

THE MESSENGER



From the Pastor's desk...



499 Years and Counting!

October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted his *95 Theses* or *Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgence* on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. That was 499 years ago this month. Luther was eight when Christopher Columbus set sail from Europe and landed in the Western Hemisphere. He was a young monk and priest when Michelangelo was painting the Sistine Chapel in Rome. A few years later, he was a junior faculty member at a new university in small-town Germany, intently studying the Scriptures, when he grew to love St. Paul's understanding of grace in the book of Romans. He began to understand that God is not out to punish Christians for their sins, but that God's love is a free gift to us, even in our sinful condition. He later wrote, "Faith is God's work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God. This faith is a living, busy, active, mighty thing. It is impossible for it not to be doing good works incessantly. Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that believers would stake their lives on it a thousand times."

Since that time the Christian church in Europe and the West has grown and evolved into many expressions and denominations. As we celebrate the Reformation this year I wanted to share with you the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in creating relationships with other denominations. Full communion is when two denominations develop a relationship based on a common confessing of the Christian faith and a mutual recognition of Baptism and sharing of the Lord's Supper. The denominations do not merge and they recognize their differences, but they do not let the differences get in the way of sharing ministry. We have full communion relationships with the Presbyterian Church USA, the Reformed Church in America, the United Church of Christ, the Episcopal Church, the Moravian Church, and the United Methodist Church. You can read more about these relationships and agreements at www.elca.org.



In the most recent efforts for church relations between denominations, the ELCA at Assembly in August of this year passed the "*Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist*". The *Declaration* draws together 32 consensus statements, where Catholics and Lutherans already have said there are not church-dividing differences between them. By demonstrating how far Lutherans and Catholics have come together on these three crucial topics, the *Declaration* indicates much ground that need not be retraced again, and it offers these Agreements to the churches to be received into their common life. In this way it helps inspire continuing work toward the visible Christian unity, which is Christ's prayer. I know I am excited about sharing ministry and communion with Roman Catholic friends and family. After almost 500 years, I think Martin Luther would be pleased.

~Pastor Karen

PARISH NEWS

Valley Memorial Homes Employee Craft & Bake Sales

The 2016 craft & bakes sales are scheduled for October at the following times:

- ◆ **October 14** from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Valley Eldercare Center—2900 14th Ave S, Grand Forks
- ◆ **October 28** from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM at 4000 Valley Square—4000 24th Ave S, Grand Forks



Bridal Shower

There will be an open-house bridal shower for Katie Krostue (fiancée of Cody Johnson) at Bygland Lutheran Church on Saturday, October 22, 2016, from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Their wedding is planned for this December at Bygland and the couple is registered at Target and Bed, Bath & Beyond. Everyone is welcome.

Harvest Dinner

Trinity Lutheran Church in Fisher is hosting its annual Harvest Dinner on Sunday, October 30, from 11:30 to 1:00. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids ages 11 and under, and free for kids ages 3 and under. Menu: pork loin, mashed potatoes and gravy, dressing, squash, green beans, rolls, dessert, and beverage. Everyone is welcome.



NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Items for the November calendar and Messenger will be due on **October 19, 2016**

October is "Clergy Appreciation" month

Each year, October is set aside as "Clergy Appreciation" month, a time when we take the opportunity to thank our pastor and show them how much they mean to us.



Pastor Karen is the captain of our ship, leading, teaching, encouraging, supporting, and loving us. Wouldn't it be nice if we returned that love? A hug, pat on the back, card, or simple "Thank you" would not only show her you care, but make you feel good inside, too. Hugs go both ways!

Sunday, October 9, 2016 is Clergy Appreciation Sunday. Perhaps we can all lift her up in prayers that day and give thanks.



Fisher Lutheran Church Council Minutes—September 7, 2016

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

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 July meeting was presented by Troy Newhouse. A motion was made to accept the secretary's report. Motion was seconded, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report for the months of July and August were presented by Kelly Bakken. A motion was made to accept the treasury reports. The motion was seconded, motion passed.

Pastor's Report

- ◆ Pastor Karen provided ministry for one wedding and one funeral in August.
- ◆ In August, Pastor Karen was involved with the following places and activities: Good Samaritan Center, Red River Juvenile Center, Dean's Conference call, Joint Council Meeting, and the Conference meeting at Trinity Point.
- ◆ Upcoming activities include: God's Work. Our Hands, Sept. 11; Walk by Faith Sept 13; Bible Study Sept. 18; Theology for Ministry Conference at Fair Hills Sept 18-20; new members meeting Sept 22.
- ◆ Pastor Karen will be taking vacation Sept 9-11 and October 13-16.

Old Business

- ◆ The Technology committee met with HB Sound and Light to gather ideas about potential technology installations in the future.
- ◆ The worship and music committee is still searching for an organist.
- ◆ A call was made recently to Keith's security to fix the lock on the main doors to the church.
- ◆ A motion was made to accept Danielle Gratton as the new Faith community nurse at Fisher Lutheran Church. Motion was seconded, motion passed.
- ◆ After discussions with bankers at Bremer Bank, the council has decided to remain banking at Bremer.

New Business

- ◆ Ministry Partners for Me is looking for contributions. Approval for donations will need to be discussed at the next budget meeting.
- ◆ Trees in the Fisher Lutheran Church yard need to be trimmed and one tree needs to be removed. Ken has volunteered to take care of this.
- ◆ Polk County DAC has asked for permission to use the church to host their meeting in the upcoming week. A motion was made to allow the Polk County DAC to host a meeting at Fisher Lutheran Church. Motion seconded, motion passed.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded and passed. Pastor Karen led us in praying the Lord's Prayer following the meeting. The next council meeting will be October 5 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Troy Newhouse, Secretary



BYGLAND LUTHERAN NEWS

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.

Unofficial/Unapproved Council Meeting Minutes ~ September 14, 2016 7:30pm

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

Members absent: Ronnie Thorson, Troy Pecka and Randy Moe

Call to Order - The council meeting was called to order by Council President Roger Moe at 7:30pm.

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

Treasurer's Report - Randy prepared a report for June, July August and part of September and Roger presented it to the group. Transfers from savings were noted in June and August as well as a pre-payment for propane in August. *A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Pam and seconded by Haley. All were in favor, motion carried.*

Pastor's Report - Pastor Karen provided her statistical report for August. There were no baptisms, new members or funerals. The wedding of Kacie Waller and Troy Tretter was held at the Waller's on July 23. She reported upcoming events as well as a recap of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly. She took continuing education in July and vacation in August. She will be attending the Theology for Ministry Conference at Fair Hills September 18-20 and reported a pulpit exchange request from Pastor Sonya Brucklacher from Our Savior's on September 25. She is also looking to reschedule new member meetings due to a conflict. Date TBD.

Old Business

Church Maintenance - Eric has not heard back from North Holt Electric. He spoke with Josh Korynta who was able to come and look at the lights. An estimate of @ \$1600 was provided to replace each of the two lights to 5yr LED lights. This includes the cost to rent a boom truck. Roger shared that Ronnie had also done some checking. The group decided to wait until this information could be obtained before making a decision. A temporary window covering was placed in the lower level storage area until permanent coverings can be ordered. Reports of the ladies restroom not functioning properly continue to be reported but can't be replicated upon inspection. Please continue to share feedback on this until it is resolved.

Organist - Pastor Karen shared the parish will continue to look for individuals who may be interested in playing for hire. There was a possibility of an interested parishioner's relative, but this individual will be playing for her home congregation. A discussion ensued about the cost to each congregation.

New Business

Portico - Pastor Karen shared that Portico has notified the parish to expect a 5% increase, the lowest increase in 4 years.

Sunshine Hospitality House - This is a project supported by several GF agencies. The house would be a place for patients and their families, affected by critical illnesses, diseases and injuries, who must travel to fulfil their healthcare needs. It will seek to provide low or no cost housing options to patient families, their caregivers or in cases of extended therapy or treatment, maybe even the patient themselves. The project coordinators are seeking donations from local faith-based organizations to assist in funding a "faith room" in the home. BLC discussed adding this project to our perpetual mission gifts.



Bygland Community Picnic - Those who attended shared that there were several families there and felt the event was a success. There were lots of outdoor games for children and fun was had by all.

Adopt-A-Highway/Gods Work. Our Hands - Roger shared that the highway event and work around the church went very well.

Next Meeting Date: October 12, 2016 at 7:30pm

Adjourn - *A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Pam and seconded Karen . All were in favor, the motion carried.*

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Haley Thorson, BLC Secretary

BYGLAND TIDBITS



QUILTING

Quilting will be October 5 & 12, beginning at 9:00 AM

BOOK CLUB NEWS

The Book Club will meet on October 24 at 7:00 PM to discuss *ANGEL FALLS* by (Kristin Hannah). New members are always welcome!

SUNDAY SCHOOL SNIPPETS

- ◆ October 16 will be "Presentation of Bibles" at Bygland for the following third graders: Reighan Wavra, Avynn Thorson, and Sophie Pecka. Preschooler: Hayes Thorson.
- ◆ October 23—No Sunday School due to MEA.

FAMILY FELLOWSHIP POTLUCK

There will be a potluck on October 16, 2016, following the 11:00 AM worship service at Bygland. Bring a dish to share!



POTLUCK DINNER

SHOEBOXES - Be thinking about what you'd like to put in your shoeboxes this year. The holidays will come fast!

FISHER TIDBITS



THANK-OFFERINGS

Thank-offerings are collected to give thanks for blessings in the ordinary and extraordinary moments of life. These offerings go to the church-wide women's organization to help Women of the ELCA provide resources, programming and ministries to thousands of women and congregations, every day. Your offerings provide for:

- ◆ leadership training
- ◆ *Gather* magazine and Bible Study
- ◆ support for new units
- ◆ spiritual gifts and discipleship programming
- ◆ program resources on women's health, spiritual practices, church history, human trafficking and more
- ◆ racial justice network and trainings
- ◆ advocacy for women and children
- ◆ outreach through social media
- ◆ *Café* e-zine and podcast
- ◆ partnering with other Christian women's organizations

Thank-offering envelopes may be left in the offering plate any Sunday through October.

October 3 & 4 —Quilting at 9:00 AM

October 15—Crookston Conference 3 Fall Gathering "Praise & Thanksgiving" at Trinity Lutheran Church of Beltrami. Registration/coffee 8:30 –9:00 AM. Fee \$10 (includes lunch).

October 19 —Bible Study at 9:00 AM (Session 2: Prodigal Son)

October —Lutheran World Relief Pick-up



Welcome to the Fisher Lutheran Church Faith Community Nurse (FCN) Corner!

Events

* Do you have unused medications at your home? Unused medications kept in your home can pose a danger, especially if young children visit. Safe Kids and the Grand Fork's Sheriff's Department are hosting a medication drop off at the Grand Forks Senior Center on Thursday, October 27, 2016. The event will be from 11 am to noon. You can bring any unused over the counter or prescription medications for disposal. The Grand Forks Sheriff's Department also has a drop box in the lobby of their building (122 South 5th Street, Grand Forks) that medications can be dropped off at any time in case you miss the event!

- ◆ Altru is sponsoring a Tummy to Tot Expo on Sunday, October 16, 2016 from 12-3 p.m. at the Alerus Center. It's a great event to see the latest products, find safety information, services and shop for fashions. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$8 at the door. To purchase tickets and reserve your free event bag, visit www.safekidsgf.com.

Fire Safety

- ◆ October not only means fall and harvest but it's also a time to check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Fisher Lutheran will have coloring books for kids on how to plan a fire escape route and a calendar for your home to remind you to check your detectors monthly. This is a great time to make sure your home has a working fire extinguisher and that everyone knows where it is located.

Halloween Safety

* With Halloween coming, Safe Kids will have reflective trick or treating bags at Fisher Lutheran as well as a brochure on Halloween safety.

Some tips for parents

- Make sure your little one can see out of their mask or consider using makeup so their view is not obstructed.
- Make sure your child can be seen by drivers. Make sure there is reflective tape on the costume
- Teach kids to cross safely at corners only
- Teach kids to put down the electronic devices and focus on their surroundings.

Tips for Drivers

- Slow down your speed
- Be alert for children
- Reduce distractions – Put down your phone



Fisher Bygland Lutheran Parish

Pastor Karen Young Trenne

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