Newsletter for the Fisher Bygland Lutheran Parish Lutheran Parish

June, 2018

THE MESSENGER

From the Pastor's desk...

2018 – A Year of Worship

The Meal – Part One: Offering

The Offering is at the center of worship. This is a new idea for many people. We have often thought of the offering as a worldly necessity for paying the church's bills. It is so much more than that.

All of worship is an offering of our time and devotion to God, who has given us everything we have. Offering is a way to worship, to show God that we acknowledge him as the giver of all that is necessary for life. We trust God to provide for us even as we give away what he has provided.

The offering is placed on the altar at the beginning of the meal. This follows the Gathering and Word portions of the worship as a response to the Good News. The oldest forms of worship in the Old Testament are the building of altars in order to sacrifice an animal as an offering to God. Noah did this after the ark was returned to dry land. The forefathers of the faith, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, all made altars for sacrificial offerings. These ancient forms of worship were essential to the faith. The center piece of our worship space is the altar. We are no longer called to sacrifice an animal to God because Jesus has sacrificed himself, on our behalf. At the time of the meal, we place the offering, the bread and wine on the altar. The bread and wine are part of the offering, because Jesus is making this offering of himself on our behalf.

At the time of the offering, I will say that we continue our worship with the giving of our tithes and offerings. Tithing is the giving of ten percent of our income to the mission and ministry of the church. This started when Abraham offered one-tenth of what he had as an offering to God. (Genesis 14:20) Tithing is a lifestyle choice that puts our priorities into their God given place. We think we cannot afford it. However, for people who live above the poverty line, affording anything is a choice. Choosing to tithe is choosing not to spend that ten percent on ourselves. Tithing helps us break the bonds of sinful selfishness. When we choose to tithe, we have a different relationship with the "things" we want. Ask anyone who tithes, they will tell you it is a blessing to not spend that money on things we would like to have. To faithfully follow Jesus with our whole life, even our money, is a discipline that leads to abundant life.

After the offering is received we sing a song of praise and thanksgiving, often a song chosen to reflect the scripture readings for the day. The table is set for Holy Communion, with the bread and wine placed at the center of the altar. We pray a prayer of thanksgiving and dedication of the items presented for the offering. Having given of our selves, creating an empty place in our lives, we are now ready to be filled by receiving the gift of Holy Communion.

Next month we will look at the Great Thanksgiving. Until then I will see you in worship.

~Pastor Karen

PARISH NEWS

Faith Community Nurse Corner Newsletter May 2018

New to Fisher Lutheran will be a designated room for Mom's to use for breastfeeding. While we encourage breastfeeding anytime and anywhere, the library off the Fellowship Hall will be a private space for those mom's wishing more privacy. There will be signage, so others will know when the room is in use.

We are also in the process of having a similar space designated at Bygland in the coming weeks, so stay tuned for more information! If you have any questions, just ask!

What does Chaplaincy Ministry provide for the residents of Valley Memorial Homes?
Valley Memorial Homes provides for the physical, emotional and spiritual care of our residents. Spiritual care is provided through partnerships with your congregation as well as having two chaplains dedicated to serving residents, 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. We want to thank you for all your prayers and financial support to our Chaplaincy Ministry Program.

Valley Memorial Homes
Our Family Caring for Yours

BYGLAND NEWS

QUILTING
June 6 and June 13, beginning at 9:00

BOOK CLUB NEWS
Book club members will gather in Kathie Wasylow's screenhouse (weather permitting) on Monday, June 18, to discuss ONE THOUSAND WHITE WOMEN (Jim Fergus). New members are always welcome - come join the fun!

BYGLAND NEWS CONT.

Congratulations on our
Bygland Lutheran Graduates

Hannah Almlie & Bailey McMahon

FISHER NEWS

June 4th & 5th 9:00 AM
Quilting
June 11th & 12th
WELCA Fair Hills Retreat
June 20th 9:00 AM Bible Study
June 25th & 26th 9:00 AM
Quilting

Women of the ELCA

Congratulations on Our
Fisher Lutheran Graduates

Beth McDonald, Matt Knutson &
Sara Ness

Congratulations to our Confirmands ~

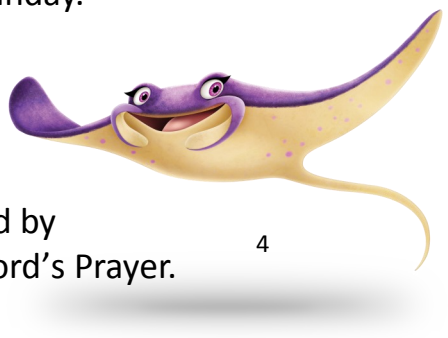
Ellie Schmitz, Ella Reitmeier,
Kaitlynn Sondrol & Brenna Radi

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
May 9, 2018

Members present: Eric Egeland, Pastor Trenne, Wendy Waller, Jason Thorson, Steve Short, Randy Moe, Ronnie Thorson, Roger Krostue, Marsha Ketring, Barry Traub,
Members absent: Karen Ebertowski, Sheila Wurden
Call to order-The meeting was called to order by Eric Egeland
Devotions-Pastor Karen led devotions from the book of Luke "The parable of the Prodigal and his brother"
Agenda/addition of items was discussed
Secretary's report-read by Wendy Waller. Motion to approve with corrections by Randy M. seconded by Ronnie T. *motion carried (Correction: For our cemetery, members are buried for free. Former members are $300 and non-members are $500.)*
Treasurer's report-read by Randy Moe. Motion to approve the monthly report was made by Barry T., seconded by Roger K., *motion carried.*
Pastor's report-Pastor Karen read her report.
Old business:
-Pastor Karen brought a report from TruHome on the Parsonage rental payment/expenses. There was much discussion regarding the miscommunication regarding back rent and unpaid utilities. The biggest concern at this point is the propane expenses were excessive/misleading on the reports. Pastor Karen asked Barry & Eric to hold a parsonage meeting to straighten out the information and figure out who is responsible for what--primarily, to be sure the new renters are being treated fairly. (The previous tenants are being taken to Small Claims court for their approximate $1600 in back expenses.)
-Members Records are still pending.
New business:
-Pastor Karen asked Marsha Ketring if she could provide a financial report monthly to assist our stewardship goals.
-Marsha asked that we schedule family fellowship and the community picnic so they can get on the newsletters and calendars.
Bygland Community Picnic: 8/8/18 6pm
Family Fellowship: Pastor Karen will double check--We are looking at the last 11:00 service of every month.
-Marsha will contact Becky Moe regarding gifts for our graduates this Sunday.
-Janitor supplies: Randy had an email from our janitor. She would like a new vacuum. A commercial Pro vacuum that she has tried out Is about $250. Pastor Karen is willing to meet her with the Parish debit card and then Randy can reimburse the Parish account.
A motion was made by Randy M . to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Marsha K. . The meeting was adjourned. Pastor Karen closed with the Lord's Prayer.
The next meeting will be on June 13th, 2018 at 7:30 pm.



Fisher Lutheran Church Council 5-16-18

Members Present: Pastor Karen, Reed Tinkham, Ken Miller, Travis Schwarz, Andrea Marshall, Tami Newhouse

The meeting was called to order @ 7:36 pm.

Pastor Karen led Devotions

Secretary's Report – The report was reviewed by the Council. It was noted that due to the lack of a quorum the minutes would be approved at a later date.

Treasurer's Report – Presented by Andrea Marshall. It was noted that Thriven Choice Dollars currently totaling $4877 would be divided equally between Sunday School, the Youth Group and WELCA. A discussion was held on the possibility of moving Fisher Lutheran Council meetings to later in the month to provide for a more accurate monthly financial report due to the fact that all monthly bills would be included. The report will be approved at a later date.

Pastor's Report – Presented by Pastor Karen. One baptism was held at Fisher Lutheran during the month of April. The Emergency Action Plan meeting on April 12 was not attended as earlier planned as it dealt only with North Dakota. Pastor Karen will be taking four vacation days including one Sunday – Duane Hanson will be filling in. Four youth were confirmed on May 2 – the Council will retroactively approve them for confirmation when a quorum is available. Three students were included in the baccalaureate service on May 13. The summer worship schedule starts Sunday, May 27 with Joint Worship at Bygland. The Synod Assembly will be held June 8-9. Vacation Bible School will be held June 18-21 with an organizational meeting held on May 30 @ 6:00 pm. The youth trip will take place June 23 – July 1. The youth will be asking for prayer sponsors in the June newsletter. Should members wish to contribute financial assistance the funds will be applied to a future trip.

Committee Reports – Pastor Karen presented a report from True Home Property Solutions regarding the rental costs of the parsonage.

Old Business – Ken Miller will contact Jaren Solheim to have light switches repaired in the Sanctuary. Pastor Karen reported that a mobile rack and bulletin board for the narthex as well as chairs for the office have been ordered as previously approved.

The committee list was reaffirmed with corrections

A report on the approved purchase of a TV and mobile cart for the church was reviewed.

New Business – Andrea Marshall reported that she would begin work with Jami Egeland and Bremer to finalize the set-up of the electronic giving.

An update on organ repairs and tuning was presented by Pastor Karen.

Fisher Lutheran will be designated as a Breast Feeding Friendly facility upon approval at the next meeting. The property committee will work with Angel Korynta – Polk County Health to facilitate any requirements.

Andrea Marshall reported that payment for the TV system and new light fixtures would be mailed shortly.

Pastor Karen and Jami Egeland will plant and care for potted flowers to be placed on the front entry area of the church.

Reed Tinkham declared the meeting adjourned.

Next Council Meeting June 6, 2018 @ 7:30 pm. A Parish Council meeting will be held June 20, 2018 at 7:45 pm.

Vacation Bible School Donation Needed!

Donations have started to come in for the items we need for Fisher Lutheran VBS, June 18-21. The following items are still needed. If you would like to donate one or more items, please call the church office, 891-4632, to let us know you will be getting that item. We want to avoid getting duplicates! Where multiple quantities are needed of an item, feel free to donate or loan only one or part of the quantity needed. Please return to the Fisher Lutheran Narthex by June 15.

Donated items

25 – gallon milk jug – empty and clean!
48 - non-bendable plastic straws
48 - water bottles (500 ml)
1 – box plastic zipper bags – gallon size (approx. 50)
3 – boxes plastic zipper bags – quart size (approx. 50)
1 – box of snack size plastic zipper bags (about 50)
4 - Bags of clear marbles (about 50 marbles each)
48 - green paper plates (large size)
12 – fake flower leis (plastic from dollar store)
1 – roll brightly colored duct tape
10 – pool noodles (used, bent one are fine)
1 – roll masking tape
48 - fun, colorful drinking straws (bendable is fine)
96 - plastic spoons
48 - 9 oz plastic cups
5 – medium size toy sand pails with shovel (toys from dollar store)
1 – 6 pack of 12 oz LaCroix citrus flavored sparking water
12 – 12-16 oz size bottles tropical blend fruit juice
1 – package of 50 5”X11” clear plastic treat bags (find in party supplies)
48 – heart stickers approximately 1-inch size
1 – package of small rubber bands (about 50)
1 – package of Life Savers Candy, (approximately 50) individually wrapped

Items we need to borrow

3 – plastic kids wading pools
4 – new (not bent) pool noodles
15 – toy cars, Matchbox type
10 – Clean buckets (5 gallon or similar)
10 – beach towels with your name clearly marked

Fisher Lutheran Youth Mission/Adventure Trip – June 23-July 1

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, Lakeside, MT

Fisher Lutheran Church Youth Group is preparing for a trip to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. Located near Lakeside, MT, on Flathead Lake, **Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp offers a Christ-centered camping experience for people of all ages. The staff is trained to help campers understand God's message of grace and to provide positive Christian role models while having an amazing experience in God's great outdoors!**

Our group of eight youths and three adults is planning to participate in service activities in the Kalispell community, as well as backpacking, sea kayaking, rock climbing, and river rafting. Each day we will dedicate ourselves to a time for Bible study, prayer, reflection, and worship. We will have a new experience of Jesus' death and resurrection in the Passion Play presented by the Flathead counselors and staff.

Will you prayerfully consider being one of our sponsors? First and foremost, we need your prayer support. Please pray for our safe travel, good health, and growth in faith. Second, we are asking for your financial assistance. Please prayerfully consider giving a gift of $25 (or any other amount) to encourage our youth group members to grow in faith.

Thank you.

Name_____

Address_____

_____I/we will be a prayer sponsor for the Flathead Mission/Adventure Trip

$____I/we will be a financial sponsor for the participants from Fisher Lutheran Church

Please make your check out to Fisher Lutheran Youth Group and put Flathead Mission/Adventure Trip in the memo. Send it, along with this form, to Fisher Lutheran Youth Group, P.O. Box 127, Fisher, MN 56723.

A Gift of Sacred Art

Please join us and experience the illuminations of *The Saint John's Bible* Heritage Edition.

Weekdays June 7-20, 2018
8:30 a.m - 4:30 p.m.

Special presentation on Wednesday, June 13, 6-8 p.m.

Villa St. Vincent/The SUMMIT Chapel
516 Walsh St., Crookston

You will be able to enjoy and learn more about *The Saint John's Bible* and its mission to "Ignite the spiritual imagination of people all over the world of all faiths."

The Saint John's Bible is the first handwritten and illuminated Bible commissioned by a Benedictine Monastery since the advent of the printing press more than 500 years ago. *The Saint John's Bible* Heritage Edition is a full-size fine art edition of the original manuscript created under the direction of Donald Jackson, the artistic director of the original manuscript. Each volume received finishing treatments by hand, and only 299 sets of the Heritage Edition were created.

Come learn and explore more...

Refreshments will be served on Wednesday, June 13, 6-8 p.m. only

For more information or to schedule a special group showing, call Pastor Bill Humiston, Spiritual Care Director, at 218-280-0908.

Learn more at: www.villastvincent.org

Villa St. Vincent
Benedictine Health System

The Saint John's Bible

Shown above: *Jesus with Mary and Martha*, Donald Jackson with contributions from Aidan Hart and Sally Mae Joseph, Copyright 2002, *The Saint John's Bible*, Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

The Heritage Edition Saint John's Bible is brought to your community with support from Benedictine Health System and Benedictine Health System Foundation.