

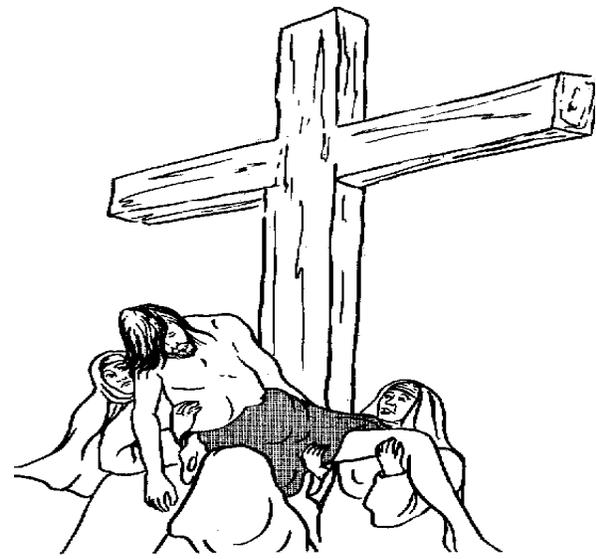
Newsletter for the Fisher Bygland Lutheran Parish



THE MESSENGER



From the Pastor's desk...



2018 – A Year of Worship

Gathering – Part Two

Did you know that many of the words and phrases that are a regular part of our worship life are actually from the scriptures? “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all,” is known as the Apostolic greeting. We use this at the beginning of our worship services. It is from 2 Corinthians 13:13, the end of St. Paul’s letter. It is where he is encouraging the Corinthian church to live together in peace and greet one another with a holy kiss. According to St. Paul, this is how Christians should greet each other every time we meet. We are mindful of the triune God’s presence in our everyday lives. We leave behind our arguments and disagreements for the sake of being in community with each other and communion with the Lord. Right from the beginning of our worship we are reminded that worship is not about spending time with God alone, but it is about being together to worship. Grace, love, and communion are central to our relationships with God and with each other.

Kyrie eleison is Greek for, “Lord, have mercy.” This is the congregation’s response, either in English or Greek, to prayer petitions offered at the beginning of worship. In the Kyrie, we call on God’s mercy for our broken and fallen world. These words are found throughout the scriptures. The Kyrie is followed by the hymn of praise, either “Glory to God in the Highest,” or “This is the Feast.” Here we lift up our voice in praise to God’s glory revealed in Jesus Christ. The “Glory to God” is used during Christmas and Epiphany because it echoes the song of the angels. This is found in Luke 2:14: “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” “This is the Feast” is used at all other times because it is the triumph song of Easter.

You may have noticed sometimes we use the Kyrie, sometimes the Hymn of Praise, sometimes both, and sometimes neither. There is a method to this madness! Basically here is the pattern: at penitential times (Advent and Lent) the Kyrie is used alone; on Sundays during ordinary time, when the green paraments are used, we have the Hymn of Praise alone; on festival Sundays (Christmas, Epiphany, Baptism of Our Lord, Transfiguration of Our Lord, all seven Sundays of Easter, Pentecost, Holy Trinity, Reformation, All Saints, and Christ the King) we use both the Kyrie and Hymn of Praise. Now, this is all a pattern that has been used in the church for centuries, but... none of it is set in stone. We don’t have to ever use the Kyrie or the Hymn of Praise. We use them because they enhance our worship, becoming a part of the fabric of our shared experience of God in our midst. Have you ever found yourself humming a part of the liturgy or praying the Kyrie when you didn’t know how to pray? Repeating the liturgy gives us Biblical resources to use when we do not have the Bible with us.

The Gathering closes with the Prayer of the Day, known in former times as the Collect. In this prayer we collect our thoughts as we prepare for the next part of worship, the WORD. The prayer uses themes from the appointed scriptures for the day to lift our voices together to God, calling upon his mercy and grace to bring us into a place where we can hear this Word for us and the world.

Next month we will explore the WORD. Until then, I hope to see you at worship!

~Pastor Karen

PARISH NEWS



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BYGLAND NEWS



BOOK CLUB RESUMES

Members of the book club will begin their 16th year when they meet at the church on Monday, March 26 (7:00).

At this meeting they will set their reading schedule for the year, which runs through November.

Members should bring titles of books they would recommend for the reading list. New members are always welcome - come join us for interesting discussions and good companionship.



A baby shower is being held for Kacie Tretter on Saturday, March 24th, 10:00 AM at the Grape Mill Winery, 18696 430th Ave SW, East Grand Forks, MN. Everyone is welcome. Kacie & Troy are expecting in May and are registered at Target and on Amazon.

FISHER NEWS

Women ^{of the} **ELCA** 

March 12th & 13th ~ 9:00 AM Quilting

March 21st ~ 9:00 AM Bible Study





Spring Gathering



Saturday, April 7, 2018

Registration/Coffee 8:30 - 9:00 AM

Fee: \$10.00 (Includes Lunch)

Kingo Lutheran Church

220 N. Johnson Ave ~ Fosston, Minnesota

Theme: *Change My Heart, O God*

*Theme Verse: "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and
renew a right spirit within me" - Psalm 51:10*



Speaker: *Briana Ingraham, Red Lake Falls*

"A Change of Heart" 



WELCA Unit Fees: \$15.00 for congregations under 300
\$30.00 for congregations 300 and over

Please make checks payable to: Women of the ELCA

Send to: Connie Haller, Financial Reporter
1413 S. Main Street
Crookston, MN 56716



Members present: Randy Moe, Jason Thorson, Wendy Waller, Karen Ebertowski, Marsha Ketring, Roger Krostue, Barry Traub, Eric Egeland, Pastor Trenne

Members absent: Ronnie Thorson, Steve Short, Sheila Wurden

Call to order-The meeting was called to order by Council President Eric Egeland at 8:10pm.

Devotions-Pastor Karen skipped devotions since we had all just come from the Ash Wednesday service.

Approval of agenda/addition of items-motion to approve by Karen E. and seconded by Randy M. *motion carried*

Secretary's report-read by Wendy Waller. Motion to approve by Randy M., seconded by Jason T.. *motion carried*

Treasurer's report-read by Randy Moe. Motion to approve by Wendy W., seconded by Barry T.. *motion carried*

Pastor's report-Pastor Karen read her report which included upcoming vacation days, and other upcoming events.

Old business:

- There are a couple furnace issues that need to have service called on. Randy Moe has spoken with Roger Moe about these and will call for repairs.
- The parsonage is in need of new tenants at some point this summer. Rent is \$1000/month plus utilities. There are some concerns regarding whether or not the tenants are behind on their utilities and if we'll have to cover those expenses. True Home Property Management handles all issues with the property. Pastor Karen will check to see if there is any additional information from True Home Property Management.
- 2 spots were not filled on the synod assembly at the annual meeting. Wendy Waller has agreed to take one of them.

New business:

- Reorganization of the committees: see the 2018 BLC Congregation Council sheet
- A question was brought up regarding whose names are on all the checking accounts. Karen E. said her and Becky Moe are on the family fellowship account. It was discussed that we should have a running record of who has access to all church funds.
- Marsha K. brought up membership issues. She feels that we have about 144 active member units but we are paying for 197 member units. Marsha was also concerned that some of the inactive members may not be receiving newsletters. We are currently mailing only about 25 newsletters. Most members have signed up for email newsletters. For clarification, our bylaws state that a
 - member must give an offering of record OR worship & commune at least once during a year to be an active member. Pastor Karen and Jami Egeland will go through the rosters and compare. Pastor Karen will bring this information to the next meeting.
- The new secretary Wendy W., will email out meeting reminders as well as the unapproved minutes.

Next meeting date: March 14th, 2018 (Eric Egeland is OT-subject to rescheduling)

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A motion was made by Randy Moe to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Roger Krostue. The meeting was adjourned. Pastor Karen closed with the Lord's Prayer.

2-7-18

Members Present- Pres. Reed Tinkham, Pastor Karen, Andrea Marshall, John Mcdonald, Gail Kasowski, Travis Schwarz, Chad Knutson, Ken Miller.

Called to Order at 7:36 pm.

Devotions were led by Pastor Karen.

Secretary's Report- The January minutes were reviewed by the Council. Motion to Approve: Travis Schwarz, second: Ken Miller.

Treasurer's Report- Presented by Andrea Marshall. Motion to approve: John Mcdonald, second: Gail Kasowski.

Pastor's Report- Presented by Pastor Karen, she stated that there will be a Supply Pastor for March 2 -10.

A Motion was made by Travis Schwarz to approve the use of the Church for the February Baptisms, second by Gail Kasowski. Motion carried.

Parsonage Report- Presented by Gail Kasowski.

Old Business- \$1,000 from the General Fund will be given to Valley Memorial Homes Capital Appeal. A Motion was made by Travis Schwarz to give the Youth Group \$200 for providing the meal for the Annual Meeting, seconded by Ken Miller. Motion carried.

The Nominating Committee will re-assemble to fill the 2 year Council position term that is currently vacant.

New Business- The Council updated the Committee Assignments.

The Thrivent Choice Dollars allocations were tabled until the March Council meeting.

The Special Offerings schedule was tabled until the March Council meeting.

The February Special Offerings will be Valley Memorial Homes and Faith Comes by Hearing Bible Sticks.

The Council discussed VANCO Electronic Giving.

An updated 2016 Annual Treasurer's Report needs to be approved by the Congregational Committee.

A motion was made by John Mcdonald to allow use of the Church for a Bridal Shower on March 31, seconded by Gail Kasowski. Motion carried.



Fisher Bygland Lutheran Parish

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A Letter to God's People of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod ELCA

January 1, 2018

Festival of the name of Jesus



Dear Servants of Christ,

Greetings as we begin this New Year of God's grace. May 2018 bring you abundant joy, renewed hope in Christ, and rich opportunities to serve God's mission in the world!

Today I am pleased to announce some wonderful news. A generous donor who belongs to one of our synod's congregations has stepped forward to offer an exciting **matching gift challenge** to all of us during 2018.

In gratitude for God's many blessings in his life, the donor wishes to offer **a dollar for dollar match** for all gifts given by congregations, organizations or individuals to

- the **Northwestern Minnesota Synod Fund for Leaders Endowment** (to provide scholarships for ELCA seminary students from our synod), and/or
- the **Northwestern Minnesota Synod Next Generation Fund** (to provide grants for educational debt relief to pastors and deacons serving their first calls in our synod).

This matching gift challenge will apply to all contributions to these two funds that are mailed to the synod office **between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018.**

In addition to helping us address our need for more "homegrown" pastors and deacons in northwestern Minnesota, all gifts to the synod's Fund for Leaders Endowment also count toward our synod's \$4.75 million goal for the **Campaign for the ELCA.**

(Gifts to the Next Generation Fund do not count toward the ELCA Campaign.)

Our friendly donor hopes that his **dollar for dollar matching gifts** will inspire and motivate us all to "shoot the moon" in contributing to these two funds, so that the cost of theological education for ministry will not hamper anyone from answering God's call to serve.

Please share this letter with your congregational council and fellow church members, and be on the lookout for additional information and promotional materials to help you and others respond to this challenge during 2018. *God bless your faithful generosity!*

In Christ,

Lawrence R. Wohlrabe

Bishop, Northwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

