

THE MESSENGER



From the Pastor's desk...



2018 – A Year of Worship

The Word -Part I

The old professor walked into the room of new seminary students, took a Bible, and hurled it against the wall. He told the class that this is what he felt about the Bible. The students were sure that they were in the wrong place. But before anyone could get up to walk out, the professor walked over to the Bible on the floor, carefully picked it up, straightened out the pages, and lovingly caressed the spine of the book. He told the class that this is what he felt about the Word of God.

As this story illuminates, we do not worship the Bible, but we worship the God who reveals himself to us in the Bible. Our constitutions state: The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God. Inspired by God's Spirit speaking through their authors, they record and announce God's revelation centering in Jesus Christ. Through them God's Spirit speaks to us to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship for service in the world.

We proclaim the Word of God every time we gather for worship. Our readings follow a three-year formula called the lectionary, which is determined by a group of leaders from many different Christian denominations. We are in no way bound to use this lectionary, but we do it to keep us in unity with other Christians and to ensure that we do not just cherry pick our favorite scripture passages again and again. The first reading, usually from the Old Testament, is followed by a psalm passage. The second reading, usually from the letters of the New Testament, tells about the witness of the early church. The gospel reading is about the life and teaching of Jesus. During the season of Easter, which is Easter Sunday and the six Sundays that follow it, the first readings are from Acts, telling the story of the witnesses of the resurrection. The second readings this year will be from 1st John, encouraging us to show the love of God which abides in us. We will be taking a break from the gospel of Mark to encounter Jesus' post resurrection appearances recorded in John and Luke.

The sermon is the Word of God proclaimed into our time and place. This Word convicts us and offers us hope through the law and gospel. Each sermon is a fresh approach to one or more of the scripture readings for the day. However, the preacher is not limited to these appointed readings and is free to preach as the Spirit calls her or him. As you know, I include a children's sermon most weeks. The Word of God is for everyone, so the children get a message prepared especially for them.

Next month I will continue this discussion of the Word in worship with the Hymn of the Day, Creed, Prayers of Intercession, and Peace. Until then I look forward to seeing you in worship!

~Pastor Karen

PARISH NEWS



What does Chaplaincy Ministry provide for the residents of Valley Memorial Homes? Valley Memorial Homes provides for the physical, emotional and spiritual care of our residents. Spiritual care is provided through partnerships with your congregation as well as having two chaplains dedicated to serving residents, families and staff. They are Chaplain Gwenn Bazajou and Chaplain Suzi Grote. Worship services are offered throughout the week as well as on Sunday. Bible studies, one-on-one visits and spiritual assessments are all an important part of spiritual care at Valley Memorial Homes. We want to thank you for all your prayers and financial support to our Chaplaincy Ministry Program.

BYGLAND NEWS



 Easter Sunday (April 1): No Sunday school at Bygland. The Sunday school and youth group families will be hosting a pancake breakfast following sunrise service. The menu will include: pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, milk, coffee, and juice. All are invited to attend.

 Sunday, April 8: No Sunday school at Bygland. The Bygland Sunday school and youth group families along with the congregation will be participating in the Greater Grand Forks Feed My Starving Children Packing Event from 11-1.

 Last day of Sunday school will be April 29, 2018. Participation awards will be awarded during the morning church service.

 Saturday, April 28, 2018, all parish members and friends are invited to participate in Adopt-A-Highway beginning at 10:00 a.m. Please dress according to the weather (plan to wear long sleeves and closed toed shoes). New participants should plan to come at 9:45 to view a safety video, prior to picking. Plan on meeting in the church dining room.



Book club members will gather at the church on Monday, April 16th at 7:00 PM. We will discuss Lilac Girls by Martha Hall Kelly. New members are always welcome!





Quilting at night.... No strings attached!
You are invited to join the quilters at
the church on Monday April 23 at 6:30.
Material will be available to cut into
squares....a quilt top will be ready to be tied.....
and a light snack will be provided.
*2 rolls of quilt batting & material will be
purchased from seed money from Thrivent.*



Good Grief Day Camp for kids

April 14th & November 10th

This is a one-day program for kids in grades 1-5 who have experienced the death of a loved one. The program is free to attend, but spaces are limited. Please register by contacting Pastoral Services at 701-780-5300 or Isaulsbury@altru.org



Where does my offering go?

ELCA members in more than 9,300 congregations in the United States and Caribbean give approximately \$1.75 billion in regular offering to support ELCA ministries in their local communities and worldwide. When members give through their congregations, a percentage of that money is then shared with the local synod and the national church wide organization. This unrestricted giving, called Mission Support, gives us both the foundation and the fuel to do God's work in the world and a portion of the gifts circle back to support ministries in synods and local congregations. Of these unrestricted gifts, the church wide organization receives around 2.6 percent. This represents the largest portion of the ELCA church wide organization's operating budget.



of the
Women ELCA

April 7th ~ Crookston
Conference #3 Spring Gathering
April 9th & 19th ~ 9:00 AM
Quilting
April 18th ~ 9:00 AM Bible
Study
April 23rd & 24th ~ 9:00 AM
Quilting

FISHER NEWS CONTINUED

Sunday School students collected items for **Northlands Rescue Mission** during our Gathering session on March 18th as part of our Mission Sunday offering. There were many questions as to where and who the items were going to help, so we decided to take a little field trip to the mission to see the difference our contributions would make in the lives of others!

The students were able to take a tour of the facility and found that the mission truly does "rescue" the homeless from the streets with the essentials of food, clothing and shelter. They were exceptionally excited to learn of the Backpack Program which locally enables over 610 children each week to receive a grocery bag filled with two breakfasts, two lunches, two snacks and two beverages. Children who don't have enough to eat are able to have food throughout the weekend because of this program.

We learned that through the ministry of "rebuilding" the mission offers case management and access to resources they need to rebuild stable lives to help "restore" their lives to become productive and independent members of the community.

Most importantly, Northlands Rescue Mission shares God's Word with all who come through its doors and provides the opportunity to allow Him to transform their lives.



Would you like to visit the mission? The children from Fisher Lutheran who visited were very excited to share in the ministry that is done there. You are invited to Meet the Mission on **Thursday, April 12 from 4:30-6:00**. Please call Pastor Karen at the parish office [218-891-4632](tel:218-891-4632) if you are interested in going to Meet the Mission. Let's get a big group together to go!





Fisher Lutheran Church Council Meeting 3-7-18

Members Present- Pres. Reed Tinkham, James Mathews, Jared Solhiem, Travis Schwarz, Ken Miller, John Mcdonald, Gail Kasowski, Tami Newhouse, Andrea Marshall, Chad Knutson, Dave Radi.

Meeting Called to Order at 7:45 pm.

Secretary's Report- Reviewed by the Council, motion to approve report by John Mcdonald, second by Travis Schwarz.

Treasurer's Report- Reviewed by the Council, motion to approve the report by Travis Schwarz, second by Gail Kasowski.

Pastor's Report- Council reviewed the report that was printed out by Pastor Karen.

Parsonage Report- Gail Kasowski updated the Council on the status of the Parsonage.

Old Business- The Council reviewed and updated the Committee Assignments.

Valley Memorial Homes- The Council is checking the status on the total dollars collected for the Valley Memorial Homes Capital Appeal.

New Business- Mission Investment Funds- A motion was made by Dave Radi to invest \$20,000 out of the General Fund checkbook into a Mission Investment Fund. It will be a 3 year term Adjustable Rate at 2.43%. Motion by Dave Radi, second by Ken Miller. Motion passed.

Thrivent Choice Dollars- Tabled until a later date.

Vanco Payments- The Vanco Payment method for donations was discussed. The Technology Committee will be checking on Electronic Funds Transfer with Bremer Bank for Church donations.

Fellowship Hall Lights/Switches in the Sanctuary- Jared Solhiem is working on both. The Fisher High School requested the use of the Church on April 27, 2018 to hold the Prom Banquet. A motion to approve the use of the Church was made by Gail Kasowski, a second from Andrea Marshall. Motion Passed.

NEXT COUNCIL MEEETING WILL BE APRIL 4, 2018 AT 7:30 PM.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm made by Travis Schwarz, second by Dave Radi.



**Unofficial/Unapproved
Council Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2018**

Members present: Randy Moe, Wendy Waller, Karen Ebertowski, Marsha Ketring, Barry Traub, Ronnie Thorson, Pastor Trenne, Steve Short

Members absent: Sheila Wurden, Eric Egeland, Roger Krostue

Call to order-The meeting was called to order by Randy Moe

Devotions-Pastor Karen skipped devotions since we had all just come from the Lenten Service.

Agenda/addition of items was discussed

Secretary's report-read by Wendy Waller. Motion to approve by Karen E., seconded by Barry T.. *motion carried*

Treasurer's report-read by Randy Moe. Motion to approve by Ronnie T. , seconded by Marsha K.. *motion carried*

Pastor's report-Pastor Karen read her report which included upcoming first communion, a baptism and Easter items.

Old business:

The furnace has been fixed by Hastings Heating.

The parsonage has new tenants Chad & Melissa Starky coming in in May. They will be in the area for about a year.

Chad is in the military and is restationed on a regular basis. They have been approved by True Home Property Management. It was discussed that the Parsonage committee should meet to decide how to bill the utilities.

Pastor Karen & Jami went thru the membership dockets. They have a list of who need to be contacted to verify that they still want to be members. It was discussed to maybe add a blurb to our website about the bylaws of being a member. If telephone & address can't be found on these people, their names will be brought to the council for approval of removing their names from the membership roster. This item will be kept on our Old Business for a few months until cleared up.

We reviewed the committee list and made a few adjustments.

New business:

Randy had been reviewing our insurance coverage and found that the south cemetery was not insured. He contact the insurance coverage and had liability and vandalism coverage added for about \$30/year.

Dedication of the new pariments will be on Easter Sunday 4/1/18.

Park River Bible camp contacted Pastor Karen and invited our youth to participate in their program. In past years, the family pays the registration fee and the church pays the balance of the cost of Bible camp the first year they attend. Subsequent years, the family again pays the deposit then the youth group picks up the remaining cost. We agreed that we would continue to support the Pathways programs but also allow our youth to attend Park River.

Pastor Karen wanted to recap what our Synod dollars go toward. First, the bishop makes sure pastors match up to churches. Second, the synod recruits new seminary students. Also, the synod staff assist with call committees. They also oversee new congregations and merging parishes. They are also responsible for the accountability of continuing education of pastors.

Randy brought up that we were almost out of offering envelopes. He has ordered some.

A motion was made by Ronnie Thorson to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Barry Traub. The meeting was adjourned. Pastor Karen closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be on April 11th, 2018 at 7pm.



Fisher Bygland Lutheran Parish

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