

# THE MESSENGER

*From the Pastor's desk...*



## **Members and Disciples!**

We have been talking about church membership lately here at the Fisher Bygland Parish office. We have purchased a new computer software program to help us keep track of membership, finances, and records. You will be getting a letter asking you to update your membership information. Please fill in all of the information as best as you are able. We are hoping to update our records and remove from our rolls those who are now members of other churches and practicing their discipleship elsewhere. We have no intention of taking anyone off the church membership rolls unless they indicate to us that that is their intention.

It has become popular lately to emphasize the importance of discipleship over church membership. Some might say that the mission of the church is to make disciples, not gain members. After all, Matthew 28:19 says, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." This emphasis is in response to overall membership numbers dropping in every Christian denomination.

Just to be clear, Jesus does call us to a life of discipleship. Jesus said to Simon and Andrew, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." Simon and Andrew dropped their nets to follow the Lord. We too are called to this same life of discipleship. We are called to share the good news of Jesus Christ with all nations.

We are also called to be members of the body of Christ. In 1Corinthians 12, St. Paul states that, "just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many are one body, so it is with Christ." I believe that we cannot be effective disciples of Christ without our membership in his body, the church.

As members of the body of Christ here in the Fisher-Bygland Parish, we are called to be disciples of Christ, serving each other and the world for Jesus' sake. Our churches have changed over the years. We reflect the changes in our communities and culture. Families are smaller, people are more mobile. Our mission is to change, to bring the good news of Jesus into today's world. Jesus has not changed. Jesus continues to love us and call us to life in him. As his disciples, let us rejoice that we are called members of his body, the church!

~Pastor Karen



# Parish News



## What does Chaplaincy Ministry provide for the residents & tenants?

Valley Memorial Homes provides for the physical, emotional and spiritual care of its residents and tenants. Spiritual care is provided through partnerships with your congregation as well as having two chaplains dedicated to serving residents, tenants, families and staff. They are Chaplain Gwenn Bazajou and Chaplain Suzi Grote. Worship services are offered throughout the week as well as on Sunday. Bible studies, one-on-one visits and spiritual assessments are all an important part of spiritual care at Valley Memorial Homes. Thank you for all your prayers and financial support to our Chaplaincy Ministry Program.

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**Palm Sunday** (March 20): 9:00 AM Holy Communion Worship at Fisher, 11:00 AM Holy Communion Worship at Bygland. The Sunday Schools will have a "parade of palms" to begin the worship services.

**Maundy Thursday** (March 24): 7:00 PM Holy Communion Worship at Fisher with first communion

**Good Friday** (March 25): 7:00 PM Worship at Bygland

**Easter Sunday:** (March 27): 7:00 AM Sunrise Holy Communion Worship at Bygland, followed by a pancake breakfast served by the Sunday School and youth group families at 8:00 AM. 10:00 AM Holy Communion Worship at Fisher.



## 1st COMMUNION CLASSES SET



All fifth grade Sunday School students and their parents are invited to Holy Communion instruction on two Sundays in March: March 6 from 1:30 to 3:30 PM at Bygland, and March 20 from 1:30 to 3:30 PM at Fisher.

Please plan to attend BOTH sessions. We will use Fed & Forgiven, a curriculum produced by Augsburg Fortress. All who complete the sessions will receive communion at our parish worship on Maundy Thursday at 7:00 PM at Fisher Lutheran Church.

## MEMBERSHIP RECORDS

The parish recently purchased a software program where our membership and accounting records will be gradually entered and managed. Up until now, our records have been kept primarily by hand in large ledgers that are getting difficult to read and keep organized. The program is called ICON CMO and is based out of Moorhead, MN. They work exclusively with churches and are especially close with the ELCA. Once our records for both Fisher and Bygland Lutheran Churches are updated and entered (a work in progress), we will have the ability to organize records and distribute information like never before.



The data entry starts with our member households, which includes individual members and their personal information such as date of birth and contact information (phone, address, email, etc). How will this information get to the parish office? We are looking at a couple options, including a link on our website that allows you to send the information directly to the office, by replying to an email, and a personal letter or phone call.

Stay tuned for more information on how you can update your records!

# Fisher Lutheran News

## Fisher Lutheran Church Council Minutes

February 3, 2016

**Members present:** Pastor Karen Young Trenne, Lance Reitmeier, Caroline Tinkham, Sheryl Tinkham, Ken Miller, Kelly Bakken, Darryl Quern, Ross Korynta, Chad Knutson, Troy Newhouse

**Members not present:** Brian Morken and Gail Kasowski

**Call to order:** Meeting was called to order by President Lance Reitmeier.

**Devotions:** Devotions were led by Pastor Karen Young Trenne.

**Secretary's Report:** The Secretary's Report for the January meeting was presented by Troy. Ken made a motion to approve the council minutes. The motion was seconded by Kelly. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's Report for the month of January was presented by Caroline Tinkham. Motion was made by Darryl Q to approve the Treasurer's Report, the motion was seconded by Troy. Motion passed.

### Pastor's Report:

- ♦ Activities Pastor Karen has been involved in include the Good Samaritan Center, Red River Juvenile Center, Adult classes on Islam, and the annual meeting.
- ♦ Upcoming events include the Conference Assembly on Feb 28, 2016 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Crookston from 2-5:00 PM. Also Lenten worships begin February 10th.
- ♦ Pastor Karen has vacation scheduled February 19-21 and February 24-27.

### Old Business

- ♦ Kaitlyn Kasowski will be receiving a gift card for her efforts in designing the parish website.
- ♦ The parsonage committee found updates that needed to be completed to the parsonage before a new tenant arrives. Ross made a motion to accept the bids provided by Morken Construction and Plante Plumbing to complete the various home improvements. Darryl seconded the motion, motion passed.
- ♦ All furnace repairs have been completed.
- ♦ 41 out of 88 keys have been sponsored for the baby grand piano fundraiser.
- ♦ Jon Ross will be provided a special envelope for Faith by Hearing at an upcoming church service.



### New Business

- ♦ Present council members were appointed to 2016 committees and boards.
- ♦ A request was received to use the church on March 26 for Tenniel Winter's baby shower from 1-3:00 PM. A motion was made by Kelly to accept the request. Motion was seconded by Troy, motion passed.

Pastor Karen led us in praying the Lord's Prayer and the meeting was adjourned. The next Fisher Council meeting is March 2, 2016, following the Lenten worship service.

Respectfully submitted by Troy Newhouse, Secretary



## Bygland Lutheran Church

*We are God's work in progress, with hearts lifted to God in trust and praise and with hands extended to serve in Jesus' name.*

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### Unofficial/Unapproved Council Meeting Minutes ~ February 10, 2016 8:00pm

**Members present:** Pastor Karen, Roger Moe, Eric Egeland, Ronnie Thorson Alan Halvorson, Troy Pecka, Karen Ebertowski, Haley Thorson, Sheila Wurden and Marsha Ketring, and Pam Robertson.

**Members absent:** Randy Moe

**Call to Order**—The council meeting was called to order by Council President Roger Moe at 8:15pm.

**Devotions**—Pastor Karen distributed devotions and opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Secretary's Report**- Haley presented the January minutes. *A motion to approve the secretary's report as amended was made by Troy and seconded by Ronnie. All were in favor, motion carried.*

**Treasurer's Report**—A January balance sheet was distributed in Randy's absence. It was mentioned that the furnaces have been switched over to propane, but this balance sheet does not yet reflect a reduction on the electric bill. *A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Pam and seconded by Troy. All were in favor, motion carried.*

**Pastor's Report**—Baptisms/weddings – none

Funerals – John Lawdermilt, Earnest Egeland

New members – none

Other activities: Good Samaritan Center, Red River Valley Juvenile Center, Adult Classes on Islam

Coming Up: Conference Assembly, February 28, Trinity Lutheran, Crookston, 2:00-5:00 pm.,

Lenten Worship - Feb 10(Ash Wednesday), Feb 24, and March 9 at Bygland; Feb 17, March 2, and March 16 at Fisher; March 24 (Maundy Thursday) at Fisher; March 25 (Good Friday) at Bygland, Easter 7:00am Bygland, 10:00 am Fisher

Vacation Scheduled for February 19-21(carried over from 2015) including Sunday, Feb 20; and February 24-27 (no Sunday)

### Old Business

#### Memorials

It was decided that Randy and Marsha will keep a detailed register of memorials rather than creating a separate account. These dollars will be able to be accessed for future use of memorial related items in lieu of being placed into the general fund for "operating costs," etc, unless designated for that purpose.

#### Parsonage Vacancy/Repair

Roger received bids from Brian Morken for @ \$11,000 for windows as well as a bid from a plumber for some work in the bathroom for @ \$4,000. A painter will be available for an estimate later in the week. *A motion to approve the bids for the windows and plumbing was made by Alan and seconded by Pam. All were in favor, motion carried. \*\*Pastor Karen noted that Fisher Council moved to approve these bids as well and that the funds would come from the Parsonage Fund.*

### New Business

#### Annual Meeting Postponement

The Annual Meeting was postponed from last Sunday, Feb, 7<sup>th</sup> to next Sunday, Feb 14<sup>th</sup> following a brief 9am Worship service at BLC. The mid-week memo included the announcement and the Roger will call the workgroup leaders to assist with calling to notify the congregation of the rescheduled time.

#### Conference Meeting

Pastor Karen shared last month that our conference structure would be changing. Pastor Karen has been nominated for a leadership position as Dean of the Crookston Conference

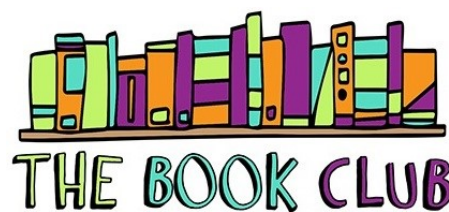
**Next Meeting Date: March 9<sup>th</sup>, 8pm**

**Adjourn**—*A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Pam and seconded by Haley. All were in favor, the motion carried.*  
The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

## PARISH TIDBITS

### BYGLAND BOOK CLUB

Members of the book club will meet at the church on March 28 to discuss selections they have read over the winter. Please bring titles you can suggest for our season reading list. The meeting will happen at the church at 7:00 PM. New members are always welcome!



### OUR PARISH FAMILY

Hugs and prayers go out to the families of Ernest Egeland and John Lawdermilt, who passed away recently. John's memorial service was held on January 7, 2016 at the Dahl Funeral Home in East Grand Forks. The funeral service for Ernest was held on January 10, 2016 at Bygland Lutheran Church.



We also welcome into our parish family newly baptized members at Fisher Lutheran: Camdyn Marie Krostue (daughter of Josh & Nicole Krostue), who was baptized on January 10, and Maddyn Ruth Korynta (daughter of Ross & Kelli Koryta) who will be baptized on February 28.



**March 4**—World Day of Prayer

**March 7 & 8**—Quilting at 9:00 AM

**March 16**—Bible Study at 9:00 AM. Session 3:  
Being of One Mind (Philippians 2:19-43).

**March 21 & 22**—Quilting at 9:00 AM

The 2016 WELCA Handbook is now on our website!

### OPEN HOUSE BABY SHOWER



There will be an open house baby shower for Tenniel (Kasowski) Winger on Saturday, March 26, 2016, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM at the Fisher Lutheran Church.

All are welcome!

### FISHER LUTHERAN PIANO FUNDRAISER UPDATE

We currently have 45/88 keys sponsored and are anticipating we will reach our goal of 88 keys sponsored yet before Easter! Is your name on a key or keys? Make your donation out to Fisher Lutheran Church and put "piano" on the memo line. Each key is \$70 and we will be able to hear the sweet sounds in our sanctuary!





## YOUTH NEWS

### ***And the Word became flesh and lived among us – John 1:14a***

Don't miss the **2016 Synod's Senior High Youth Gathering** is set for April 22-24 at Young Life's Castaway Club in Detroit Lakes, for students in 9th-12th grade (Friday evening – Sunday noon)!

The keynote presenter is **Jonathan Swenson**. Jonathan, who grew up in Two Harbors, MN, is a graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College (BA – Psychology, Theatre and Music, 1988) and Luther Seminary (Masters of Divinity, 1994). After serving congregations as an ordained Lutheran pastor in Iowa and Minnesota for over 15 years, he launched Paraphrase Theatre. Through the theatre, he has been sharing his unique blend of drama, storytelling and teaching at churches, retreats, and conferences throughout the country. Jonathan is also the Director of Programming for Mount Carmel Family Camp and Retreat Center on the shores of Lake Carlos in Alexandria, MN.



Taylor Wilson, or Tay, will be leading worship ; he is a musician & speaker from Minneapolis. Tay's solo albums Stay the Course and Brand New People, are available in selected stores, iTunes, Amazon, and live shows! Throughout his career he's shared the stage with groups like Switchfoot, FFH, Big Daddy Weave, and Rachel Kurtz to name a few.

Cost: The non-refundable registration is \$150/person (youth and adult). Included is a t-shirt, great music, powerful messages, terrific nightlife, moving educational experiences, housing, and meals. All of that while diving into God's Word and leaving how it connects to our own stories. Early registration opens February 20 and closes April 1. Registrations received after April 1 will be \$200/person.

Contact the youth group leaders for more information.



### **PATHWAYS OUTDOOR MINISTRIES**



Pathways Bible Camps summer enrollment is now open! Early bird registration is through March 18, offering a discount in the registration fee. There are camps for all school-age children, ranging from the following: Half Pint Day (K-2) to High School Camp. There are also several options for adventure camps including "Wet & Wilderness", a houseboat trip, and a 2-week "Called and Sent" program for those entering grade 12—graduated senior.

**PATHWAYS ANNUAL MEETING**—Monday, March 5 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Crookston at 2:00 PM.

#### **Fisher Bygland Lutheran Parish**

Pastor Karen Young Trenne

209 2nd St. S. P.O. Box 127 Fisher, MN 56723

Parish Office: 218-891-4632 Pastor Karen's Cell: 701-610-3543

Messenger Editor: Bonnie Knutson [office@fisherbygland.com](mailto:office@fisherbygland.com)