Newsletter for the Fisher/Bygland Lutheran Parish ~ November 2026

# THE MESSENGER

## *From the Pastor's desk...*

"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! ... Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known." — 1 John 3:1–2

**Friends,**

I have had the privilege of leading worship with you all at Fisher Bygland Lutheran Parish for some time now, but this is my first official pastoral letter to you. As a result, I have been wracking my brain for something clever, profound, and disarmingly wise to share. Something that might set an inspiring vision for us to reach toward as a church in this next season together!

But then I landed on this passage from 1 John, and, as usual, I found myself humbled by God's Word.

In this passage, the writer is speaking to a church facing new teachers who are supposedly bringing them "new knowledge"—knowledge they have been missing, knowledge that will finally save them and solve their problems. But the writer is telling them not to buy into it. Why? Because there is nothing fundamentally missing from who they are. They are already children of God. God simply isn't finished writing their story yet.

I'm humbled by this, not because I don't believe God is taking us somewhere good and beautiful as a community, but because I know that God won't be found at the heights of some new thing I can give you or some new thing you need to discover. You already have what matters most. You have the Gospel that has been at work in these communities since 1880, when you were known as the Red Lake River Lutheran Congregation and the Bygland Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation.

The truth is, it's not the job of a church to aspire to become something more before it can embrace who it already is. After all, love is never found in our aspirations alone. It can only be embraced in the present. Love doesn't wait for change; it embraces us as we are and, in doing so, allows us to change.

That is the God whom 1 John tells us "is love," and that is how we will come to know and see God among us in this next season: by continuing to love one another, continuing to honor one another as God's children, and continuing to be excited about what comes next as we grow together in that grace.

What will that be?

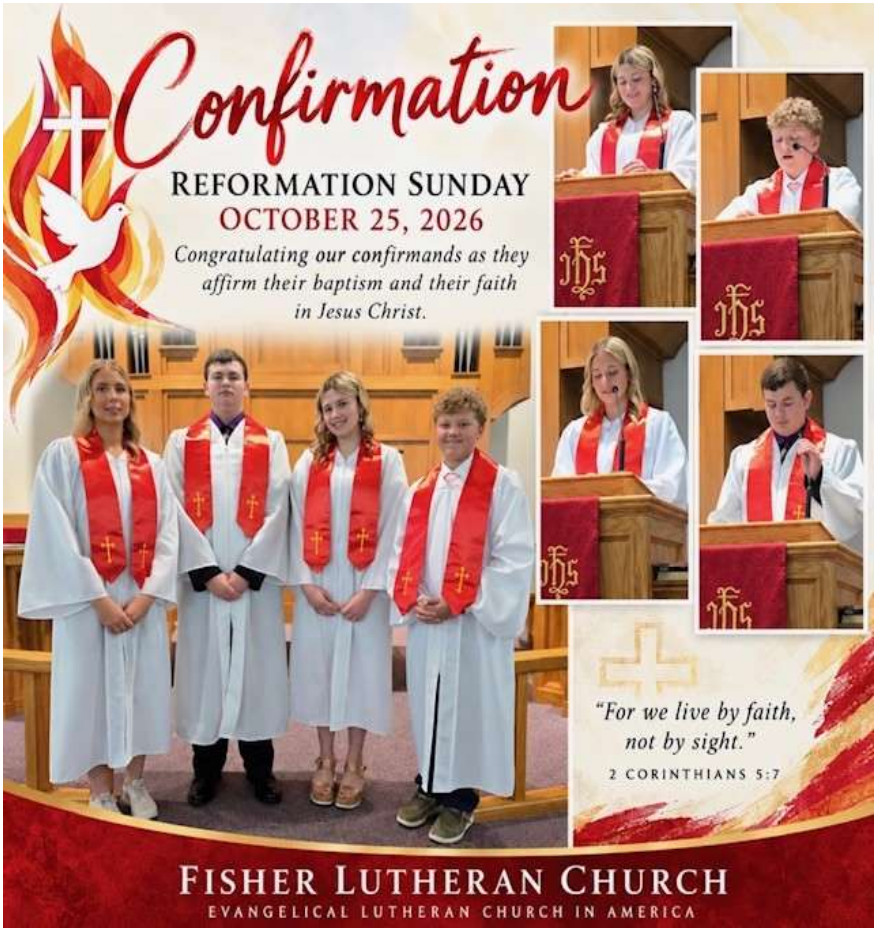
Well, as the writer of 1 John reminds us, "what we will be has not yet been made known."

So, I hope to see you each week. I don't want to miss out on whatever God has planned for us, and it's a whole lot easier to love our way into it when you're there, too.

**Grace & Peace,**
Pastor Michael Ozaki



# Fisher & Bygland Confirmation Class of 2026











# Women of the ELCA

*Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.*

*Women of Faith Serving with Love*

## OUR MISSION

Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

## OUR PURPOSE

"As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world."

## FISHER LUTHERAN WELCA FALL 2026 BIBLE STUDY

# "Bold Faith on an Unexpected Journey"

**A three-part Bible study by the Rev. Tiffany Chaney**



### SESSION ONE

*"Encountering God in the Wilderness."*

**September 16, 2026 @ 9:00 AM**

Faith often leads us down paths we didn't expect—into wilderness places, across unfamiliar lands, and through seasons of grief and hope. This three-session study takes us on a journey with Hagar, Ruth and Mary Magdalene, women whose bold faith transformed their unexpected stories. Their encounters with God remind us that we, too, are seen, sustained and sent to carry good news into the world.

**Session One:** Hagar, an enslaved woman pushed to the margins, encounters God in the wilderness. When she believes all hope is lost, God sees her, hears her and reshapes her story. Her witness reminds us that God meets us in deserted places with vision and promise. This session invites participants to consider who is marginalized in our world today and to reflect on how God sees both them and us in our own wilderness experiences.

## NW MN SWO 38th Annual Convention

### Keynote Speaker



**Gaye Lindfors**

Inspirational Christian Speaker and Author. Native of Climax, MN. Leading a human resources department that supported 11,000 employees and serving as Special Assistant to a university president are career highlights. I have an M.A. in Industrial Relations and have served in leadership roles in associations, non-profits, and volunteer and professional women's organizations. It was a joy to serve as president of the National Speakers Association/Minnesota chapter, and as Regional Director for Christian Women in Media. Volunteering rocks! My husband Steve and I live in St. Paul, MN. "Ooftah" is one of my favorite words and I believe problems are most quickly solved when Hawaiian pizza or chips and salsa show up ... or Haagen-Dazs ice cream. Football, jazz, small town cafes, and books create some of my Happy Places.

Check out nwmnsynod.org for more information and updates along with Registration and Application Forms.

### Tentative Schedule

| Date | Time | Event |
|---|---|---|
| Friday | 1:00 - 2:00 PM | Registration |
| | 2:00 - 4:30 PM | Business Meeting |
| | 4:45 - 5:00 PM | Devotions |
| | 5:00 - 6:00 PM | Banquet |
| | 6:00 - 7:00 PM | Entertainment: Songfest, Led by Pastor Michele Jensen |
| Saturday | 8:00 - 9:00 AM | Registration & Coffee/Water & Muffins |
| | 9:00 - 9:30 AM | Welcome and Opening Devotions |
| | 9:30 - 10:30 AM | Bible Study with Pastor Rebel Hurd |
| | 10:30 - 10:45 AM | Break - Refreshments provided |
| | 10:45 - 12:00 Noon | Keynote Speaker - Gaye Lindfors |
| | Noon - 1:00 PM | Lunch |
| | 1:00 - 1:45 PM | Breakout Sessions |
| | 1:45 - 2:00 PM | Break - Refreshments provided |
| | 2:00 - 2:45 PM | Breakout Sessions |
| | 3:00 PM | Closing Worship with Bishop Bill Tesch |

*Mary Magdalene Awards Presentation will be on Saturday. (Time to be determined)*




## WELCA Leadership Day!

**Friday, Oct. 30, 2026**
**9:30 – 3:00**
**Little Norway Church**
**10802 423rd St SE Fertile, MN**

If you are a leader in your unit, conference or the synod – you are invited! We are here to help you succeed in your role!

Special speaker: Pastor Gentle Nettland

• • • • • • • • •

No charge • good food • good fellowship

**To Register:**
Contact Marlene Block (SWO Board Member)
marleneb@gvtel.com or call 218-289-4046
by Oct. 15th

*Join us!*

## PATCHWORK PARISHIONERS

**FISHER LUTHERAN QUILTING**

*Volunteer to Quilt for Kids and Families in Need*

**Join us**
**September 21st & 22nd**
**9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

*All Women Are Welcome!*

# Fisher Lutheran Christmas Poinsettias

**If you are interested in providing a poinsettia a to be displayed at church during Christmas, please fill out this form and give it to Sheryl or place it in the "altar" mailbox in the narthex along with a check or cash.**

***Please make checks out to Fisher Lutheran with "plant" on the memo line or call/text Sheryl at 701-740-8481 with your order.**

**Orders need to be in by Sun. December 6th**

**Cost: 61/2 " Single Plant (5-7 blooms) $12.00**

**Red, White, or Pink**

**(Substitution with red if colors sell out)**

**71/2" Double (10-15 blooms) $20.00 each**

***Available in Red or White only**

**10" Triple (15 plus blooms) $35.00 each**

***Available in Red or White only**

**Color_____Size_____**



**YOUR NAME_____**

**IN MEMORY OR HONOR OF: (OPTIONAL)**

**_____**



# 2026 CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

- [ ] September 27th (6th-9th Grade)
- [ ] October 11th (6th-9th Grade)
- [ ] October 25th (Confirmation Ceremony for 9th )
- [ ] November 8th (8th Grade)
- [ ] November 22nd (6th & 7th Grade)
- [ ] December 13th (8th Grade)
- [ ] December 20th (6th & 7th Grade)
- [ ] January 10th (8th Grade)
- [ ] January 24th (6th & 7th Grade)
- [ ] February 21st (8th Grade)
- [ ] February 28th (6th & 7th Grade)
- [ ] March 14th (6th-8th Grade)
- [ ] April 11th (8th Grade)
- [ ] April 18th (6th & 7th Grade)
- [ ] May 16th (6th-8th Grade)

**Important Dates to Remember:**

- **9th Grade Faith Statements Due: October 25th, 2026**
- **9th Grade Confirmation: October 25th, 2026**

Youth Events will be added throughout the year by the youth committee and all confirmands are encouraged to participate.

## CCML Season 74 — Crookston Civic Music League

**ENTERTAINMENT SERIES 2026-2027**

All performances in Crookston High School Auditorium
Concert admission by SEASON TICKET ONLY
www.crookstoncivicmusicleague.com Find us on Facebook

### THE 70's SHOW--Starring Jim Witter

**Friday, September 18, 2026 7:00 p.m.**



It's 1979, it's Saturday night and Jim's parents have gone away for the weekend! You know what that means...it's time to party! Slip in through the back door so the neighbors don't notice and get ready for a great night of amazing "current" music from the 70's. Jim and his friends have been practicing for the talent show at school and are ready to perform hits like "Midnight at the Oasis," "Bad Bad Leroy Brown," "Killing Me Softly," "Tie a Yellow Ribbon," and many more. It's going to be a boss time, but not too loud or else the neighbors might call the fuzz! The lava lamps will be bubbling and everyone will be decked out in their 70's best attire!!!

### NU-BLU

**Thursday, October 22, 2026 7:00 p.m. .**



North Carolina based **Nu-Blu** has quickly established their group as one of the top acoustic acts in the music industry. Led by husband and wife Daniel (guitar, vocals) and Carolyn Routh (bass, vocals), Austin Hefflefinger on banjo, and Justin Harrison on mandolin, Nu-Blu delivers a warm, layered Appalachian sound. Blending seamless vocal harmonies, they deliver upbeat, blazing fingers pick work as well as gentle, heartwarming ballads, all with a natural togetherness that can't be faked, creating a connection with the audience and variety to suit fans of any music genre.

### GOING GERSHWIN--Ryan and Ryan

**Sunday, November 22, 2026 7:00 p.m.**



**Ryan and Ryan** celebrate one of America's greatest composers--George Gershwin. The dynamic father-son piano duo draws upon classic and contemporary music to create enthralling concert experiences. A native of Trinidad and Tobago, Donald came to the United States to study music, earning degrees from Oral Roberts University and the University of Tulsa. Barron has been playing piano since the age of four. He distinguished himself in piano studies at the University of Oklahoma and has been a featured soloist across the United States and internationally. Donald and Barron amaze audiences with their skill, expressiveness, and love of making music.

### THE JERSEY TENORS

**Thursday, January 28, 2027 7:00 p.m.**



**The Jersey Tenors** are an Opera/Rock Mash-up sensation, creating an explosive blend of iconic opera classics alongside Rock'N Roll greats like Queen, Elton John, and Bon Jovi to name a few. They are also Jersey Proud--and do not forget where they came from, so they have highlighted some of Jersey's finest like Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons, Frank Sinatra, Bruce Springsteen, Kool & the Gang, and Jersey girl Whitney Houston! These four charming wise guys will raise the roof with their powerful voices--and you'll be singing along before *yous guys* know it.

### ArcoStrum

**Saturday, February 20, 2027 7:00 p.m.**



Ty and Strauss met at the Juilliard School and soon discovered their chemistry not only as friends but in music-making. **ArcoStrum** is committed to pushing boundaries and redefining the 21st century violin-guitar art form, presenting a new chamber music that is mixed-genre, multi-cultural and cross-era. Merging Eastern and Western cultures, ArcoStrum seamlessly combines the evocative sounds of traditional Chinese instruments like the erhu and dizi with the virtuosity of classical violin, guitar, and electric guitar. ArcoStrum's innovative program offers an immersive, movie-like experience that promises a transformative musical journey that transcends boundaries.

### ONE OF THESE NIGHTS

**Sunday, May 9, 2027 7:00 p.m.**



Get ready to be transported back to the golden era of classic rock as **ONE OF THESE NIGHTS** takes the stage! This extraordinary band brings to life the timeless music of the Eagles, one of the most iconic and beloved rock bands in American history. From their flawless harmonies to their electrifying guitar solos, every note and lyric is expertly recreated, delivering an authentic and captivating performance. ONE OF THESE NIGHTS captures the spirit and essence of the Eagles, channeling their unique blend of rock, country, and folk into an unforgettable live experience.

## Fisher Bygland Parish

We are affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and a member of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod. We are a two-point parish, serving the members of Fisher and Bygland

**Bygland Lutheran Church**
40976 235th St. SW
Fisher, MN 56723
218893-4243

**Mission**

*"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."*

**Fisher Lutheran Church**
209 2nd St. S.
Fisher, MN 56723
218-891-4632

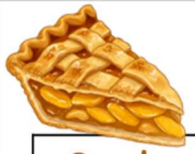
**Mission**

*As children of God, we invite all people to journey with us as we worship, grow in faith and serve in Jesus' name.*

**Email**
office@fisherbygland.org
pastor@fisherbygland.org

**Worship Services**
9:00 AM & 11:00 AM
Fisher and Bygland have alternating times each week.
Please view the calendar for worship times & locations!

***Fisher services streamed online via Facebook***

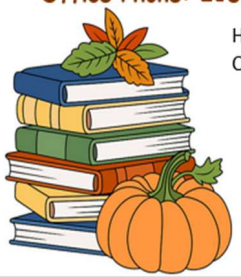


# Fisher Bygland Lutheran Parish November 2026



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 **All Saints Day**<br>9:00 AM Worship at Fisher<br>10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship<br>11:00 AM Worship at Bygland<br>*Noisy Offering*<br>*BLC Bible Sunday* | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 **Noisy Offering**<br>9:00 AM Worship at Fisher<br>10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship<br>11:00 AM Worship at Bygland<br>12:30 PM Confirmation | 9<br>9:00 AM Quilting at Fisher | 10<br>9:00 AM Quilting at Fisher | 11<br>7:00 PM Bygland Council<br> | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15<br>9:00 AM Worship at Bygland<br>10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship<br>11:00 AM Worship at Fisher | 16 | 17 | 18<br>9:00 AM WELCA Bible Study<br>7:30 PM Fisher Council | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22<br>9:00 AM Worship at Fisher<br>10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship<br>11:00 AM Worship at Bygland<br>12:30 Confirmation | 23<br>9:00 AM Quilting at Fisher | 24<br>9:00 AM Quilting at Fisher | 25 | 26<br> | 27 | 28 |
| 29<br>9:00 AM Worship at Bygland<br>*No BLC Sunday School*<br>10:00 AM Coffee Fellowship<br>11:00 AM Worship at Fisher | 30 | | | | | |

**Pastor Michael Ozaki (2nd - 4th)**
**Pastor Janina McKelvey (1st)**
**Secretary: Hayley Childress**
**Office Phone: 218-891-4632**



Holy Communion

**Bygland**

**Ushers:** Kent Wavra
**Altar:** Rachel Traub & Mary Don Krostue
**Work Group 1:** Al & Linda Halvorson
Jeff Millar

**Fisher**

**Head Usher:** Chad Knutson
**Altar:** Randy & Valerie
**Work Group 3:** Harlen & Vicky Korynta
Brian & Lori Morken

