

# THE MESSENGER



*From the Pastor's desk...*



All Parish members are invited and encouraged to attend an educational offering regarding offering practices. On January 27th, we will gather at Fisher Church at 5:30 to prepare for the Zoom presentation led by Rev. Tim Brown beginning at 6:00 pm. We will plan to share conversation following his presentation to determine how we might implement new practices within our Parish.

I have learned that the tradition within the Parish for its members to place checks or cash in an offering envelope and then place in the offering plate while attending worship. Some members send checks through the USPS or electronic giving if unable to attend worship regularly.

As people of faith we know all we have is God's. We give back to the church as a concrete expression of our personal faith. As believers we have a responsibility to give to the church to cover personnel and administrative needs to maintain a healthy Parish. We respond generously because we are children of God knowing we are saved, while we must realize that we have a responsibility to the body of Christ.

Please plan to join the below:

Offering practices have changed a great deal in recent years with online giving and lingering COVID practices. Join Pastor Tim Brown for a conversation about the role offering plays in worship and how to highlight it in the worship service. Leave with ideas and practices that can be implemented at any congregation.

Zoom Link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89469236322?meetingMasterEventId=ya\\_ZA16qStmdW-CiNQ7kuw](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89469236322?meetingMasterEventId=ya_ZA16qStmdW-CiNQ7kuw)





Our Sunday school year has been going great so far here at Bygland Lutheran Church. All of our new and returning students are here with smiling faces and open hearts, ready to be filled with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Our Rally Sunday coincided with “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday on September 8th, 2024. The students received a special blessing of their back packs and devices during the church service from Pastor Gretchen. They were each given a “Cross Shaped” back pack tag with the Bible verse “For God so loved the world he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16), printed on it as a reminder of God’s promise of grace in their lives. Our classroom activities for the day included ice breaker games and activities that would get them excited about the coming school year and “God’s Work, Our Hands” art work which emphasized that small hands can do mighty things. While the students were busy in the classroom, our Bygland families and youth group participated in the *Adopt-a-Highway* service project ~ becoming God’s hands, doing God’s work, making things new, right here, right now. We are truly blessed to do the work of God!

Our September and October days were filled with classroom curriculum (the heart of our Lutheran identity) which included our kindergartners learning about Jesus; our second graders learning about the Bible and the books of the Bible; and our third and fourth graders learning about Martin Luther and the Apostles Creed. Bryer Boushee, Brian Wurden, and Avery Kahl all received the gift of student study Bibles this fall so that the story of God and God’s people may be with them at home, church, or wherever they choose to carry it. It is our hope that their hearts stay open to how God speaks to them through their reading of the scriptures.

As October arrived, our Sunday school service projects continued to take shape. Each family, along with the congregation, were invited to participate in the following projects: *Operation Christmas Child*, where participants prepare a shoebox filled with items for a child in need of hope and giving a donation of non-perishable food items for the *East Grand Forks Food Shelf*. Our collection of items was shared with the congregation during the worship service on Sunday, November 3rd, 2024 for consideration and prayer prior to them being taken to their respective collection centers.





For our final Sunday in October, students were given the chance to celebrate their generous hearts and compassionate hands with a special “Celebration of Kindness.” This included stories, discussions, and videos, as well as a “Be Kind” game, “Love One Another” song, and some fun goodie bags. In addition we were able to view several Samaritan’s Purse stories to see the impact of our giving first hand.

In November the students spent time practicing for the upcoming Christmas program and collecting change for the ELCA World Hunger campaign by filling ELCA Good Gifts piggy banks. The students used the monies collected to purchase 8 piglets and a flock of chicks. The recipients in turn can use these sustainable gifts for much needed income. What a difference one little gift of piglets and chicks can make! We are thankful for all of the generous donors who contributed funds to this project. Students then readied themselves for Advent by choosing a Christmas program to practice and by receiving an Advent calendar to share with their families in a count-down to Christmas.

In December, they shared the Christmas message through their program entitled “*Get Ready for Christmas: A Christmas Tree Story.*” The program used the story of the Christmas tree to share the good news of Christ’s birth. The students and Sunday school staff did an amazing job putting together and performing such a wonderful Christmas message.

As a Sunday school we are looking forward to the New Year and anticipate all that God has planned for us.

We would like to take the time to thank all of those involved within our congregation who lead and participate in our child and youth programming: our **Board of Education**: Jeff Millar, Becky Egeland, Laura Wurden and Holly Wavra; **Teaching Staff**: Jeff Millar, Becky Egeland, Laura Arnold, Laura Wurden, and Holly Wavra; **Youth Group Committee**: Eric & Becky Egeland and Kent & Holly Wavra; **Easter Breakfast Coordinators**: Troy & Patty Pecka; and all of our parents, Pastor Gretchen, and all congregational members, for their continued support.

**Happy New Year from the Byglund Sunday School!**

***Dates to Remember: Sunday school back in session: January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025***







# Let's read!

Join our literary circle to discuss a variety of books and topics with friends, new and old.

We will meet monthly at the Bygland Lutheran Church or off-site per hostess' request at 7:00 p.m. If you are unable to join in person, consider joining electronically via ZOOM.

Please e-mail Holly Wavra with any questions or to receive a ZOOM link invite ([hwavra@yahoo.com](mailto:hwavra@yahoo.com)).

## 2025 READING LIST

January 27, 2025

*"The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store"*  
by James McBride

February 24, 2025

*"The Collected Regrets of Clover"*  
by Mikki Brammer

March 24, 2025

*"The Women"*  
by Kristen Hannah

April 28, 2025

*"The Three Lives of Cate Kay"*  
by Kate Fagan

May 26, 2025

*"Remarkably Bright Creatures"*  
by Shelby Van Pelt

June 23, 2025

*"Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers"*  
by Jesse Q. Sutanto

July 28, 2025

*"The House in the Cerulean Sea"*  
by T.J. Kline

August 25, 2025

*"The Great Circle"*  
by Maggie Shipstead

September 29, 2025

*"The Briar Club"*  
by Kate Quinn

October 27, 2025

*"Spare"*  
by Prince Harry

November 24, 2025

*"The Mistletoe Mystery: A Maid Novella"*  
by Nita Prose

December 2025

No Book Club

# Women of the ELCA

## 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 WINTER/SPRING 2025

### BIBLE STUDY



### "FAITHFULNESS IN THESE DAYS"

*By Denise Rector*

**JANUARY 15, 2025 @ 9:00 AM**

### Ruth & Naomi

*Ruth chooses to remain part of Naomi's family, even after Naomi has lost everything – including her husband and sons. This intergenerational story of faithfulness during emptiness and sorrow helps us learn how to rely on God in bleak times.*



**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**

### VIRTUAL BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

**WELCA invites you to join their virtual Blue Christmas Service. This service offers a safe place to bring your grief, fear, and loss. Brief readings. Quiet and reflective music. Prayers. All are welcome. The service takes place at 7 p.m. CST on Saturday, December 21, 2024. Register at:**

**[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_IFDF2e8cRBA8re\\_5QPPciw#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IFDF2e8cRBA8re_5QPPciw#/registration)**



**PATCHWORK**  
PARISHIONERS

**FISHER LUTHERAN QUILTING**

January 6 & 7 / 20 & 21  
February 10 & 11 / 24 & 25  
March 10 & 11 / 24 & 25  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

## Gatherers Give with Glad Hearts

*Fisher Lutheran Church*

**January – March Donations**

**will be gathered for...**

**Care & Share of Crookston, Inc**

**Simply purchase any items from the list to donate, return them to Fisher Lutheran in the gathering bag and they will be delivered to Care & Share.**

- Diapers (All Sizes)
- Baby Wipes
- Pack & Play
- Baby Crib
- Deodorant (Men's & Women's)
- Men's & Women's Body Wash/Soap
- Shavers & Shaving Cream (Men's & Women's)
- Socks (Men's & Women's Sizes)
- Grooming Kits (Fingernail & Toenail Clippers)
- Women's Feminine Hygiene Products
- Women's Jackets
- Women's Hats & Gloves
- Bras, Underwear & Pajamas
- Men's 2 XL Clothing, Jackets, Hats & Glo
- Larger Men's Boxers/Briefs & Pajama

*Care and Share of Crookston, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit. There are many ways you could donat*

Online through GiveMN.org

Donate online at <https://www.givemn.org/organization/Care-And-Share>

### Amazon Wish List

Getting an Amazon Wish List package always makes Care & Share smile and brightens their day! The generous donations they receive, including through the Amazon Wish List, help them better meet the needs of residents.

<https://urlgeni.us/amazon/CareandShare>

*Purchases made from the Care & Share Wishlist will be shipped directly to the shelter. If you would like a receipt and/or recognition, please enter your full name in the "gift message" box upon checkout.*



# PARISH NEWS

## 1st Communion 2025

Congratulations Parents of a 5th grader! It is time for your young person to begin preparations to receive Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday Worship on April 17th at 7pm at Fisher Lutheran Church.

Attendance with a parent or another family member at all 3 class sessions is required:

\*Sunday March 9th 1:30-3:30- Meet at FLC for instruction.

\*Please bring Baptismal memories.

\*Sunday March 23rd 1:30-3:30-Meet at Joyce Brune's home at 211 N 4th street

for chalice pottery making.

\*Wednesday April 16th 6:00-FLC-Bread baking.

\*Ingredient supply list to follow...

Individual, family and class pictures will be taken prior to Maundy Thursday Worship at FLC at 6:15. Please have your 5th grader dress according to their role in the reenactment of the Gospel of John 13.

In preparation for class on March 9th, please prepare with your 5th grader by sharing the story of their Baptism. Gather together and bring to share their Baptismal gown, Baptismal candle, Baptismal certificate, pictures or any other memories from their Baptismal day.

In addition help your 5th grader to make contact with their Baptismal Sponsors. Have your 5th grader ask their Sponsors what memories they recall of their Baptismal Day. Be sure to invite sponsors to the Maundy Thursday Worship service.



Care and Share  
of Crookston  
Presents

# Open Hearts, Open Doors

**Dinner & Silent Auction  
Saturday, February 1st, 2025  
CROOKSTON INN**

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 5:00 p.m. - Social Hour               | <b>BUFFET:</b>  |
| 6:00 p.m. - Dinner                    | Barbecue Ribs   |
| 7:00 p.m. - Silent Auction<br>& Games | Creamy Chicken with<br>Garlic & Spinach<br>With Sides |

**All proceeds will go towards a Walk In Freezer for the New Hope Food Shelf**

**\$50 per ticket**

**TICKETS:**  
Available to purchase at American Federal Bank, Care and Share or any Care and Share Board Member. For Questions call 218-281-2644



**CAMP**

Pathways

**SUMMER 2025 REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**  
ADVENTURES AWAIT AT CAMP EMMAUS

