami B.

Members Absent: Carmen K.

Devotions: Led by Pastor Karen.

Meeting was called to order at 7:49 pm by Travis S. Agenda was reviewed, Motion to approve agenda as presented by Bruce N., second by Bernie I.

Secretary's Report: Motion to approve secretary's report as presented by Tami N., second by Tami B.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report was tabled until June 16th's meeting.

Financial Secretary's Report. Motion to approve Financial Secretary's report as presented by Caroline T., second by Adam M.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Karen read through her report.

Committee Report:

Education committee: Met May 16th 2021 Talked about future activities for the children

Music & worship: Tami N. met with Bygland and talked about their video setup for streaming church services.

Property Committee: Conversation about having some rooms repainted in the church, Bill Carview gave a quote to have room painted. Motion to approve having 3 rooms painted and paid through the General Fund by Caroline T. second by Bruce N.

Social Concerns:

Open Doors Grant: Grant application had been started but 501c3 paperwork could not be located.

Old Business:

Folding tables: 6 folding tables and 12 benches have been purchased

PPP Loan: Federal Government has fun out of fund to disburse money.

Bold Transformation Faith: has been tabled and to be discussed at the meeting.

Constitution : Waiting for Constitution to return and approve finalization and have a congregational meeting.

New Business:

Background checks: Anyone who would be teaching Sunday school, having contact with children, would need to have one done. A policy will have to be set in place in time for joint council meeting.

Mask Mandate/future church services: Will follow state guidelines/ those who have had the vaccination will not need to wear a mask. Those who are unvaccinated are encouraged to wear a mask.

Outdoor Warship at Schwarz Ranch, July 21st 2021: Church service will be held at the Schwarz Ranch. 6pm church service followed by hotdogs and horses. Motion to approve this event by Bruce N., second by Tami N.

Fill in Presidents roll next meeting : Treasurer will fill the Presidents seat at June 16th 2021 meeting.

Joint Council Meeting: Is set for June 23rd at 7:30 pm at Fisher Lutheran.

Next meeting is set for June 16th 2021 at 7:30pm

Motion to adjourn meeting by Adam M. at 9:00 pm followed by the Lords Prayer.

A Pastoral Letter from Bishop Bill Tesch on Drought and Renewal



O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. - Psalm 63:1-2

Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said

to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." - John 4:13-15

July 20, 2021

Beloved in Christ,

This prayer from Psalm 63 and Jesus' conversation with the woman at the well resonate with our situation of drought and spiritual thirst. When your synod staff meets with leaders we often invite people to share a "weather report," inquiring, "How is the weather outside?" and also, "How is it with your heart and soul?" These days the external report is usually "dry," "in need of rain," and the internal reports are often a reflection of the external ones: "weary," "in need of rest or renewal." I write to invite your fervent prayers and your helpful attention to these two realities that we are facing together.

Drought: We are now experiencing what is turning into one of the most severe droughts in our region's history. The lack of appropriate moisture is hard on our land and on all of us, but it weighs especially heavily upon our farmers and those who draw their living from agriculture. I am asking you to join me in daily prayer for rain and for our farmers' well-being, and also that these same concerns be included in the prayers of the church every Sunday until we have relief. Pay attention to how people are doing, and do not hesitate to ask for or offer help. Remind each other that you do not have to wait for a crisis to reach out for support, counseling or tangible assistance. Provide a local resource directory in your Sunday bulletin and other publications. Refer to it often, so that the practice of seeking help is normalized. Consider giving to the local agencies that provide mental health services or direct aid. If you have or are starting a ministry at your church that provides direct services to people in need, you may write to me to request a small grant from the funds we have raised that are designated for rural ministries.

Renewal: Leaders are tired, and many are in need of respite and renewal. As we emerge from this pandemic, things can't go back to the way they always were. This is not only because the pandemic has changed some things forever (and that's not all bad!), but also because people are worn out. These last 18 months have been hard on everyone, but I believe you can appreciate that they were especially hard on people who have a role in public leadership, including pastors, deacons, SAMs and other church staff. Church councils may consider offering rostered ministers and other staff an extra day off on occasion or some additional vacation days in the coming weeks and months. Express appreciation and gratitude. Check in with your rostered minister and other staff, and let them know that you care and are praying for them. Ask how you can be helpful. The simple acknowledgement that the road has been rough and that you care could be the cool cup of water that is needed just now.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to these shared burdens that we are carrying together (Galatians 6:2). May we all find refreshment in the good news that Jesus Christ is our living water, and that He understands our needs better than we ourselves. Even now, Jesus is at work within and among us to restore us and ultimately bring us to life everlasting. Thank you for your faithfulness to Jesus in your daily life and work, and for your partnership in the Gospel.

In Christ our Life,

Pastor Bill Tesch,
Bishop of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA

2021 Synod Assembly Recap

Some of the work that we did together

We passed six resolutions

[Affirming the Strategic Direction for the NW MN Synod](#) [302 yea 6 nay]

[Add Two At-Large Positions to Synod Council](#) [283 yea 22 nay]

[Resolution to Adopt the 2022 Compensation Guidelines](#) [284 yea 11 nay]

[Revise Boundary Training for Rostered Leaders and SAMs](#) [286 yea 8 nay]

[Training to Become an Anti-Racist](#) [223 yea 81 nay]

[Adopt Non-Required Provisions](#) [282 yea 13 nay]

We passed the 2021-2022 and the proposed 2022-2023 budgets (fiscal year for the Synod ends on January 31st) each are just over \$1,600,000. To see the budget, [click here](#).

We re-elected our Synod Council Secretary, Deacon Julie Wilson to a 2nd term and elected Pastor Christopher Eldredge to be our new Synod Treasurer, we give thanks for Catherine Dickey for her service as Treasurer. We also elected/re-elected 18 rostered and lay leaders to Synod Council, including the addition of the two At-Large position for underrepresented populations from Resolution Two.

We elected 17 rostered and lay leaders to attend the 2022 Churchwide Assembly, and 14 alternates. They will be voting members from our Synod, August 8-12, 2022, in Columbus, Ohio. They will:

Hear reports and review the work of churchwide officers, leaders and units;

Receive and consider proposals from synod assemblies;

Elect officers, board members and other leaders as specified by the constitution or bylaws;

Establish ELCA churchwide policy;

Worship together;

Adopt a budget; and

Conduct other business related to the ELCA churchwide organization.

We learned together:

Our Keynote Speaker was Rev. Dr. Willie Jennings (Associate Professor of Systematic Theology and Africana Studies at Yale University Divinity School). Dr. Jennings shared a Keynote address, [found here](#); and a Bible Study on the first two chapters in the book of Acts that included a Question and Answer time, [found here](#).

[We heard a verbal report](#) from Bishop Bill Tesch, which is different from [his written report](#).

And Rev. Dr. Rubén F Durán, Senior Advisor for New Ministry Development in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, gave the report from Churchwide, [you can find it here](#) starting at 12:40.

We also have six Growth Group/Workshop opportunities for you and your congregation, [you can find them here](#).

We worshipped together:

We began our time together with a moving Pentecost worship featuring people from across our Synod, [you can find the worship here](#).

And we worshipped by giving of our gifts, the monetary offering was part of the Easter Appeal to our siblings in Christ in India; being split between the work of our Companion Synod, the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church in India and the Lutheran World Relief's work in India. Through generous donations, nearly \$40,000 was raised. To learn more about the offering, [go to minute 47 of this video](#).