

THE MESSENGER



From the Pastor's desk...



Ahh, Summer!

Finally, the warmth has arrived. Although this past winter was somewhat mild, it is still a welcome time of year when the fields have the fresh new growth green, the lilacs are blooming, and the daylight is long. Many of you will be at a lake home or away most Sundays this summer. Some of you will be traveling, some of you will be working, and some of you will be resting. Summer allows us to slow down a bit and breath.

Jesus knows our need for Sabbath and rest. Many times in the scriptures we see Jesus going off by himself to pray. Or eating and drinking with friends. At the same time, Jesus was often given new opportunities to minister to people during these times. Luke 9:10-11: ¹⁰"On their return the apostles told Jesus all they had done. He took them with him and withdrew privately to a city called Bethsaida. ¹¹When the crowds found out about it, they followed him; and he welcomed them, and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed to be cured."

Summer is a great time for ministry. A time to share the love of God in Jesus in new ways with new people. Here are some summer ministry opportunities for you:

- ◆ Worship every Sunday at 9:00. Watch the parish website for location as we alternate between Fisher and Bygland.
- ◆ Vacation Bible School at Fisher, June 13-16. We need volunteers to be Station leaders, Crew leaders, kitchen helpers and registration helpers. Please look for donation requests in the narthex.
- ◆ Rummage Sale, June 4, and Breakfast/Bake Sale, June 25. Consider helping, donating, or partaking in these events for the benefit of our youth ministry.
- ◆ Pathways Village - Camp Minne-Wa-Kan, August 16-25, 2016

Welcome to a time away in a relaxed but stimulating environment where you can ease into a space of community and engaging opportunities to be renewed and encountered by God. This unique intergenerational camping experience is Pathway's newest ministry adventure. You may register for two nights or more, whatever fits your schedule. During these 10 days we will offer a range of classes, workshops, and outdoor adventures which you can participate in, or not, as you desire. Stay busy from beginning to end of each day or just sit at the beach and enjoy the lake. More likely you will find an in between pace that is right for creating the space for engagement, relaxation and God's renewing movements in your life during these waning days of summer. The one thing we strongly encourage for all is to participate in a time of centering and engaging Village Worship each evening.

Grace Gathering - Wednesday, Aug. 10 – Saturday, Aug. 13, New Orleans. Once every three years voting members gather to make decisions about how to go about God's work as a church. The 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will be held in New Orleans, Aug. 8-13. Not a voting member? Not a problem. For the first time, all ELCA members — not just voting members — are invited to New Orleans. The Grace Gathering is intersecting with the 2016 Churchwide Assembly. The event will allow ELCA members to observe the assembly and participate in workshops and worship, with a focus on preparing for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Featured speakers include our presiding bishop and Nobel Peace Prize winner Leymah Gbowee. Reserve your spot by June 15 and receive a registration discount.

There are so many ways to participate and share in the love of Jesus. God's blessings on your summer ministry.

~Pastor Karen

PARISH NEWS

WHAT IS TRANSITIONAL CARE?

Valley Transitions, located within Valley Eldercare Center, at 2900 14th Ave S in Grand Forks, provides post-acute skilled nursing care and rehabilitative services. The focus is to maximize recovery by tailoring a plan of care that will meet the needs and goals of each individual. Our healthcare team is dedicated to helping our residents recover, restore strength and re-establish independence. These services will help individuals return home or to an alternative level of care. If you would like more information, contact Jonina at 701-787-7957.



OUR PARISH FAMILY



We welcome Clayton Jagger Knutson to our parish family as he was baptized at Fisher Lutheran on Sunday, May 22, 2016. Parents are Chad and Carmen Knutson and big sister is Chandler. Sponsors are Eric and Lindsey Erdman.

Our sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Mildred Knutson, who passed away on May 18, 2016 at the age of 95. Her funeral was held at Bygland Lutheran Church on Wednesday, May 25, 2016.



GRADUATION RECEPTION



All members of the parish are invited to celebrate the graduation of Rachel Catherine Trenne from Red River High School. An open house reception will be held Saturday, June 4th, from 1:00 - 4:00 pm at our home, 515 25th Avenue S, Grand Forks. Baccalaureate for Rachel will be celebrated Sunday, June 5th at the 9:00 AM parish worship at Bygland Lutheran, followed by a brunch hosted by the Bygland Church workgroup.

The graduation ceremony will be at 4:00at the Alerus Center. Rachel will be a commencement speaker.



WALK for LIFE

The Grand Forks Women's Pregnancy Center (WPC) is holding a Walk for Life on Wednesday, June 15, 2016. Registration is at 6:00 PM and the walk begins at 6:30 PM. Your support helps to change the lives of women and men by educating them to make life-affirming choices that will have a positive effect on their future, their families and the community in which they live. This is only a two-mile walk, come rain or shine! Collect no money, just bring the sponsor forms and the WPC will handle the billing. Sponsor forms are in the narthex. For more information call 701-746-8866 or go to gfwpcwalkforlife.org





Fisher Lutheran Church Council Minutes ~ May 18, 2016

Members present: Pastor Karen Young Trenne, Lance Reitmeier, Sheryl Tinkham, Ken Miller, Darryl Quern, Gail Kasowski, Brian Morken, and 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 April meeting was reviewed by the council. A motion was made to approve the council minutes. Motion was seconded, motion passed. A motion was also made to approve the council minutes from the February council meeting. Motion was seconded.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's report for the month of April was reviewed by the council. Pending two minor corrections, the Treasurer's report will be approved at a later date.

Pastor's Report

- Activities Pastor Karen has been involved in include the Good Samaritan Center, Red River Juvenile Center, Conference meeting, Bethesda Society and Gideon's Sunday.
- Pastor Karen ministered one baptism in April.
- Upcoming events include the Synod Assembly, Baccalaureate Sunday, and summer worship schedule.
- Pastor Karen is tentatively planning to schedule vacation from August 15-28.

Old Business

- A copy of the revised lease needs to be made for the new parsonage tenant.
- Gail volunteered to be the emergency contact person that the tenants can call with any issues related to the parsonage.
- The music and worship committee have an organist scheduled thru August, but are still looking for someone to occupy the position long term.

New Business

The church bell chimes will need to be turned on and scheduled.

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 Fisher Lutheran Church council meeting is June 22, 2016 at 7:00 PM. Following the Fisher council meeting will be a joint council meeting at 7:30 PM.

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.

Unofficial/Unapproved Council Meeting Minutes ~ May 10, 2016 7:00 pm

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

Members absent: Sheila Wurden

Call to Order: The council meeting was called to order by Council President Roger Moe at 7:00pm.

Secretary's Report: Haley presented the April minutes. A correction was made to the Committee Assignments agenda item. *A motion to approve the secretary's report as amended was made by Karen and seconded by Alan. All were in favor, motion carried.*

Treasurer's Report: An April balance sheet was distributed. *A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Haley and seconded by Karen. All were in favor, motion carried.*

Devotions: Pastor Karen led devotions from Bishop Wohlrabe's Bible Studies on money and missions.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Karen's statistical report for February included no weddings, funerals, baptisms or new members. The Baccalaureate service for BLC will be held June 5. Summer worship schedule begins May 29th in Fisher. A tentative date for the Joint Council meeting was set for June 22. Pastor Karen also mentioned that she may be re-evaluating her vacation dates in September that may include Rally Sunday.

Old Business

Parsonage Vacancy: The Flaats have moved in and have provided feedback to members that they are very happy. A discrepancy/misunderstanding on the lease regarding mowing will be resolved.

Organist: Fisher has been in conversation with Barb, and is looking at inserting the substitute at BLC in the fall.

New Business

Church Maintenance: Eric noticed that the eaves on the west side of the church was dangling. He will temporarily attach it and contact A&L if replacement is needed. The lights that shine on the bell tower cross are out. It was believed that Holt Electric assisted with the replacement the last time. (A tall boom was needed and the bulb was unique.) They will be contacted again to assist. Alan will talk with the Tinkhams about continuing the mowing contract for the season. (Thanks for doing it already!)

American Legion Memorial Day Event: Ronnie encouraged attendance at the Memorial Day event on May 30. It begins at around 11am.

Bygland Community Picnic: A tentative date of August 17th was discussed.

Next Meeting Date: June 8th at 7:30pm

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

BYGLAND TIDBITS



Nature is one of God's beautiful creations. Through nature, God is able to teach us, speak to us, and provide for us. For this reason, we can find in scripture that we humans are called to protect all He has created. ***"But ask the animals, and they will teach you,¹ or the birds of the air,² and they will tell you;³ or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know⁴ that the hand of the LORD has done this?⁵ In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind."*** Job 12: 7-10

Thank you to all of those who participated in the Bygland Lutheran Church and Sunday school Adopt-A-Highway service project on Saturday, April 30, 2016: Jeff Millar, Kent Wavra, Holly Wavra, Zach Wavra, Reighan Wavra, Logan Egeland, Rylan Egeland, Marsha Ketring, Steve Moe, Al Halvorson, Hayli Robertson, Ruby Leach, Kelly Leach, Sara Kleinvachter, Grace Kleinvachter, Ava Kleinvachter, and Morgan McDonald . You have engaged in an opportunity to demonstrate care and respect towards our beautiful earth. It was a windy, but sunny day to be out serving with our family, friends, and neighbors. It was fun to observe the life of the land around us: farmers busy planting fields, gophers busy making mounds, and the wind blowing. We thank you for your time and energy. We give a special thank you to Jeff Millar for providing some door prizes and to Kent Wavra for providing bottled water and snacks. We also want to thank the members of Girl Scout Troop 20101 for joining us and earning an official "Adopt-A-Highway" fun patch.

All friends, neighbors, and parish members are welcome to participate in our program. Mark your calendar for our next collection date: Sunday, September 11, 2016 starting at 12 noon in honor of "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday.

Participants will meet at the Bygland Lutheran Church, south door.



FISHER TIDBITS



June 6 & 7 — Quilting at 9:00 AM

June —Fair Hills Retreat

June 13—clean kitchen at 9:00 AM

Summer Bible Study —"The Heart of the Matter" by Angela Shannon

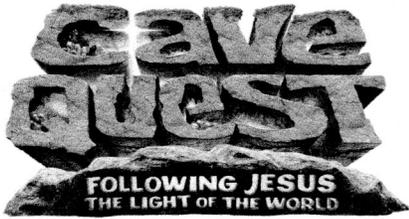
June 15—Bible Study at 9:00 AM. Session 1: Treasure in clay jars. *2 Corinthians 4:7*

June 20 & 21—Quilting at 9:00 AM

The Fisher Lutheran Youth Group is hosting a rummage sale in conjunction with the City-Wide Sale on Saturday, June 4th, at the church. The sale begins at 8:00 AM and runs until 2:00 PM. Youth will be serving coffee and rolls.



If you have items you wish to donate, you can drop them off at the church on Thursday night, June 2, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Contact Becky Conati if you have questions or are willing to lend a hand in helping to set up, man the tables, work at the check-out table, or work in the kitchen.



Registration Form
Fisher Lutheran Church
Vacation Bible School
June 13-16, 2016, 4:15-7:30 pm
2016-2017 Kindergarten-Grade 7

(Please complete one registration form per child)

Child's name: _____ Child's gender: _____
Child's age: _____ Date of birth: _____ Last school grade completed: _____
Name of parent(s): _____
Street address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
Home telephone: (_____) _____
Parent/caregiver's cell phone: (_____) _____
Home email address: _____
Home church: _____
Allergies or other medical conditions: _____
In case of emergency, contact: _____
Phone: _____
Relationship to child: _____

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Dear Parents,

Children involved in the summer recreation program at the Fisher School will be escorted to the church at 4:00. We are suggesting a \$25 dollar donation for each child to cover the cost of food. All other expenses are covered. We want everyone to participate regardless of your ability to pay. We need many volunteers. Please consider helping for one or more evenings. Come after work at any time. Please call the church office, 218-891-4632, with any questions. We look forward to a great summer VBS!

Fisher Bygland Lutheran Parish

Pastor Karen Young Trenne

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