

THE MESSENGER



From the Pastor's desk...



Election 2016

The simple act of casting your vote can have a powerful effect. Your vote means that your elected officials are accountable to you. While the separation of church and state laid out in the constitution of the U.S.A. is important for protecting our religious freedom, it does not mean that Christians should ignore their faith when making decisions in the voting booth. Casting our ballots is one way in which we live out our confirmation promises to “serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus,” and “to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.”

Scripture encourages us to be active members of the community and government. “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore, whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.⁵ Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience.⁶ For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, busy with this very thing.⁷ Pay to all what is due them — taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due. (Romans 13:1-2, 5-7) As we prepare for this year's election I hear from many who are discouraged. Remember that those who are elected are sinners in need of redeeming like anybody else. They will need our prayers and support as well as our active civic engagement. God sent Jesus into a corrupt political system over two thousand years ago. God continues to send Jesus to us, to save us from our sins, to heal our divisions, and bring justice and peace. Our system is not perfect, our leaders are not perfect, but Jesus is. Do not be discouraged. Let us do the work that Jesus calls us to do, trusting that God is present, leading and guiding us to his kingdom.

“Almighty God, you have given us this good land as our heritage. Make us always remember your generosity and constantly do your will. Bless our land with honest industry, truthful education, and an honorable way of life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil course of action. Make us who came from many nations with many different languages a united people. Defend our liberties and give those whom we have entrusted with the authority of government the spirit of wisdom, that there might be justice and peace in our land. When times are prosperous, let our hearts be thankful; and in troubled times, do not let our trust in you fail. We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” (Lutheran Book of Worship Prayer 129)

~Pastor Karen

Readers needed! I have noticed as I am getting a little bit older, that my voice becomes more strained than it used to by the end of two worship services on Sunday mornings. I also know that worship is not just the work of the pastor, but it is enriched by the participation of members of the congregations. Knowing that the work groups have a difficult time finding readers, I will be asking for members of the congregations who are willing to read to sign up for reading scriptures and psalms on Sunday mornings. The readings will be sent to you the week prior to your Sunday. I will help you with any difficult words. Thanks to all who are willing to serve in this way!

PARISH NEWS



Who are Valley Memorial Homes auxiliary organizations?

Valley Memorial Homes is blessed to have two caring auxiliary organization that provide volunteers, help raise awareness and give financial support for projects and programs. They are the Bethesda Society and the Valley Memorial Club. The Bethesda Society began in 1914 to raise funds for the first nursing home and have been active ever since. Their major project is raising funds for the Bethesda Society Chaplaincy Endowment Fund. The Valley Memorial Club began in 1973 to help provide 'extras'

for all Valley Memorial Homes residents and tenants. Please contact Sue at 701-787-7984 if you would like any information about becoming a member of any of these wonderful organizations.

Veterans Day 2016

Take a Veteran to School Day is a national program developed by HISTORY to link veterans with students nationwide. Fisher School will once again be participating in this program to invite veterans of all backgrounds to share their stories and receive thanks for their service. We encourage our Pre-K-12th grade children to invite a family member, friend or neighbor that has served our country to take part in this event.



Fisher School will host a VETERANS DAY PROGRAM on Friday, November 11, 2016, at 10:30 AM in the Fisher Gymnasium.

By inviting Veterans to come to the school to share their stories, we hope to connect generations while helping our young people learn about the past. The school asks that Veterans arrive at the school by 10:15 AM so they can ready them for the ceremony which will honor them.

The Fisher American Legion Auxiliary Annual Fall Luncheon & Bake Sale will take place on Veterans Day as well. This will be held from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the American Legion Clubroom. Menu: chicken salad or chicken hotdish, served with a roll, dessert & coffee. Cost is \$8.00 (\$5.00 for Veterans). Everyone is welcome.

Remembering the Saints

Joel Scott Bergland - November 27, 2015

Jon Andrew "Butch" - Lawdermilt January 3, 2016

Ernest Peder Egeland - January 4, 2016

Ronald Clair Peterson - March 4, 2016

Mildred Kay Knutson - May 18, 2016

Wayne Norman Haug - June 2, 2016

Laurel Jean Haake - July 29, 2016





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

October 12, 2016 7:30pm

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

Members absent: Haley Thorson and Eric Egeland

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

Secretary's Report: Haley provided a copy of the September minutes prior to the meeting. *A motion to approve the secretary's report as amended was made by Alan and seconded by Pam. All were in favor, motion carried.*

Treasurer's Report: Randy presented a balance sheet for September. Transactions as usual. *A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Karen and seconded by Ronnie. All were in favor, motion carried.*

Pastor's Report: Pastor Karen provided her statistical report for September. There were no baptisms, new members, weddings or funerals. She noted confirmation classes have resumed and that she had been to the Good Sam and the Red River Valley Juvenile Center. Other activities included the Dean's Conference Call, the Conference meeting, new members meeting, Walk by Faith Therapeutic Riding Board, Valley Memorial Homes member meeting, and marriage prep classes. She also attended the Theology for Ministry Conference at Fair Hills Sept 18-20 and had a pulpit exchange with Our Saviors Lutheran in EGF on Sept 25th. Upcoming events include Pie with the Bishop on Oct 16th, an Overtime Webinar on Oct 18th, Reformation Webcast on Oct 27th and Joint Council on Nov 16th at 7:30p at Fisher. Pastor Bob Sorenson will be filling in on October 16th. Pastor Karen is looking to the congregation for readers each Sunday as her voice is strained after two services.

Old Business

Church Maintenance - No updates

Lutefisk Dinner: An informational meeting is scheduled for Oct 23rd following the 9am service.

Organist: The council is asking everyone to seek out individuals who may be interested in playing. Pastor Karen would like the Music Committee to be involved in the scheduling for each Sunday in the interim.

New Business

Portico: Randy suggested that the BLC Council consider approving the Gold Plan as in previous years.

A motion to approve the Portico Gold Plan was made by Alan and seconded by Sheila. All were in favour, motion carried.

Mission Investment Fund: Pastor Karen passed on that they are offering a 3.5% 6-year fixed rate good through November 15th. The council will discuss options at the November meeting.

Next Meeting Date: November 9, 2016 at 7:30pm. Joint Council, November 16, 7:30pm @ FLC

Adjourn

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

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Karen Ebertowski in Haley's absence



BYGLAND LUTHERAN NEWS



Bygland Lutheran Church Middle School Youth Group News

The BLC middle school youth are off to a great start.

Members include: Jaydee Jenson, Zach Wavra, Rylan Egeland, Paige Brundin, and Hayli Robertson

This group is working on raising funds for an up-coming youth mission trip (TBD). Thus, they kicked off their fundraising efforts with a cinnamon roll and coffee breakfast on Sunday, October 9th, 2016. Thanks to all of the members who enjoyed the goodies, while in turn supporting our group.

The congregation is asked to "save the date" for the next fundraiser: Sunday, January 22, 2017 ~ "Winter Blues Bake Sale."

The group also met this fall for some fun at the church on Wednesday, October 19, 2016. They enjoyed a BBQ dinner and a showing of the movie "Evan Almighty." Thank you to all of the youth group families for pulling together for a great meal; offering great conversation; and enjoying a fun film together.



BYGLAND TIDBITS

QUILTING

Quilting will be November 2 & 9, beginning at 9:00 AM



BOOK CLUB NEWS

The Book Club will meet on Monday, November 14 at 6:00 PM at the Blue Moose (one week earlier than usual) to discuss EVERY DAY (David Levithan). New members are always welcome!

SHOEBOX TIME! As Christmas draws near, it's time to fill your shoe box for someone living at the Northland Rescue Mission. Any personal care items will do—things like shampoo, toothpaste, a toothbrush, dental floss, shower gel (no bar soap, please), a small notebook, pen or pencil, stamps, shaving cream, disposable shavers, hand towels, face cloth, socks, gloves, cough drops, or anything else you can think of will be perfect. The items should be placed in a plastic tote which you can leave in the narthex at Bygland Church by Sunday, December 11. The boxes will be delivered the following week. **Share your blessings.**

DATES TO REMEMBER...

We will have presentation of the Sunday School "October Challenge" items to the congregation during the early service on November 6, 2016.

The LYO Middle School Youth Gathering will be held November 18-19, 2016 at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks.

No Sunday School November 27, 2016 (Thanksgiving)

No Sunday School December 4, 2016 (Lutefisk/lefse Dinner)



The Sunday School Christmas program will be held Sunday, December 18, 2016 at 3:00 PM, followed by a Christmas cookie reception.

FISHER TIDBITS

November 7 & 8 —Quilting at 9:00 AM

November 16 —Bible Study at 9:00 AM (Session 3: Conversion of Paul)



SUNDAY SCHOOL SNIPPETS

The Sunday School children will be practicing for the Christmas program on the following dates at 10:00 AM: November 13, 20, December 4, and possibly December 10. The program is planned to be presented during the worship service on Sunday, December 11 during the 9:00 AM service.

CHOIR PRACTICE

The Fisher choir will practice at 10:00 AM on the following dates: November 13, 20*, 27, December 11, and 18*.

**Indicates a "dress rehearsal" as the choir will be singing those days during worship.*



Special thanks to TJ Chapman for leading the choir!

ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS



The Altar Committee is taking orders for Christmas poinsettias to share with the church and take home after the Christmas Day worship service. Options include a 2 qt pot for \$5.98 or a 3.5 qt pot for \$12.98. Contact Tammy Smith (218-891-2313) for more information or to place your order. Deadline is December 2, 2016.

November is ELCA World Hunger Appeal Offering time

Nearly 800 million people – that's 1 in 9 people in our world today – are hungry. As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work.

Working with and through our congregations in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands Lutheran churches overseas and other partners, **ELCA World Hunger** is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

Hunger facts

- 795 million people around the world – that's 1 in 10 – can't access the food they need to live active, healthy lives. [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2015]
 - 1 billion people live in extreme poverty on less than \$1.25 per day. That's 14.5% of the world's population. [The World Bank, 2015]
 - At some point in 2014, more than 48 million people in the United States were unsure where their next meal might come from. [USDA, 2015]
- 46.7 million Americans were living in poverty in 2014. For a family of four, this means their annual household income was below \$23,850. [US Census Bureau, 2015]
- Watch the Sunday bulletins for more information about ELCA World Hunger. Special offerings will be received anytime during the month of November, but especially at Thanksgiving worship on November 24 at 9:00 am at Fisher Lutheran. ELCA World Hunger Offering envelopes will be available in the pews.



Byglund Lutheran Church Sunday school NEWS

You are the light of the world.....let your light shine. Matthew 5:14-16

Our Sunday school year is officially off to a great start here at Byglund Lutheran Church. All of our new (Welcome Hayes Thorson!) and returning students are here with smiling faces and open hearts, ready to be filled with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Our rally Sunday coincided with "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday on September 11, 2016. The students arrived at church wearing their God's Work, Our Hands t-shirts and received a special blessing of their back packs during the church service. In lieu of classroom activities, the students participated in the *Adopt-a-Highway* service project ~ becoming God's hands', doing God's work, making things new, right here, right now. Their hands are truly blessed to do the work of God!

Our September and October days have been filled with classroom curriculum (the heart of our Lutheran identity) which included preschoolers learning about their Lutheran Church; first and second grade students learning about how we worship; third graders learning about their Bibles and the books of the Bible; and fourth and fifth graders learning about the Ten Commandments and the Sacraments. Preschool student Hayes Thorson was presented with his preschool Bible on Sunday, October 9th, 2016. Our third grade students, Reighan Wavra, Avynn Thorson, and Sophie Pecka, also received their study Bibles on Sunday, October 9th, 2016.

As October arrived, our Sunday school service projects continued to take shape. Each family, along with the congregation, were invited to participate in the following projects: *Operation Christmas Child*, where participants prepare a shoebox filled with items for a child in need of hope; shoeboxes for the *Northlands Rescue Mission*, in which participants prepare a shoebox filled with personal care items to support local adults living in a shelter; and giving a donation of non-perishable food items for the *Greater Grand Forks Food Shelf*. Our collection of items will be shared with the congregation during the worship service on Sunday, November 6th, 2016 for consideration and prayer prior to them being taken to their respective collection centers.

For our final Sunday in October, students were given the chance to celebrate their generous hearts and compassionate hands with a special celebration entitled "Time to Shine."

As a Sunday school we are looking forward to the days to come and anticipate all that God has planned for us.



We would like to take the time to thank all of those involved within our congregation who lead and participate in our child and youth programming: our **Board of Education**: Jeff Millar, Eric & Becky Egeland, and Holly Wavra; **Teaching Staff**: Jeff Millar, Becky Egeland, Holly Wavra, Danielle Brundin; **Teaching Assistants**: Paige Brundin and Hayli Robertson; **Substitute Teachers**: Rachel Traub and Becky Moe; **Youth Group Committee**: Eric & Becky Egeland and Jason & Haley Thorson; **Easter Breakfast Coordinators**: Troy & Patty Pecka; **Special Music Coordinator**: Barb Short; and Sunday school parents, Pastor Karen Young-Trenne, and all congregational members, for their continued support.

Fisher Byglund Lutheran Parish

Pastor Karen Young Trenne

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