

THE MESSENGER



From the Pastor's desk...



A Year of Stewardship – Christmas Extravagance

I believe that it is good stewardship to celebrate Christmas with some extravagance. After all, we are celebrating God's extravagant love for us by sending his son, Jesus, to live among us. I support giving gifts, decorating, and preparing special foods in celebration of this gift. Enjoying Christmas is a gift! The stewardship challenge for us is to not allow the gifts, food, and decorations to eclipse the good news of the savior being born in our midst. The goal of stewardship ministry is to help the believer grow in a closer relationship with Jesus. We do this by putting our treasure, that is our time, talent, and possessions, where we want our hearts to be. When we faithfully follow God's command to return to him a portion of what he has first given us, we make our relationship with God a priority in our lives. This is a gift to us.

How will you grow closer to Jesus this Christmas? I offer a suggestion that your gift giving include those who are in need. Each congregation will have a Christmas tree for you to choose Good Gifts ornaments, for example. Does your family have an Advent calendar included your decorations? Some will be available in each Narthex. They include scripture readings, hymns, and other ways to prepare for Christmas each day. Each church also has a basket in the Narthex to donate food. Fisher will be donating to the food pantry being started at Care and Share, Crookston, read more about it in this newsletter. Bygland's donations go the East Grand Forks Food Shelf. I encourage you to give extravagantly to all these causes as a way to celebrate Christ's birth.

Many years ago, I heard of a single bachelor farmer who was invited year after year to his niece's home to celebrate Christmas Eve with her family. He always declined. When she asked him how he spent his Christmas Eve he told her: he went to worship, came home to play Christmas songs on his violin, read the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke, and went to sleep in the comfort of knowing that Jesus had come once again into his life to bring good news of great joy. What could be more extravagant than that?



BYGLAND NEWS

IT'S SHOE BOX TIME

Shoe boxes filled with daily living items for people living at Northlands Rescue Mission should be delivered to the church narthex by Dec. 15. Plastic totes, filled with everyday things like toothbrushes, toothpaste, liquid soap, shampoo, etc., will bring lots of comfort to someone. So please **share your blessings** by filling a shoe box.



Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner

The annual lutefisk and Meatball dinner is set for Sunday, December 1st from 11:30-1:30.

Prices for the meal will be announced
There will also be a craft and bake sale!!



Bygland Sunday School will be having their Christmas Program Dec. 15th at the 9:00 AM Service followed by a Christmas cookie reception. Everyone is welcome!!

No Sunday School 12-22 and 12-29. Sunday School will resume Jan. 5th.



FISHER NEWS

Women of the **ELCA** 

Bible Study

December 11th: 9:00 AM WELCA Bible Study
"Walking Through The Wilderness of Advent"

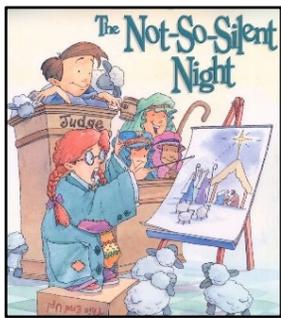


Christmas Program during the December 15th Church service.
Meal served by the Youth Group²
Will Follow

Fisher Lutheran Sunday School

The Fisher Lutheran Sunday School is **W-I-L-D** about Jesus!

FLC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DECEMBER 15, 2019 AT 11 AM



The Not-So-Silent Night Christmas

Three young shepherds joyfully shouted God's praises after visiting the baby Jesus. How were they to know they were 'disturbing the peace'? This comical Bethlehem courtroom trial will be presented in a slideshow format for the 2019 Christmas program. The Sunday School children will have an opportunity to 'watch' their Christmas performance along with the entire congregation! A medley of Christmas songs will be sung by the children, along with the congregation, following the slideshow. ***Special thanks to the FLC Youth Group for serving a meal to the congregation following the service!***

The World is about to turn...

Amid the busyness of the holiday season, Sunday School families have been asked to try to remember to take a break from shopping, decorating and baking and reflect upon the true reason we celebrate the season. ELCA Advent Calendars were sent home with all students which will serve as a tool to help their families count down each day of the season and celebrate the excitement, anticipation and wonder of the birth of Christ!

FLC Sunday School Fall Service Project

The FLC Sunday School students assembled 50 'Blizzard Bags' on Nov. 24th! 'Blizzard Bags' contain shelf-stable foods for older adults who receive Lutheran Social Services Meals on Wheels in our area. 'Blizzard Bags' ensure that older adults always have nutritious food available, even when regular meal deliveries must be cancelled due to inclement weather.



Each 'Blizzard Bag' contains:

- A can of chicken and tuna
- A can of fruit
- A can of vegetables
- Individual packs of crackers
- Hot cocoa packets (provided in lieu of milk)
- 2 Desserts (granola bars, pudding cups, or small packs of cookies)

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

Special thanks to all of the students and parent volunteers for their help with this project!

Winter Weather Care Packages

Fisher Sunday School students and church members have enthusiastically been collecting 'Noisy Offering' on the first Sunday of each month throughout the fall. These funds were used to create Winter Weather Care Packages that were donated to the Community Violence Intervention Center in Grand Forks, ND for those in need. Each Winter Weather Care Package contained such items as hats/headbands, gloves/mittens, chap stick/lip balm and hand lotion. It's our hope that these items will help provide warmth and comfort to others during the cold winter ahead.



GO "TAIL" IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

The Sunday School children are collecting loose change in their ELCA Good Gift Piggy Banks until Dec. 8th. At that time they will select Good Gifts from God's Global Barnyard to help feed those less fortunate! *FLC Sunday School believes that God is calling us into the world-together. With generous, loving hands, we can make a difference!*

PARISH NEWS Council Highlights will be in
the January Newsletter

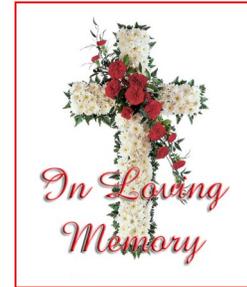
Our All Saints Sunday celebration missed a couple
newly Baptized last month
Ryder Lee Ibarra and Kora Lynn Anvinson



Dahl Funeral Home

Because we know how difficult this Holiday Season will be without your loved one here this year, we wanted to invite you to share in our Service of Remembrance for all the families we've served the last two years. There will be music, a speaker, refreshments, a gift in memory of your loved one, and information available about coping with grief through this time of year.

Service of Remembrance
Thursday, December 5, 2019
6:30 PM
2029 Central Ave. NW
East Grand Forks, MN 56721



Please share with your family and friends and Please RSVP to 218-773-2971

With Warmest Regards, Dan & Jeanette Dahl, Randy Danielson, Melanie Larson & Sue Bjornstad

Christmas in the park November 29th-December 31st
5:30–10:00 PM at Lincoln Park Drive

The Lions Clubs of Grand Forks are again sponsoring Christmas in the Park. Many local churches, businesses, organizations, and health care facilities have been working on projects that promise to light up the holiday season. Any profits realized from this event will be used to benefit local charities and to help needy families. If your congregation has not had a holiday display and would like to participate in this event, please call Clair Zirnhelt at 701-739-0982.

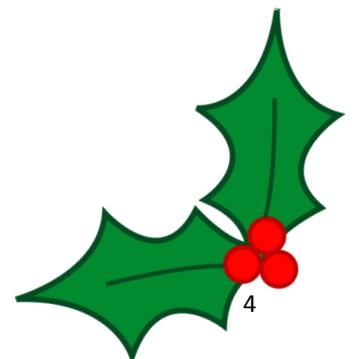
He will arrange a holiday lot for you congregation.

Admission:

Car: \$6.00

Limo: \$10.00

Bus: \$20.00





Care and Share's

BASKETS OF HOPE

Canned goods • Dry goods • Pastries • Meat

220 E 3rd St Crookston, MN 56716

PICK UPS: FRIDAY 10am-7pm • DELIVERY: WEDNESDAY by appointment

Contact: Rachel Laferriere • Call: (218) 281-2644

• Email: rachelcareshare@outlook.com

Delivery only available to those without access to transportation. Please call or email at least 24 hours in advance to schedule. Requests must include family size and full name of all adults in the household.

God's Global Barnyard

An animal can make a world of a difference for a family in need. Animals provide food to eat, fertilizer to grow crops and offspring to sell at the market. With one gift, you can help a family escape the cycle of hunger and poverty for good.



\$500

Cow

A cow's milk, meat, fertilizer and calves can quickly strengthen a family's financial security.



\$10

Chicks

Chicks begin laying eggs at just a few months old, offering nutritious, protein rich meals for families who are hungry.



\$50

Goat

Fresh milk from a goat is very nutritious and can be used to make products like yogurt and cheese to sell at the market.



\$20

Honeybees

Bees pollinate plants and boost crop growth - helping the wider community. Soaps and candles can be made from their wax and sold at the local market.



\$30

Pig

Within months after birth, piglets grow to weigh over 200 pounds - bringing a big payoff at the market.



\$250

Fish Farm

A fish farm and training in good business economics can provide a lifetime of meat for a community.



\$1,000

Oxen and plow

A pair of oxen will help create record-breaking harvests, provide natural fertilizer for the fields and give families the gift of time.

Give through your congregation, by visiting ELCA.org/goodgifts or by sending a check to ELCA Good Gifts, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009. Please indicate your gift in the memo line of your check.

ELCA.org/goodgifts