

THE MESSENGER



From the Pastor's desk...



Springing into the Future

Fisher and Bygland are healthy and thriving congregations. We have active members and solid support. We are involved with our communities. We support ministries beyond our congregations. God is richly blessing us. However, the needs around us are great. There are many in our communities who do not know the love of Jesus. We are called by the Holy Spirit to reach out in new ways.

The ELCA is declining in membership overall. We will be facing a clergy shortage in the coming years as more pastors will be retiring than will be graduating from our seminaries. Our seminaries are merging and offering more distance and online learning opportunities. Congregations are and will be forming new parish arrangements. We are also moving across denominations to form new ministry partnerships.

I attended an Area Ministry Strategy meeting this past month with a representative from the ELCA, a member of our synod staff, and other area pastors. We discussed ways we can support each other in ministry and help those who are entering parish partnerships for the first time. The Area Ministry Strategy (AMS) seeks to empower and energize congregations and their members to new and renewed life. As that life takes root and grows the AMS encourages congregations to partner together, to collaborate on the work of Christ within their communities and around the world. So, questions arise: What can we do better together than alone? How does our work together lead to spiritual transformation not only for our members and our congregations but for our communities as well? What difference does this area ministry strategy make for the world?

Beginning on Tuesday, May 9 from 7 to 8:30 p.m., (see schedule below) I invite you to join in an 8-week study of the book of Acts lead by Interim Pastor Karla Mickelson of Trinity Lutheran and First Presbyterian churches. As a sequel to the Gospel of Luke, the book of Acts describes the growth and activities of the early church. Using this book as a template, let us explore how the early church developed and functioned, how it expanded and addressed the needs of their communities and how that activity may influence our own ministries together. **This event is free of charge and open to all! Tuesday evenings 7-8:30 p.m. Trinity Lutheran, Fellowship Hall, 205 S Broadway, Crookston**

May 9 – Introduction; May 16 – Acts, Chapters 1-4; May 23 – Acts, Chapters 5-8; June 6 – Acts, Chapters 9-12; June 13 – Acts, Chapters 13-16; June 20 – Acts, Chapters 17-20; June 27 – Acts, Chapters 21-24; July 11 – Acts, Chapters 25-28

As we commemorate the 500th anniversary of the beginnings of the Lutheran church in the Reformation, we have looked back on the history of that time. We have found people like Martin Luther who were forward thinking, grounded in the scriptures, and willing to act on their convictions and beliefs. They found a new way of being the church together that did not follow the established way of doing things. As we look to our future we also are being challenged to new ways of being the church together. We are grounded in the scriptures and willing to act on our convictions and beliefs. We put our trust in the Holy Spirit to lead us and guide us.

PARISH NEWS



What volunteer opportunities are available at Valley Memorial Homes?

Valley Memorial has over 300 volunteers throughout the year. Volunteers are very important to the residents and tenants who call Valley Memorial 'home'. They lend their hands and their hearts to assist with music, worship, Bible studies, activities, outings and the coffee shop. Volunteer needs at this time include one-on-one visits and assisting with holiday parties. If you are interested in any of these opportunities please contact Kaley at [701-787-7984](tel:701-787-7984) or orklitlejohn@valleymemorial.org.

Special Offering for May: Lift Kosova

Don and Marti Denham have been involved in this humanitarian ministry for many years. Each fall when they come back to Fisher for sugar beet harvest, we get an update from them on their progress. Your offerings will go to humanitarian aid, keeping children in school, and sharing the Word of God with those who do not know Jesus.

Calling all Volunteers!!!

The Crookston chapter of Beyond the Yellow Ribbon are looking for volunteers to cut and tie grocery bags to make balls of "plarn" (plastic yarn) for sleeping mats for the homeless. We are also looking for volunteers that could crochet the mats. These mats would be so beneficial to our homeless veterans. Thank you for your consideration of this project. Please contact Jamie Cassavant for more details either by e-mail (billsgrillen@gmail.com) or her cell phone (218-289-0865)

Wings of Hope Bereavement services

will be conducting our semi-annual burial services on Saturday May 6th at 10:00 AM. This service is for all parent who have experienced a miscarriage in the past six months and any family members or friends who wish to attend. This service is offered at no cost to you. Wy's Floral provides flowers for the burial. The service will be held at Babyland in Calvary Cemetary, Grand Forks. If you have any questions please contact Penny Millspaugh at 701-780-5257.



Congratulations to the First Communion students on April 13th

Desiree Moltzan
Logan Egeland
Michael Egeland
Dylan Korynta



National Music Week, May 7th-14th, is sponsored by the National Federation of Music Clubs. The theme chosen this year is "Music- An Adventure for Life."

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 April 12, 2017 7:30pm

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

Members absent: n/a

Call to Order

The council meeting was called to order by Council President Roger Moe at 7:30pm and Pastor Karen led devotions reflecting the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Secretary's Report

Haley provided a copy of the March minutes.

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

Treasurer's Report

Randy provided a balance sheet for March.

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

Pastor's Report

Pastor Karen provided a statistical report for March. There were no baptisms, weddings, funerals or new members. Several upcoming events were discussed including the Joint BLC/FLC Council Meeting June 21 in Fisher.

Old Business

Church Maintenance

Randy has submitted the confirmation of the bid to Hastings for the furnace replacement but has not yet heard back. The front door replacement project has been tabled until further bids can be researched. The original bid from Sterling did not include installation and has increased to \$7200 with installation.

AED

Haley provided some information on an AED package business package. Most are priced near \$1,000. She has requested information from the American Heart Association on potential grant programs as well a contact from the East Grand Forks Fire Department. Holly Wavra has also been doing some research. Pam suggested requesting funding from the Eagles as well. More to come on this topic when information is available.

New Business

Bible Camp

Eric requested the council consider a motion to assist youth with the cost of camp who are attending for a subsequent year.

(Currently for the first year of attendance at camp, the youth's family is responsible for the deposit and the BLC Youth Group covers the balance.)

A motion for the congregation to assist BLC youth with the cost for subsequent trips to bible camp [family pays deposit and the congregation pays the balance] was made by Ronnie and seconded by Sheila. All were in favor, motion carried.

Lenten Suppers

The council discussed the Youth Group hosting one or more of the BLC suppers as a means to raise funds for activities.

Paraments

Becky Moe requested the purchase of new paraments for the sanctuary. Marsha highlighted that there are several designated memorials specifically for that purpose.

Church Cleaning/Adopt-a-Highway

Cleaning will be held on 04/29 at 9am and the ditch cleaning will begin at 10a.

Next Meeting Date: May 10th, 7:30pm

Adjourn

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

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Haley Thorson, BLC Council Secretary

BYGLAND LUTHERAN NEWS

QUILTING

May 3rd & 10th at 9:00 AM

BOOK CLUB

May 22nd at 7:00 PM



Spring Rummage and Vendor Sale

May 13th, 2017

Early Bird Admission from 7-8 AM (\$3.00).

Regular admission from 8-3. If you have any donations please feel free to leave them in the up-stairs Sunday School room marked rummage.

Volunteers are needed to help set-up tables following service on 5-7-17, with sorting items on 5-10-17 beginning at 4:00 PM and with providing bars and cookies to serve on sale day. Please contact Holly Wavra or Becky Egeland if you are able to help.

FISHER LUTHERAN

Women of the ELCA

Quilting: May 8th, 9th, 22nd & 23rd at 9:00 AM

December 14th– Bible Study at 9:00 AM (Brunch: Clorise & Etta)



“Coffee Time”: 2:30 PM at 4000 Valley Square-Woodside Village

Open House Bridal Shower

For Katie Baird
(Finance of Alex Engel)

May 20th 2:30-4:00

PM

Fisher Lutheran Church
Registered at Bed Bath
& Beyond and Target
Wedding is June 10th



Sign Making Party May 1st from 6:30-9 PM at the Fisher American Legion (proceeds go to the Fisher Youth Group). Please contact Hickory Backroads Boutique & Photography (218-487-5700 or 316-737-6231) or Tami Quam Byklum by email (tami@tvoc.org or 701-740-2935). Deadline is Thursday April 27th.



Fisher Lutheran Church Council

4-6-17

Members Present: Pastor Karen, Pres. Ken Miller, Reed Tinkham, Travis Schwarz, Gail Kasowski, Sheryl Tinkham, Kelly Bakken, Amanda Holte, Chad Knutson.

Secretary's Report- Read by Chad Knutson. Motion to approve by Kelly B., second by Gail K.

Treasurers' Report- Presented by Kelly B. for the months of January and February. Motion to approve by Sheryl T., Second by Chad K.

Pastor's Report- Presented by Pastor Karen. There will be a joint Council Meeting on June 21 @ 7:30 p.m. and the location is still to be determined. The Special Offering for the month of May will be Lift Kosova. There are new keys made for the Church doors.

Committee Reports- Technology Committee- HB Sound & Light received the down payment for the work on the sound system. They are waiting for the main power component to come in to their store before they can start the work.

Property Committee- Ken Miller pulled the carport lights apart and cleaned the lenses, he believes the church would be better off replacing the light and ballast with new LED lights. The Property Committee will visit with Josh Korynta of Valley Electric about replacement and installation of the new LED lights.

Parsonage Committee- Gail Kasowski reported that the property management company that was recently hired is doing an excellent job.

Old Business- Kelly B. is going to get an account number for Troy Newhouse to call Ecolab.

-Pastor Karen will look for guest chairs for her office.

-Kelly B. will cancel the account with GK Services on April 7, 2017.

-Kelly B. is working on the Wilma Tinkham Scholarship Fund.

-The Church purchased a new vacuum for \$549.98.

-Reed T. and Dave R. will take care of getting new rugs for the Church.

- The Icon Church Software will cost \$385 for the year's subscription.

-Mary Miller will fill in as Financial secretary until a replacement is found.

-Travis S. called the architectural firm about the blueprints for the church and received no response.

New Business- Fisher Junior Class requested the use of the Church for the Junior/Senior banquet on Friday evening May 5, 2017. Motion to approve: Pastor Karen, Second: Reed T.

Motion to adjourn @ 9:00 p.m. by Travis S, Second: Chad K.

Next Meeting date- May 3, 2017 @ 7:30 p.m.

Graduating Class of 2017



Madison Mae Schmitz: Fisher High School

Graduation Date: May 19th, 2017

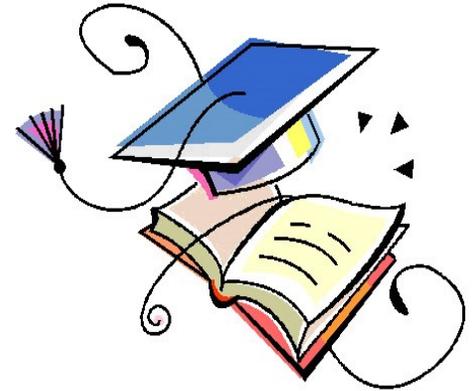
Parents: Scott and Tracey Schmitz

Baptism Sponsors: Loren and Laura Voightman

Plans after Graduation: Attending UND for nursing

Favorite Memory of Fisher Lutheran: Attending the ELCA youth gathering in Detroit

Madison is thankful for: Family & Friends



Tori Lynn Byklum: Fisher High School

Graduation Date: May 19th, 2017

Parents: Darrin and Tami Byklum

Baptism Sponsors: Kurt Quam, Donavon Quam, Paul & Michon Metzger

Plans after Graduation: Attend NCTC for general studies

Favorite Memory of Fisher Lutheran: Going Skiing and spending the night at Buena Vista in Bemidji.

Tori is thankful for: My parents for all their love and support through the years.



Elizabeth Love Abrahamson: Fisher High School

Graduation Date: May 19th, 2017

Parents: Bruce Abrahamson & Carmela Kobow

Baptism Sponsors: Christopher Abrahamson & Barb Holweger

Plans after Graduation: Majoring in biology at UND and continuing to med school for a doctorate in gynecology.

Favorite Memory of Fisher Lutheran: Detroit Trip in 2015 (mostly the ride there & back)

Elizabeth is thankful for: My Grandparents, for they are the reason why I have come this far and am so eager for the future.



Noah Xavier Dahlen: Fisher High School, also graduating as a PSEO student from Northland Community and Technical College may 12th with an A.A. Degree

Graduation date: May 19th, 2017

Parents: Andrew and Jennifer Dahlen

Baptism Sponsor: Carl Dahlen

Plans after Graduation: Attending UND in the fall as a Junior majoring in Bio-Chemistry

Favorite memory of Fisher Lutheran: Making Christmas Cookies in the Kitchen

Noah is thankful for: The support he has received throughout the church community and his community in Fisher.



Brittney Christine Knutson: Fisher High School

Graduation Date: May 19th, 2017

Parents: Alan Knutson and Sherry Hoffman Knutson

Baptism Sponsors: Elliott and Heather Knutson

Plans after Graduation: To attend UND and major in biology and minor in business. After UND she wants to attend UNC in Chapel Hill, NC for dental School. (my goal is to open and own a dental practice)

Favorite memory of Bygland Lutheran: The lutefisk dinner

Brittney is thankful for: All my family and friends that God has put in my life to support and guide me in all that I do. I am also very thankful for my church and pastor both at Bygland Lutheran and Grace Lutheran (Rochester, MN) that have helped me grow in faith and learn more about God.



Trace Thomas Conati: Fisher High School

Graduation Date: May 19th, 2017

Parents: Tom and Becky Conati

Baptism Sponsors: Cate and Ron Monson

Plans after Graduation: Plans to attend Northland Technical College in East Grand Forks to get a business degree

Favorite memory of Fisher Lutheran: Attending lock-ins at the church

Trace is thankful for: His parents



Evan Von Wurden: Fisher High School

Graduation Date: May 19th, 2017

Parents: Jon and Shelia Wurden

Baptism Sponsors: Darren and Jody O'Driscoll

Plans after Graduation: Plans to study Electrical Engineering at NDSU and has been accepted with

Recognition of outstanding academic achievement, he has also been invited to attend highest honors

Favorite Memory of Bygland Lutheran: Going to Sunday School with my sister Nickole

Evan is thankful for: I thankful for my wonderful and supportive Family



Kaylee Erin Haug: Fisher High School

Graduation Date: May 19th, 2017

Parent: Lizzy Haug

Baptism Sponsors: Melanie Miller and James Gagner, Chad and Kelsey Wardner

Plans after Graduation: Northland Technical college for Nursing

Kaylee is Thankful for: Thankful for my Mom and all her support



Jessica Lynn Ross: Fisher High School

Graduation Date: May 19th, 2017

Parents: Jon and Lisa Ross

Baptism Sponsors: Scott and Jaci Hanson

Plans after Graduation: Plans to attend the University of Minnesota Duluth and will major in biology and minor in visual arts

Favorite Memory of Fisher Lutheran: Helping out with Vacation Bible school

Jessica is thankful for: My Friends and family because without their support I couldn't accomplish⁸ as much as I do.

Morgen Schepper: East Grand Forks High School

Graduation Date: May 12th, 2017

Parents: Nate and Lisa Moe, and Aaron Schepper

Baptism Sponsors: Cory Dingman and Lisa Hasseldahlen

Plans after Graduation: Attending University of St. Cloud for Criminal justice

Favorite Memory of Bygland Lutheran: Confirmation Classes



The Fisher/Bygland Family would like to
Congratulate all this years graduates

Fisher Bygland Lutheran Parish

Pastor Karen Young Trenne

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Fisher Lutheran Church
Vacation Bible School
June 12-15, 2017, 4:15-7:30 pm
Kindergarten-Grade 6
All children are welcome!

Registration fee: Free will offering

(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)/guardian(s): _____
Street address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
Parent/guardian phone: _____
Parent/guardian phone: _____
Home email address: _____
Home church: _____
Allergies or other medical conditions: _____
In case of emergency and parent(s) cannot be reached, contact: _____
Phone: _____
Relationship to child: _____

- Children involved in the summer recreation program at the Fisher School will be escorted to the church at 4:00.
- Children not involved in the summer program and coming from daycare are WELCOME and encouraged to come at 5:35 for dinner, Bible Discovery or KidVid Cinema, Imagination Station, and Funshop Finale. These children will receive **all** of the take home items.
- Parents, please join us each evening at 6:50 for the Funshop Finale!
- We need many volunteers. Please consider helping for one or more evenings.
- Come after work at any time.
- Please call the parish office, 218-891-4632, with any questions. We look forward to a great VBS!

