

# THE MESSENGER



*From the Pastor's desk...*



## A Time to Sow

Change, after all, is not given. Change follows in the wake of something that preceded it, quiet as a shift in the wind. It does not just happen; it is not a times process. "If we're just patient; if we just wait long enough, it has to come," we say when we do not want to be reasonable ourselves for the change. But change does not just come; change is brought somehow. Joan Chittister

What we want for tomorrow we have to begin today That is what sowing is all about. Our purpose is to prepare for the next generation. "Let us plant dates even though those

who plant them will never eat them." Rubem Alves wrote. "We must live by the love we will never see ...Such disciplined love is what has given the prophets , revolutionaries, and saints the courage to die for the future they envisaged. They make their own bodies the seed of their highest hope." Sowing is all about anticipating a miracle will come tomorrow.

Sowing is not for the faint of heart. There are obstacles to sowing. Sowing requires an investment and dedication to the unseen future days. Our world is in need of sowing and individuals who are faithful to the practice.

An Arab proverb teaches: "Every morning I turn my face to the wind and scatter my

seed. It is not difficult to scatter seed but it takes courage to go on facing the wind." The commitment to speak truth in the face of opposition is the virtue of the sower.

May we greet each new day with faithful courage, as we fix our eyes upon the Cross of Christ!

Sharing Christ's Service,  
Pastor Gretchen





*The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. Genesis 2:15*

Adopt a Highway celebrates 35 years of success in keeping Minnesota highways clean, beautiful, and safe. More than 1,680+ Adopt a Highway groups volunteered and picked 28,900 bags of trash in 2024. Volunteers spent 80,600 plus hours picking up litter on 1000 segments of state roadways available for adoption. Thanks to the dedication of Adopt a Highway volunteers and their organizations, MNDOT is able to use the resources, that would have otherwise been used to pick up litter, for highway improvement and safety projects.

Bygland Lutheran Church and Youth Group/Sunday School have been partnering in this program with the state for over 17 years. That is amazing! We celebrate all of those who have taken time to volunteer throughout the years in serving our state, community, and church with this endeavor. Thank you to all of those who participated on Sunday, September 7, 2025 Steve Short, Steve Moe, Kent, Holly, & Reighan Wavra, Marsha Ketring, Jeff Millar, Rachel & Emma Traub, Crystal Kahl, and Alan Halvorson. It was good to be together, serving with our families, friends, and neighbors. A special thank you to Jeff Millar for providing door prizes for everyone and to Kent & Holly Wavra for providing doughnuts and bottled water.

All friends, neighbors, and parish members are welcome to participate in our program. Mark your calendars for our next collection date: Saturday, April 25th, 2026 @ 10 a.m. Participants will meet at the Bygland Lutheran Church, south door. All are asked to dress accordingly and to wear gloves and closed toed shoes.

## 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 2025

### BIBLE STUDY



**"Money, Stewardship and Generosity"**  
by the Rev. Christa von Zychlin

### Session Two

**Stewardship – How do we tend our treasure?**

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



**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**



**Café** (<http://boldcafe.org>), an on-line magazine, shares stories written by bold young adult women & friends who write about faith, relationships, advocacy and more.

Join us for community via Zoom at our next Boldcafe Monthly Dinner. Our host, Dr. Crystal L. Hall, will lead our conversation about the benefits of rituals during times of transition. Granddaughters, daughters, nieces, etc. are encouraged to join! Download a special coloring sheet to color during the event. Participants are all encouraged to bring a favorite stuffy or doll.

<https://www.boldcafe.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/iamworthyColoring.pdf>

Join us for the next **Boldcafe Monthly Dinner**, Thursday, October 16 at 7 pm.

Register at: <https://boldcafe.org/dinner>



**PATCHWORK**  
PARISHIONERS

## FISHER LUTHERAN QUILTING

October 6 & 7 / 20 & 21

November 3 & 4 / 24 & 25

December 8 & 9

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

## Gatherers Give with Glad Hearts

*Fisher Lutheran Church*

**October – December Donations**

**will be gathered for...**

## Northlands Rescue Mission

Simply purchase any items from the list to donate, return them to Fisher Lutheran in the gathering bag and they will be delivered to Lutheran World Relief.

### Priority Items

- ✦ Toilet Paper
- ✦ Deodorant
- ✦ Men's Shoes/Work Boots (Sizes 10-13 Preferred)
- ✦ Men's Underwear (New, Sizes S - 2XL)
- ✦ Women's Underwear (New, All Sizes)
- ✦ Twin-size Fitted Sheets
- ✦ Plastic/Rubber Flip-Flops

### Clothing

- Men's jeans (waist size 30-36)
- Women's winter gloves
- White undershirts and tank tops

### Consumables

- Cream of (anything) Soup
- Rice
- Noodles
- Butter
- Canned Vegetables
- Salad Dressing

### Backpack Program

- Applesauce/fruit cups
- Instant oatmeal packets
- Cereal cups
- Juice boxes/pouches
- Soup/noodle cups, ramen noodles
- Snack items (individually packaged, not containing nuts)

### Other

- Toilet paper
- Washcloths
- Pats & pans, Tupperware
- Adult diapers (size L or XL)
- Shampoo, body wash

### Other

- Paper towels
- Shaving cream
- Ear plugs
- Toothpaste, toothbrushes
- Air mattresses (new)

### Other

- Shower curtains & liners
- Small appliances (e.g. microwave, toaster)
- Baby diapers size 4+





# HallowFim **TRUNK OR TREAT**



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19TH, 2025**

**3:00 - 4:00 PM**

FISHER LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PARKING LOT  
209 2ND ST. S.  
FISHER, MN

**FUN FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!**





# Backpack Blessing



## School Kit Packing



Fisher Lutheran Church assembled 78 School kits to send to families around the world through Lutheran World Relief as a service project for "God's work. Our hands." Sunday on Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>. Congregational members worked together with Sunday School students to assemble the kits. The youth were excited to learn that the kits would be shared with children around the world!



# PARISH NEWS

## Fisher Lutheran Church Council Minutes September 17, 2025

### Secretary's Report –

Change 1 item on the minutes, Pastor will be assisting Trinity Church in Crookston some not the Presbyterian Church. Also, Pastor will not be gone on Sept 28 as originally planned, Brian Morken made motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ann Mondry, motion carried to approve the minutes.

### Old Business

Committee Reports were discussed.

Bell Tower shrub removal and replacement and rock replacement will hopefully be done in October.

Parsonage walk thru with Bygland and Fisher Parsonage Committees, next Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at 7:00 reported by Brian Morken.

Pastor performance review will be announced at both churches, the ushers will hand them out.

Parish Secretary job description with the changes from last meeting has been completed and is all agreed upon.

### New Business

Background checks for all staff and Sunday School Teachers was discussed. Carmen Knutson and Phi Baird will reach out to other Churches and more discussion is needed at future meetings.

Endowment fund – ELCA, Thrivent. We would need to set up a Committee for about 3 people and they would manage it. We are looking at setting up this Endowment fund and would still do some exploring.

Staff Gifts for Clergy week – Tami Newhouse has worked with this in the past. The Council approved and Reed Tinkham will reach out to Tami to do as she has done before.

Motion made to approve Sawyer Speldrich and Lexi Korynta for confirmation, Motion made by Ann Mondry, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brian Morken, motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:50 PM

Next meeting October 15, 2025.

## Bygland Lutheran Church

Unofficial/Unapproved Minutes  
September 10th, 2025

**Treasurer's Report:** Randy presented the Treasurer's report from the last month. We are currently at 32% of our budget through September 10th. *A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Ronnie and seconded by Myron; motion carried.*

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Gretchen reported that she met with education leaders and that classes have started back up.

### Old business:

Furnace update-It has been determined that it would be best to replace all the furnaces and air conditioners in the church as they are over 30 years old. Quotes have been gathered from multiple companies with several different options to choose from. Council reviewed them all and has chosen an option from Vilandre that would replace all 6 furnaces and 6 air conditioners. The cost would be covered by savings. A congregational vote to approve the council recommendation is the next step. The vote will be held on September 28th following the 9:00 am service. Pastor Gretchen will announce the vote during church and put notice in the bulletin for the next 2 weeks.

Community/Church picnic-Marsha reported that 161 invites were sent out, but only 46 people attended.

### New business:

Confirmation-Pastor Gretchen presented Ava Hansen and Mason Arnold for Confirmation to be held on Reformation Sunday, October 26, 2025. *A motion to approve the Confirmands was made by Randy and seconded by Nancy; motion carried.*

Portico-Randy reported that Pastor Gretchen will be moving to a single health insurance plan and that the options have changed as well. He and Pastor Gretchen have reviewed them and selected the option closest to the previous plan. Council was in agreement. Randy will discuss with Fisher and then get the updates made.

**The next regular council meeting will be October 8th, 2025.**