Newsletter for the Fisher Bygland Lutheran Parish Lutheran Parish December 2022

THE MESSENGER From the Pastor's desk...



Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could as or imagine by his power as work within us. Ephesians 3:20

How I love, love, love this festive holiday season focusing on the timeless gift of the Christ child. Happy season of preparation! In recent weeks, my heart and eyes have been awakened to the vast needs of the hungry and homeless within our local community. My husband, Kirby and I were honored to have been invited, thank you Jean Peterson, to attend the 80th anniversary banguet for the



Northlands Rescue Mission. This year through the generosity of the mission's efforts families have received 4871 food boxes. The Mobile Food Pantry has served 1025 families in 11 communities. The Backpack Program is feeding 1129 children each week and volunteers have dedicated 3700 hours of service to those in need. My sincere hope for us as a parish for 2023 is to consider actively participating in the mission of Northlands Rescue Mission. The needs are endless. For instance, as a parish we may consider committing to serving a meal on a monthly basis. Individuals and families of all ages can participate. Or we could volunteer our time to visiting with the clients of the mission sharing words of hope and love in the name of Jesus. Beginning in January we will be collecting non-perishable items to donate to the food panty. Please take time to purchase non-perishable items the next time you make a trip to the grocery store and bring them to the church, so that we can contribute to the immense need to feed the hungry. Let's do this! Please contact me regarding your willingness or interest in committing to changing lives through love and service.

Sharing Christ's Service, Pastor Gretchen

A message from our Parish Secretary

During this season of thanksgiving, I want to express my gratitude to both parishes and councils for the continuing support and investment in my leadership serving you as your secretary. It has been and continues to be a blessing to be of service to the wonderful people of these congregations. I'm so thankful for all of you. Merry Christmas!!!

Special thank you to The Fisher Parish and Council for the beautiful flowers and chippers. They are gorgeous and delicious!





BYGLAND NEWS

Bygland Lutheran Sunday school cordially invites you to experience the story of the nativity in a whole new light! Join us on Sunday, December 11th at 6:00 p.m. at Bygland Lutheran Church. The program will start promptly at 6:00 p.m. A Christmas cookie reception will follow the program in the church dining hall.

All are welcome!



PARISH NEWS

The Women's retreat has been cancelled due to lack of participants. Please connect with Pastor Gretchen if you have and further questions.

Congratulations to our BLC/FLC Confirmands on Oct. 30th.

FLC: Kadence Korynta and Malene Reitmeier

BLC: Avynn Thorson, Sophie Pecka and Reighan Wavra





Thanks to all of you who came to help me celebrate my 90th Birthday. Many friends from church and the community. I also want to thank everyone for all the beautiful cards I received.

Love Vivian



Both Fisher and Bygland youth, gathered at Luther Crest Bible Camp in Alexandria Nov. 19th & 20th. The theme was Who is my Neighbor? They enjoyed gathering together and learning on how to be better neighbors. A special thank you to our adult chaperones, Kelli Korynta, Travis Schwarz, Laura Arnold and Racheal Traub!!



Luke 10:22-37

²²All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."
²³Then turning to the disciples, Jesus said to them privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! ²⁴For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it."
²⁵Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"
²⁶He said to him,

"What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." ²⁹But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" 30 Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend. ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."



Exciting news from the Call Committee ~

The call committee had interviewed Pastor Gretchen for the call, to serve as our full time pastor, on November 21st. We offered her the call on November 22nd and will be putting a compensation packet together in the next few days for her consideration. Once this is done,

Pastor Gretchen will have 30 days to consider the call. If accepted, then we will notify the congregation two weeks in advance for a special congregational meeting to vote her in. To call Pastor Gretchen, two thirds of those present and voting must approve her call. Any updates will be sent out either in the newsletter or call-em-all text message system. If Pastor Gretchen accepts the call, the congregational council, in conversation with the call committee, will arrange for a festive, warm welcome for Pastor Gretchen and Kirby.



Fisher October Minute Highlights

- Valley Electric will work on improving the lighting in front of the church.
- Waiting on the new refrigerator for the parsonage.
- FLC is working on the Constitution
- Roofing was started and they are currently have finished.
- Special offerings list was reviewed and revised
- Treasurer position is still open
- Next regular meeting will be Dec. 21, 2022

Bygland October Minute Highlights

- Roof Repairs are now completed and Waiting for work on the Steeple.
- Directory: Waiting on proof to be sent out.
- Work groups are updating books. (Completed)
- Cemetery Maintenance: Work in Progress. Donations have been coming in, Hoping for them to continue.
- Carpet Cleaning completed
- Next regular meeting will be Dec. 14, 2022

FISHER NEWS

FISHER LUTHERAN SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

OFFERING

Dec. 4, 2022 - NOISY OFFERING

The Sunday School children will be collecting a Noisy Offering on Dec. 4th during their Gathering session. Bring in loose change and let it ring as it is gathered in our metal buckets! *We will also be giving all FLC worshipers a chance to contribute with Sunday School students collecting pocket change during the church service.* Noisy offering collected through December will be given to a selected mission project or ministry. Funds collected January through May will be sent to Pathways Lutheran Outdoor Ministries.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Guess Who's Coming to Bethlehem?

Sunday, December 11, 2022 9:00 am

The animals in the Bethlehem stable have been informed of the coming Messiah, but they aren't quite sure who it will be. The lamp naturally thinks it's a lamb; the dove thinks it's a dove who will bring peace...and the other animals have their own thoughts as to who this mysterious visitor will be!

SERVICE PROJECTS

BLIZZARD BAGS

The FLC Sunday School students assembled **36 'Blizzard Bags'** on Sunday, Nov. 6th. The Meals on Wheels staff were **thrilled** to receive our donations especially with the winter storm watch forecasted for our area at that time! The 'Blizzard Bags' contained shelf-stable foods for older adults who receive Lutheran Social Services Meals on Wheels in our area. These 'Blizzard Bags' ensure that older adults always have nutritious food available, even when regular meal deliveries must be cancelled due to inclement weather.

Students packaged individual meals in white paper bags including:

- Two cans of tuna
- One 15 oz. can of fruit

One 15 oz. can of vegetables

- Two individual packs of cheese crackers
- Two hot cocoa packets (provided in lieu of milk)
- Two pudding cups

All Items for the 'Blizzard Bags' will be purchased with Thrivent Action Team Funds!

GO "TAIL" IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

ELCA GOOD GIFTS

The Fisher Lutheran Sunday School students collected loose change in their ELCA Good Gifts Piggy Banks then selected ELCA World Hunger Good Gifts to purchase to help those less fortunate! The children were very excited to make their selections and chose to purchase *chicks, pigs, school supplies for a child and even a goat!* FLC Sunday School believes that God is calling us into the world together. With generous, loving hands, we can make a difference!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



FISHER LUTHERAN GIFT EXCHANGE

Children and adults are invited to participate in a gift exchange on **Sunday, Dec. 11**th.

If you would like to participate, please bring a **\$2 wrapped gift to exchange**.

Children bring a children's gift, adults an adult gift.

Gifts will be collected prior to the church service and "exchanged" during coffee fellowship following the service.

Christmas is in the air. It's time to exchange gifts and share!

FISHER LUTHERAN WELCA BIBLE STUDY

Dec. 14, 2022 @ 9:00 AM



GOOD THINGS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES

Moving From Wanting to Waiting at Advent

By Becca Ehrlich

Gather Zoom Bible Study

You can also join the Gather Zoom Bible Study session each
4th Monday of the Month
7:00-8:00 PM

Zoom Meeting ID 830 8115 5921

Questions or for meeting link email Marilyn Grandstrand at mgrand1000@ymail.com

Get Ready for Winter/Spring Bible Study! THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Revive your soul in 2023 with a four-session study of the 10 Commandments

Author Christa von Zychlin, and ELCA pastor, will help us see how these commandments

are more than they may appear at first glance.

January 2023

Session One

Dancing the Decalogue

Commandments 1 & 2

February 2023

Session two

Rhythms and Respect

Commandments 3 & 4

March 2023

Session Three

Sanctity of Life & Love

Commandments 5 & 6

April 2023

Session Four

Guardrails for Love of God & Neighbor

Commandments 7, 8, 9 & 10

FISHER LUTHERAN QUILTING

Fisher Lutheran Church
Dec. 5 and 6
9:00 AM

