

THE MESSENGER



From the Pastor's desk...



Leaving a Legacy

She has performed a good service [tr. A beautiful thing] for me... Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.- Mark 14:6-9

The Fisher Lutheran Council has transferred the money from the Wilma Tinkham Scholarship Fund to the Northwestern Minnesota Synod Fund for Leader Endowment. The Tinkham Scholarship fund was set up to provide scholarships for students from Fisher Lutheran to go to Concordia College. It was set up when interest rates were high with the intention of just using the interest to provide the scholarships. It has not been used for several years and was making hardly any interest anymore. Our Conference Assembly voting members heard about the need for scholarships for candidates for ordained ministry from our synod who might not go to seminary otherwise. They made the suggestion to move the funds. This will be a lasting legacy.

It has been a while since I have addressed the issue of bequests and designated gifts. Both Fisher and Bygland have been the beneficiaries of some significant gifts that have helped to build and maintain the current buildings and ministries of the congregations. These gifts have been a great blessing to us. These gifts have allowed us to continue to focus on our mission and ministry, enabling us to be a blessing to others. A bequest or designated gift to our congregations is a loving and faithful way of sharing in ministry here. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact me or your congregation's president.

You may also want to prayerfully consider a gift to the Northwestern Minnesota Synod or the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America directly. Both church entities have ways for you to do this that will be a benefit for the life of the church for years to come. If you would like to make a gift to the Northwestern Minnesota Synod, go to www.nwmnsynod.org/donate or contact Bishop Larry Wohlrabe at (800) 452-3692. You may contact the ELCA Foundation at (773) 380-2970 for more information or to set up an appointment with a Regional Gift Planner. Information and resources are also available online at www.ELCA.org/foundation.

The woman from Bethany broke the jar of fragrance to give Jesus a priceless gift and show her love, no matter the cost. Jesus recognized the beauty in her gift. Jesus' gift to her and to us is to give himself completely and selflessly so that we may know life and life in abundance. Like the woman, you too can demonstrate your love for Jesus and this church. Leaving a legacy gift is one way to do that.

~Pastor Karen

PARISH NEWS

What volunteer opportunities are available at Valley Memorial Homes?



Valley Memorial Homes is looking for volunteers from our corporate churches to help out with the Church Services within our facilities. Volunteers can come in groups or as an individual. These volunteers would assist the Chaplain with communion on the first Sunday of the month at Valley Eldercare Center and 4000 Valley Square. Please let us know if you have any interested volunteers from your church and when they would be able to come. Church Service at VEC is at 10am and 4000 Valley Square's is a 11AM.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities please contact Kaley at

[701-787- 7984](tel:701-787-7984) or klittlejohn@valleymemorial.org.

Fair Hills Women's Retreat

June 12th-13th, 2017

"Finding Peace in a Busy World"

Guest speaker: Rhoda Habedank

The Bethesda Society will be hosting their Annual Ice Cream Social on Sunday, June 25th from 2:00-4:00pm at Valley Memorial Homes, 4000 Valley Square, 4000 24th Ave S, Grand Forks. Event open to the community, free Will offering to support Chaplaincy Ministry at VMH.



Fisher Lutheran Church

Vacation Bible School

June 12-15, 2017, 4:15-7:30 pm

Kindergarten-Grade 6

All children are welcome!

Registration forms are in the
narthex at both church's



OUR PARISH FAMILY



Our sympathy Goes out to Barb Short's family and friends. She touched so many lives in her many years as Bygland's organist, teaching at Fisher School, and involvement in the community. Her funeral was May 18th at Bygland. church.

FISHER MINUTES

FISHER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

5-3-17

Members Present: Pastor Karen, Pres. Ken Miller, Reed Tinkham, Gail Kasowski, Sheryl Tinkham, Kelly Bakken, Amanda Holte, Darryl Quern.

Secretary's report was read by council. Motion to approve by Reed, seconded by Darryl Q.

Kelly B. presented the Treasurer's report for March. Motion by Darryl and seconded by Gail to approve report as presented. MC

Pastor Karen's report: Joint Council Meeting on June 21st will be at Fisher Lutheran; the November meeting will be at Bygland Lutheran.

Special Offerings for the month of May is Lift Kosova and the Military Bible Sticks program.

A discussion was held about hosting an Ecumenical celebration of the 500th year of Reformation this fall sometime.

CORRESPONDENCES: Dale and Marla Carlson of EGF gave a gift to the Sunshine Hospitality House to be constructed in Grand Forks in honor of Fisher Lutheran's help in the flood recovery.

A note of thanks was received from the ELCA for our support of Willy and Anne Langdji; missionaries serving in Africa.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Technology- HB Sound is still waiting for the needed components.

Property- Ken and Reed will trim shrubs and Ken will spray for weeds around the church and cemetery. Reed will investigate pavement repair options. Canopy lights have been replaced by Valley Electric.

Education- VBS will be held June 12-15

OLD BUSINESS

Wilma Tinkham Scholarship Fund has been closed and monies sent to the ELCA FUND for LEADERS which provides seminary scholarships to talented students who will become the future leaders of this church.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Reed and seconded by Gail to have Jami Egeland paid by Fisher Lutheran to do the recording and make deposits for the Financial Secretary of the church. MC

Kelly Halvorson will continue as Financial Secretary on the council to present Jami's monthly report.

Motion by Gail and seconded by Kelly B. to approve a request to have the altar candle holders replaced with new ones designed to compliment the Paschel candle stand. MC

Next Meeting date is June 7, 2017 at 7:30

Joint Council Meeting date is June 21st at 7:30 in Fisher

Meeting adjourned with all praying the Lord's Prayer.

BYGLAND LUTHERAN NEWS

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 29, 2017: Jeff Millar, Steve Moe, Roger Moe, Randy Moe, Alan Halvorson, Eric Egeland, Rylan Egeland, Logan Egeland, Holly Wavra, Kent Wavra, Zach Wavra, Reighan Wavra, and Kathy Flaas. You have engaged in an opportunity to demonstrate care and respect towards our beautiful earth. It was a beautiful, sunny day to be out serving with our family, friends, and neighbors. It was fun to observe the life of the land around us. We thank you for your time and energy. We give a special thank you to Jeff Millar for providing some door prizes for the day and to the Thrivent Financial Group for providing funds for a delicious lunch for us to enjoy.

All friends, neighbors, and parish members are welcome to participate in our program. Mark your calendar for our next collection date: Saturday, September 9th, 2017 starting at 10:00 a.m. Participants will meet at the Bygland Lutheran Church, south door.

Book Club

Book club members will gather in Ardis' screen house (7:00) on Monday, June 26, to discuss THE ORPHAN'S TALE (Pam Jenoff). New members are always welcome!

Bygland Quilting

June 7th & 14th at 9:00 AM



FISHER NEWS



FISHER CITY WIDE RUMMAGE SALE

Fisher Lutheran Church

June 3rd 8:00 AM– 3:00 PM

Women of the ELCA 

June 21st– Bible study at 9:00 AM

June 26th & 27th– Quilting at 9:00 AM

BYGLAND MINUTES

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, 2017 7:30pm

Members present: Roger Moe, Marsha Ketring, Karen Ebertowski, Haley Thorson, Eric Egeland, Randy Moe, and Pastor Karen

Members absent: Pam Robertson, Alan Halvorson, Ronnie Thorson, Sheila Wurden and Troy Pecka

Call to Order

The council meeting was called to order by Council President Roger Moe at 7:30pm and Pastor Karen opened the meeting with prayer and discussed the devotions focused on translated Word.

Secretary's Report

Haley provided a copy of the April minutes.

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

Treasurer's Report

Randy provided a balance sheet for April. There was nothing of significance to note.

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

Pastor's Report

Pastor Karen provided a statistical report for April. There were no baptisms, weddings, funerals or new members. The first communions of Logan Egeland and Desiree Moltzan were held on Maundy Thursday. She noted that the Area Ministry Strategy Meeting focused their discussions on the changing church related to clergy shortage, etc. The Joint Catholic –Lutheran Theological Day is in the planning stages and there has been encouragement to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. They are looking at holding this in Fisher, possibly at the school.

Old Business

Church Maintenance

No updates on the door replacement or furnace.

AED

Holly Wavra attended to present some additional information acquired on the AED purchase for the church. She spoke with an individual/CPR trainer from Crookston who also was recently involved in the purchase of an AED in her home congregation. They had purchased and recommended the model/package Haley has shared with the council at the April meeting. This model is also recommended by Altru and the EGF Fire Dept as they would be the first responders to an incident and this equipment would be compatible with their own. She also shared a grant opportunity through Halstad Telephone Company that may assist with the cost of the device. She offered to pursue the funding opportunity and purchase the AED.

A motion to purchase an AED/ and accompanying equipment (up to \$1200) was made by Eric and seconded by Haley with the idea that the potential Halstad funding may reimburse the church. All were in favor and the motion carried.

New Business

Church Mutual

Offered a Heat and Water Sensor program to assist with monitoring efficiencies. This program is free for 3 years. The council decided the church could benefit from the information retrieved from the program and cancel if necessary.

Vanco Payments

This company has offered free information regarding the ability for members of the congregation to provide offering in electronic form. This company is different than another electronic funds system trialled at Bygland in the past. Haley recommended at least receiving the information to assess if it is worth pursuing.

Pathways

A letter was received from Pathways seeking addition funding as we head into camp season. Pastor Karen inquired if it would be helpful to Pathways if we provided/prepaid our annual suggested donation early to help the organization cover costs. They indicated that it would be very helpful.

A motion to prepay the \$3.75/baptized BLC member to Pathways this spring vs. later in the year was made by Haley and seconded by Karen. All were in favor, motion carried.

Next Meeting Date: June 14th, 7:30pm

Adjourn

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

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Haley Thorson, BLC Council Secretary



Another Sunday school year has come to a close here at Bygland Lutheran Church. The season ended with the students presenting their favorite parables to the congregation at large. They did a wonderful job! Each student added their own personal flare into showing what they learned, making the presentations very enjoyable to listen to. End of the year awards were also given for participation, attendance, and service work.

Without adieu, we would like to thank each of the Sunday school families and the congregation for all the support and generosity in making our program as successful as it is. We couldn't do it without you!

A special thank you to all the families that participated in making our Easter breakfast a continued tradition here at Bygland Lutheran Church. To those that woke up extra early to prepare the food; to the servers; to the pancake flippers; and to all those we served. An extra special thank you to Troy & Patty Pecka for coordinating the breakfast.

A special thank you to all of the members who participated in supporting our Feed My Starving Children service project ~ those who purchased and filled M & M tubes; those who packed food at the packing event; and those who prayed for the children getting this food. What an amazing project to be a part of! Thank you to Becky Egeland for coordinating our packing group.

We look forward to another fun Sunday school season starting with Rally Sunday on Sunday, September 10, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. If you have a child that is new to our program and/or congregation, please contact Holly Wavra, (218) 893-4261 for more information on getting registered.

Proverbs 22:6

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

The Bygland Lutheran Church Middle School Youth Group has met their fundraising goal and will be preparing to inspire faith, stewardship, and community in God's creation along the Mississippi River July 29 – August 4, 2017. The youth group will be partnering with Luther Crest Bible Camp for an unforgettable mission opportunity to provide service along the Mississippi River. They will be traveling by coach bus along the river from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, to Illinois, jumping into local service projects and soaking in fun sites along the way. Partnering churches will be hosting the overnight stays and the Bible components of this trip! It is going to be an amazing adventure for our youth! Please join us when we return for a temple talk to hear about our journey.



This trip would not be possible without the support and generosity of our youth families and our faith community. We thank you for supporting all fundraising projects that made this trip possible including the following: September caramel roll and juice gathering; “Winter Blues” bake sale; pancake and sausage breakfast hosted at the East Grand Forks VFW Club; and the 2016 & 2017 Spring rummage and vendor sales.

All of our youth and families should be celebrated for their on-going participation and efforts! Way to go!

A special thank you to the East Grand Forks VFW Club for hosting our pancake breakfast and to the East Grand Forks Eagles Club for their generous monetary donation.

The 2017 Spring Rummage and Vendor Sale went off without a hitch. Thank you to all of those who participated: to those who brought and bought rummage; to those who helped move tables and set-up; to those who sorted rummage; to those who brought and served bars; to those who purchased from the vendors; and finally to those who helped us clean up. A special thank you to the participating vendors for sharing their wonderful wares with us: Brenda Kovar (Pampered Chef); Kari Jeuch (Younique); Barb Jorgenson (Tastefully Simple); Rhandi Kinney (LulaRoe); Patti Peterson (Origami Owl); Becky Egeland (Wildtree); Alice Anderson (Young Living); Roxy Hoverson (Magnolia & Vine); and Shelly Walsh (Clever Container). A continued thank you to the Dakota Boys Ranch for picking up and taking all of our unsold items. Thanks also to Kent Wavra for providing all the posted signage throughout the community and at the church.

Fisher Bygland Lutheran Parish

Pastor Karen Young Trenne

209 2nd St. S. P.O. Box 127 Fisher, MN 56723

Parish Office: 218-891-4632 Pastor Karen's Cell: 701-610-3543

Messenger Editor: Jami Egeland office@fisherbygland.org