

# THE MESSENGER



*From the Pastor's desk...*



Truth and Love at the Crossroads

The theme for our 2016 Northwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly, May 20-21, is **Truth and Love at the Crossroads**.

*"Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love."* – Ephesians 4:15-16

Participants in our 2016 Synod Assembly will have opportunities to:

- Engage in honest and compassionate discourse within the Body of Christ
- Learn how to recognize the uncomfortable truths we would rather avoid
- Cultivate the art of speaking truth in love without losing any of the key words: *speaking, truth, love*
- Share stories of times when folks named uncomfortable truths – In ways that led to transformation in the faith community

A **Truth and Love Rally** will be held Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00-9:00 pm at the Memorial Auditorium at Concordia College. The keynote address will be given by Rev. Nadia Bolz Weber, founding pastor of House for All Saints and Sinners Lutheran congregation in Denver Colorado. Teens and adults are invited to this night of praise, music and discussion all centered around speaking the truth in love. There will be a \$15 per person ticket fee at the door or \$10 per person fee if purchased in advance. Synod Assembly voting members' fees are included in their registration.

Our church councils have been participating in Bishop Wohlrabe's Bible Study series "Truth and Love at the Crossroads". This month's study was titled, "Death and Resurrection". You can find the whole study at <http://nwmnsynod.org/resources/death-and-resurrection>. In the study, Bishop Wohlrabe confronted some of the untrue things we hear when someone dies:

*The Lord only takes the best.*

*God needed another angel.*

*Your loved one is still with you, looking down from above.*

*It's just her body that died—her real self, her soul still lives.*

These statements may reflect commonly held beliefs about death, but are not based in the truth of scripture. These statements, although well intentioned, have the capacity to cause more grief.

Here are some things we can say when someone dies that are grounded in the truth of scripture:

Your loved one is in God's strong, loving embrace. (Romans 14:8)

God claimed (name of loved one) in baptism – and God plays for keeps. (Romans 6:4-5)

Nothing, not even death, can separate us from God's love. (Romans 8:37-39)

God raised up Jesus, and God will raise (name of loved one) to new life. (I Corinthians 15:20-22)

Speaking the truth in love is not always easy, but it is always the best way to witness to our Lord, Jesus Christ. Please pray for our Synod Assembly and for all those who need to hear the truth about Jesus and the love of God that he shares with us.

~Pastor Karen Young Trenne

# BYGLAND TIDBITS

## BYGLAND BOOK CLUB

Members of the book club will gather on Monday, May 23 at 7:00 PM, to discuss SAVING CEECEE HONEYCUTT (Beth Hoffman). We will meet at 7:00 PM in Ardis's gazebo, weather permitting. New members are always welcome!

## BYGLAND QUILTING

Bygland quilters will meet on May 4 & 11 at 9:00 AM.

## ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY NEWS

The Minnesota Department of Transportation has awarded both the Bygland Lutheran Church and the Bygland Lutheran Church Sunday School certificates of commendation. The certificates were signed by Governor Mark Dayton and the MN DOT Commissioner, Charles Zelle. Both the Bygland Lutheran Church and the Sunday School program were recognized on behalf of the State of Minnesota for their volunteer community service in the Adopt-A-Highway program. This program works to maintain the beauty of Minnesota roadsides. The Bygland Lutheran Church has been maintaining 1.8 miles of highway south of the church for 8 years and the Bygland Lutheran Church Sunday School has been maintaining 2 miles of highway north of the church for 6 years. Our next service date is Saturday, April 30, 2016 at 10:00 AM. All parish families and friends are welcome.



# FISHER TIDBITS

**May 9 & 10** — Quilting at 9:00 AM



**May 18** — Bible Study at 9:00 AM.

Mary and Elizabeth: Sisters Across the Generations (*Norma Cook Everist*)

**May 23 & 24** — Quilting at 9:00 AM

**May 31** — Birthday Party at 2:30 PM, 4000 Valley Square. Program: Sheryl and Vivian; lunch: Etta, Charlotte, Barb, and Becky

## RUMMAGE SALE

The Fisher Lutheran Youth Group will be joining the Fisher City-Wide Rummage Sale on Saturday, June 4, from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM! Stop in at the church for coffee and rolls and then shop 'til you drop close to home!



## PATHWAYS OUTDOOR MINISTRIES

**2016 SPRING WORKDAYS** are set for May 7 at Camp Emmaus and May 21 at Camp MinneWaKan. A typical workday agenda is as follows:

- 9:00-9:30 AM coffee/rolls with work assignments
- 12:00 light lunch

- Afternoon to finish projects
- 2:30-3:00 departure

Duties will include raking leaves, cabin cleaning, cleaning dining halls and kitchens, mowing areas, and other related tasks. For more information or to sign up call the camp office at 218-987-2600 or email [pathways@pathwaysbiblecamps.com](mailto:pathways@pathwaysbiblecamps.com).

# FISHER LUTHERAN NEWS



## Fisher Lutheran Church Council Minutes ~ April 6, 2016

**Members Present:** Pastor Karen Young Trenne, Lance Reitmeier, Sheryl Tinkham, Ken Miller, Kelly Bakken, Kelly Halvorson, Darryl Quern, Gail Kasowski, Brian Morken, 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 March meeting was reviewed by the council. A motion was made to approve the council minutes. Motion was seconded, motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's Report for the month of March was presented by Kelly Bakken. A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's report, the motion was seconded, and motion passed.

### **Pastor's Report:**

- Activities Pastor Karen has been involved in include the Good Samaritan Center, Red River Juvenile Center, Synod Theological Day and Holy Week services.
- Pastor Karen administered 2 baptisms and 1 funeral in March.
- First communion was for Nora Conley, Evelyn Drenghson and Katelyn Kovarik.
- Fisher Lutheran welcomed new members Jody Spears and Emalee Pyatte.
- Pastor Karen presented confirmation candidates Cameron Conati, Adam Dahlen, Delaney Fogarty, and Hayden Reitmeier. A motion was made by the council to approve the candidates. Motion was seconded, motion passed.
- Pastor Karen is planning on taking vacation August 15-28.

### **Old Business**

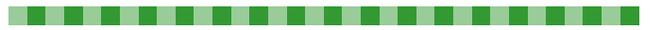
- Brian informed the council that new windows and trim have been completed in the parsonage.
- Remodeling in other parts of the parsonage still remains, most notably in the bathroom. The council recommends the joint Parsonage Committee meet soon to discuss any further remodeling projects and costs. The committee should also decide who should facilitate the role as a landlord with future tenants.
- 76 of 88 keys have been spoken for in the baby grand piano fund raiser.

### **New Business**

- Kelly B requests that she needs some assistance towards initiating the Mission Investment Fund. Kelly and Pastor Karen plan to meet following church service this Sunday to begin the Investment Fund process.
- The gift card to Katelyn Kasowski has been misplaced by the postal service while in route to its destination. The postal service is performing an investigation for the insured item.
- The Worship and Music committee will need to discuss future options for replacing the organist who wishes to retire from her many years of service to our church.
- Pastor Karen's wireless microphone clip used during services has been misplaced and replacement options will need to be researched.
- The property committee will need to replace a malfunctioning soap dispenser in the woman's restroom.
- Sheryl has found the materials needed to add additional picture displays for future confirmation class pictures. Purchasing the items needed will happen in the near future.
- A request was made by a family of a confirmation candidate to use the fellowship hall following church services on Confirmation Sunday. A motion was made to approve the request. The motion was seconded, motion passed.
- A request was made by the Fisher School prom committee to use the church to host the prom banquet April 22. A motion was made to approve the request. The motion was 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. The next Fisher Council meeting is May 4, 2016 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Troy Newhouse, Secretary



## Bygland Lutheran Church ~ Unofficial/Unapproved Council Minutes

April 13, 2016 7:30 PM

*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.*

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

**Members absent:** Pam Robertson and Eric Egeland

**Call to Order:** The council meeting was called to order by Council President Roger Moe at 7:35pm.

**Secretary's Report:** Haley presented the March minutes.

*A motion to approve the secretary's report was made by Randy and seconded by Troy. All were in favor, motion carried.*

### **Treasurer's Report**

A March balance sheet was distributed. Randy noted the significant decrease in the electric bill due to the switch to propane. (\$297 for 3/2016 vs. \$2000+ for 3/2015).

*A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Haley and seconded by Ronnie. All were in favor, motion carried.*

**Devotions:** Pastor Karen led devotions from Bishop Wohlrabe's Bible Studies on Death and Resurrection.

### **Pastor's Report**

Pastor Karen's statistical report for February included no weddings, funerals or new members. The baptism of Archie Alan Bredvik was held, as was the First Communion of Paige Brundin and Hayli Robertson. She shared that the Adult Classes on Reformation have been suspended at this time. She also highlighted that the Synod Theological Day had an emphasis on "the environment." The Baccalaureate service for BLC will be held June 5.

### *Old Business*

#### **Parsonage Vacancy/Repair**

Painting and flooring work has begun. There was some discussion on holding an Open House at the parsonage before any renters may move in. Pastor Karen suggested that BLC reconvene a Parsonage Committee to review tenant applicants and provide input on rent amounts, etc. They are looking to meet in the very near future to ascertain that the parsonage be rented out as soon as possible.

#### **Committee Assignments**

Haley provided a revised 2016 committee assignment list. There is still a vacancy for the Conference Gathering Voting Member.

### *New Business*

#### **Organist**

Vivian Erickson from Fisher has mentioned that she would be ready to retire soon. The Fisher Music and Worship Committee is looking into the possibility of hiring someone, and wondered if there would be interest from BLC to share the hired individual so that they may play both services on a Sunday. More to come as information is available.

**Next Meeting Date: May 10 at 7:00pm (One day early due to a conflict in Pastor Karen's schedule)**

#### **Adjourn**

*A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Randy and seconded by Troy. All were in favor, the motion carried.*

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Haley Thorson, BLC Secretary

## FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN NEWS

The Greater Grand Forks Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack Event was held in Grand Forks on April 1-3, 2016. The Bygland Lutheran Church participated in fund-raising and hosted a group of packers on Sunday, April 3, 2016. This was such an incredible opportunity to work with this wonderful organization using our time, talents, and financial gifts to make an amazing difference in our world in just 3 days of 2 hour shifts. Thank you to all of those who made donations in helping us to pay for the food we packed and for those of you who came out to pack the food for the starvation impacted children in our world. We hope more families and friends of the Bygland Lutheran Church will be able to join us in support of this wonderful charity in the future.



### BYGLAND SUNDAY SCHOOL

In the month of March, the students finished up their Wordless Gospel books and wrapped up their Lenten season by doing a comparison of 3 stories purposefully written about loss and change. The Dragonfly Door written by John Adams, Water Bugs and Dragonflies written by Doris Stickney, Far Flutterby

written by Karen Kingsbury. Each story shares the idea of death and transformation, making it easy for the children to connect and understand Jesus' death and resurrection. The students also completed a craft related to the stories. Palm Sunday was greeted with a Parade of Palms. Maundy Thursday welcomed fifth graders, Hayli Robertson and Paige Brundin, to the Table of the Lord, by celebrating their first communion. Easter Sunday was celebrated with a delicious Easter brunch hosted by the Sunday School and youth group families. A special thank you to Troy and Patty Pecka for organizing the brunch and to all the volunteers who helped with the brunch (set-up, serving, frying pancakes, pickup up supplies, cleaning up, etc.).

In the month of April, the students went on an epic adventure through the book of Genesis. The students participated in both large and small group formats combining music, dramas, crafts, experiences, object lessons, games, skits, and reflections. Throughout the lessons, kids were reminded of how they can let God work inside them as they live out their lives every day in the real world. Lessons included: Creation (God Creates People in His Image); Adam & Eve (God Sends Adam and Eve from the Garden); Noah (God Tells Noah to Build the Ark); and Abraham (God Tests Abraham).

Our last day of Sunday School will be held on Sunday, May 1, 2016. We invite all Sunday School families and friends to attend the eleven o'clock service to enjoy some special music provided by the Sunday School. We will also be recognizing students and teachers for their participation and service throughout the year.

# 2016 Parish Graduates

## BYGLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Rachel Catherine Trenne**—Red River High School in Grand Forks, ND

**Graduation date:** Sunday, June 5, 2016

**Parents:** Paul and Karen Trenne

**Baptism Sponsors:** Joanne Trenne, Judith Young, Dean and Jane Blade

**Plans after graduation:** Attend the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, studying business management.

**Favorite memory of Bygland Lutheran:** The lutefisk dinners, even though I don't like lutefisk, I love meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, and the desserts. My other favorite memory is going with the Fisher youth to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

I want to say thank you to Bygland Lutheran Church for making me feel part of their family. The people of the church have shown me so much love and encouragement especially through my senior year.



## FISHER LUTHERAN CHURCH



**Beau Darrin Byklum**—Fisher High School

**Graduation date:** Friday, May 20, 2016

**Parents:** Darrin and Tami Byklum

**Baptism Sponsors:** Tommie Quam, Angie Quam, Karla and Wayne Byklum

**Plans after graduation:** Attend Northland Community and Technical College in EGF to pursue a degree in agriculture.

**Favorite memory of Fisher Lutheran:** My all time favorite was when our youth group went to New Orleans. It was a great experience and I was glad I got to help people. I also remember the lock-ins we had with the Concordia Outreach team. I liked playing games and having caramel rolls in the morning before church.

I would also like to thank the congregation for your prayers, support and opportunities that have allowed me to grow in my faith through the years. I will take those values, principles, and memories with me as I enter into adulthood.



*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

*~ Jeremiah 29:11*

## FISHER LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Austin Jon Knutson**—Fisher High School

**Graduation date:** Friday, May 20, 2016

**Parents:** Scott and Bonnie Knutson

**Baptism Sponsors:** Curt and Kim Knutson

**Plans after graduation:** Attend North Dakota State University in Fargo with a major in Mathematics Education

**Favorite memory of Fisher Lutheran Church:** Helping the younger kids out with Vacation Bible School, going to the ELCA Youth Gatherings, especially the one in New Orleans and being on the Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) board. I really liked my time with the other LYO kids and youth leaders and I am thankful for the opportunities it gave me to serve in a leadership role.

I would like to thank my church family for supporting me as I grew up and for sending me to bible camps, too. I will always feel like I have a friendly place to come home to.



## FISHER LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Eric Carl Ness**—Fisher High School

**Graduation date:** Friday, May 20, 2016

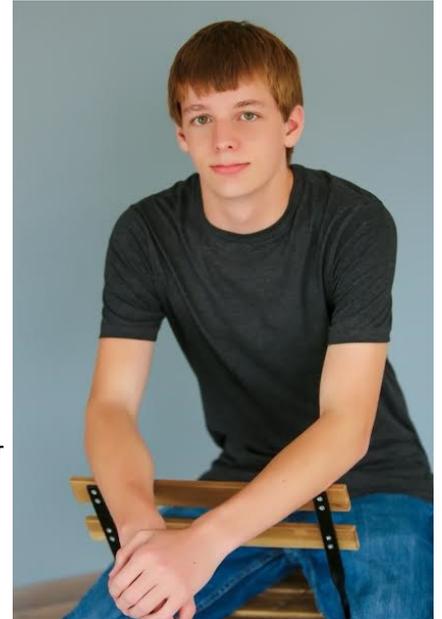
**Parents:** Joel and Becky Ness

**Baptism Sponsors:** Jon and Jill Carlson

**Plans after graduation:** Attend the University of North Dakota with an emphasis in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)

**Favorite memory of Fisher Lutheran Church:** I enjoyed the times in elementary school when Pathways came in the summers for vacation bible school.

After graduation I will be travelling to Scandinavia for two weeks to explore my heritage. I am very thankful for the group of people I have gotten to know at Fisher Lutheran, who have supported me throughout my youth as a church member.



*"And we pray...that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way; bearing fruit in every good work, and growing in the knowledge of God..."*  
*Colossians 1:10*

## YOUTH NEWS

### CONFIRMATION AT FISHER LUTHERAN

Sunday, May 1, 2016 ~ Affirmation of faith for four of our parish 8th graders:

**DeLainey Fogarty**—parents are Jennifer Mooney and Scott Fogarty.

Sponsors—Teddi-Ann Pray, Tom Fogarty.

**Cameron Conati**—parents are Tom and Becky Conati.

Sponsors—Cate and Ron Monson

**Hayden Reitmeier**—parents are Lance and Jennifer Reitmeier.

Sponsors—Jasen Reitmeier, Michon Metzger, and Mandi Hoff

**Adam Dahlen**—parents are Andrew and Jennifer Dahlen. Sponsors—Martin and Lisa Dahlen, and Trica DeLaHunt

*There will be a special reception for the confirmands and high school graduates following the 9:00 AM service in Fisher on Sunday, May 15, 2016.*



### BYGLAND LUTHERAN YOUTH NEWS

The Bygland Lutheran Church Middle School youth will be hosting a rummage and vendor sale on Saturday, May 14, 2016 to raise funds for future youth missions and/or gatherings. If members have items they wish to donate to the sale, please have your items to the church by Friday, May 13, 2016. The sale will begin for “early birds” at 7:00 AM (early bird admission fees apply) and 8:00 AM for general admission. The sale will run until 3:00 PM. Some of the vendors that will be showcasing their wares include: The Pampered Chef; Thirty-One Gifts; and Creative Memories .

Come shop for a good cause. Proceeds of the vendor’s sales will benefit the youth as well. Contact Becky Egeland (701)739-1784 or Holly Wavra (218) 779-1139 if you have any questions or need additional information.

### FISHER LUTHERAN YOUTH NEWS

Start your Saturday off the right way during the **Fisher Landing Days and the All-School Reunion** on Saturday, June 25, 2016, by joining the Fisher Lutheran Church youth group for a free-will offering, pancake breakfast that will be served from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM at the church. The youth group will also be hosting a bake sale so you can bring home all your favorite treats for the rest of the weekend. Hope to see you all there!



#### Fisher Bygland Lutheran Parish

Pastor Karen Young Trenne

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