

THE MESSENGER



From the Pastor's desk...



Graves

This past Saturday I attended two funerals for parents of friends of mine from childhood. I must be in that stage of life. One of the burials was at the same cemetery where my dad is buried. He has now been in that grave twenty-eight years. He died when I was 25. Which means I have lived longer without him than with him. Yet I still get comfort from visiting his grave. I still feel close to him there. I still wish he was here.

April is burial season. Those who have died over the winter are buried now that the weather has improved. This April will also be planting season. The farmers will soon be in the fields, burying the seeds for this year's harvest. We expect the seeds to sprout and grow, bringing new life out of the earth. But do we really expect that our buried love ones will rise again, that their lives will be restored, renewed, and resurrected?

One the first Easter, Mary Magdalene went to Jesus' grave. She went there to grieve, to be close to his body, what was left of his life here on earth. She did not expect to see him again. She did not expect to hear his voice. She did not expect the resurrection to be real. But she did see him and hear him. He has risen. Jesus defeated death itself and has gone before his disciples to live with God forever.

This spring I invite you to take a walk in our cemetery. Look at the grave stones. Remember those who are buried there. Visit the graves of the ones you love. And know that Jesus has promised to empty those graves. When we proclaim the resurrection of the body, we mean it. Just as the seeds that are being planted in the earth sprout into new life, so too will the bodies of our loved ones rise to a new life. We will rise as well.

I know that when Jesus returns, my dad will rise again. And I trust that these years I have lived without him will be nothing in comparison to the eternity we will share with Jesus. May you share that same hope and trust for your loved ones as you visit their graves.

~Pastor Karen



Time is running out to direct your Thrivent Choice dollars. Thrivent Financial members can call 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted, say, "Thrivent Choice". A representative will assist you in one easy phone call.

The deadline to direct your dollars is March 31, 2016.

If you wish to direct your dollars to a specific project or fund, please let your treasurer know of your preference. Otherwise, your contribution will be placed in the general fund of the designated church.

PARISH NEWS



UPDATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP RECORDS TODAY!

Our new parish software program allows us to organize our records in one easy location. Although we have good records through the years, we need each of you to provide an update on your contact information (members in your household, address, email, cell numbers) as well as other church-related information such as your date of birth, and baptism/confirmation/wedding dates as well.

Simply call the parish office at 218-891-4632 or mail your information to P.O. Box 127 Fisher, MN 56723. If you have access to the internet, go to the new parish website www.fisherbygland.org and click on the “about” tab and then the “Update your Information” link. Once you enter your information, click submit.

Your information is secure and only accessed by authorized people (pastor and parish secretary). Thank you in advance!



OUR PARISH FAMILY

Sympathy goes out to the family of Ron Peterson, who passed away on Friday, March 4, 2016. His funeral was held at Fisher Lutheran on Friday, March 11, 2016.



The Lord is my light, and my salvation; whom shall I fear? Every day I trust God to make a way. Psalm 27:1

We welcome Archie Alan Bredvik into our parish family as he was received through the sacrament of holy baptism at Bygland Lutheran Church on March 6, 2016. Parents are Tore & Kelsey Bredvik. Sponsor is Corey Halvorson.

Parish youth receiving their first communion on Maundy Thursday were Paige Brundin, Nora Conley, Evelyn Dregson, and Hayli Robertson. Kaitlyn Kovarik received her first communion on Easter Sunday.

Jody Spears and her daughter, Emalee Rose Pyatte, were baptized Easter Sunday at Fisher Lutheran. Emalee’s father is John Pyatte. Jody’s sponsor is John Pyatte and Emalee’s sponsors are Julie Gunnerson and Caesar DeLaCruz. Welcome to our parish family!



Valley Memorial Homes Events

Healthcare Decisions Seminar—April 13, 2016 at 4:30 PM at 4000 Valley Square Auditorium. Learn the steps to taking charge of your healthcare in advance of illness. These steps will save you and your family valuable time and expense. Free of charge. Sponsored by the VMH Foundation. Please call 701-787-7984 if you have questions.

Bethesda Society Salad Luncheon—April 19, 2016 from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM at 4000 Valley Square Auditorium. Tickets \$8.00 at the door. Proceeds will be used to benefit the Chaplaincy Ministry Program at Valley Memorial Homes. Take-out is available by calling 701-787-7984 by Friday, April 15.

FISHER LUTHERAN NEWS



Fisher Lutheran Church Council

Meeting Minutes for March 2, 2016

Call to Order: 8:06 PM

Members Present: Brian Morken, Daryl Quern, Ken Miller, Lance Reitmeier, Pastor Karen, Kelly Bakken, Sheryl Tinkham, Chad Knutson, Ross Korynta

Secretary's Report: skipped

Treasurer's Report: Kelly Bakken

- Received \$2,750 for Faith Comes by Hearing and got matching funds.
- Valley Electric and Grove Mechanical bills were paid.
- 10% was sent off to the Synod.
- Gift card was mailed to Kaitlyn Kasowski.
- Starting monthly balance was \$118,194.37 and ended with \$93,127.31. Motion to approve by Daryl Quern, seconded by Sheryl Tinkham. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Karen

- Correction for February minutes—Camdyn Krostue baptism.
- Voting member for Pathways meeting—Lance R will call Dean and Tammy Smith to fill in for Becky Conati, if Dean and Tammy cant make it Sheryl T will fill in to vote.

Old Business

- Parsonage remodel—in addition to the original bid, an extra \$541 will be spent to put a vent and sheetrock the ceiling in the bathroom. Window installation on parsonage will start Monday, March 7. Motion made by Kelly Bakken to spend additional \$541 for work to be done on the bathroom. Seconded by Daryl. Motion passed.
- Piano fundraiser—50 keys were sold and there is \$2,660 left to pay on the piano. Motion made by Ken Miller to take \$1,330 from the Music & Technology fund and \$1,330 from undesignated memorials to pay off the remaining balance on the new piano. Seconded by Darryl Quern. Motion passed.

New Business

- Parsonage painting bid/labor: \$575 from Jane Sandberg. Church will buy paint from Crookston Paint and Glass. Motion to accept the bid from Jane Sandberg plus the cost of paint was made by Sheryl T and seconded by Brian Morken. Motion passed.
- The church made \$83 for 2 Sundays for doing the Loose Change Offering.

Next meeting will be April 6, 2016 at 7:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM

Submitted by Chad Knutson



FLC Feed My Starving Children Fundraiser

Thank you to all who made the tins rattle with loose change for the "Feed My Starving Children" project. We collected \$83, which will feed 1 child for a year or 360 children for a day.!





Bygland Lutheran Church

We are God's work in progress, with hearts lifted to God in trust and praise and with hands extended to serve in Jesus' name.

Unofficial/Unapproved Council Meeting Minutes March 9, 2016 8:00 pm

Members present: Pastor Karen, Roger Moe, Eric Egeland, Ronnie Thorson, Alan Halvorson, Troy Pecka, Karen Ebertowski, Haley Thorson, Sheila Wurden and Marsha Ketring, and Randy Moe.

Members absent: Pam Robertson

Call to Order: The council meeting was called to order by Council President Roger Moe at 7:45pm.

Devotions

Pastor Karen and opened the meeting with a prayer.

Secretary's Report: Haley presented the February minutes. *A motion to approve the secretary's report was made by Karen and seconded by Troy. All were in favor, motion carried.*

Treasurer's Report: A February balance sheet was distributed in Randy's absence. Randy highlighted a propane purchase as well as an invoice paid to Augsburg. *A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Haley and seconded by Ronnie. All were in favor, motion carried.*

Pastor's Report: Pastor Karen's statistical report for February included no weddings, baptisms, funerals or new members. She was indeed elected Dean of our conference at the Conference Assembly in Crookston on 2/28. Synod Theological Day will be March 31. Other activities as well as the Holy Week Schedule were reviewed.

Old Business

Parsonage Vacancy/Repair: Brian Morken had notified Roger that the vent in the bathroom needed replacing when they were in there to complete other renovations. A painting bid was received by the parish but the BLC Council has not yet received a copy. Consent discussion ensued on allowing the painting to occur without further motion since the parsonage fund is covering the cost.

New Business

Committee Assignments: The Council agreed to continue chairing the same committees as last year since the council membership did not change. Haley will update the list and send out so that chair people can seek committee member commitments.

Next Meeting Date: April 13 at 7:30pm

Adjourn: *A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Pam and seconded by Haley. All were in favor, the motion carried.*

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Haley Thorson, BLC Secretary



BYGLAND TIDBITS

BYGLAND BOOK CLUB

Members of the book club will gather on Monday, April 25 at 7:00 PM. Location and book selection are yet to be determined. Contact Ardis at 893-2612/maneyhi@rrv.net after March 28 for more information. New members are always welcome!

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN EVENT



The Bygland Lutheran Church will be packing food on Sunday, April 3 from 4:30—6:30 PM for the FMSC Event. All family and friends of the Fisher Bygland Parish are welcome to join in the fun. Please contact Becky Egeland to register (701)739-1784.

QUILTING

Bygland quilters will meet on April 6th and 13th at 9:00 AM.

SAVE THE DATE

The Bygland Lutheran Church Middle School Youth Group will be hosting a rummage and vendor sale on Saturday, May 14, 2016 to raise funds for future youth events. Please start setting aside any items you may wish to donate to the sale (any unsold items will be donated to a local charity). More details to follow soon.

FISHER TIDBITS

WELCA SCHOLARSHIP

The NW MN Synodical Women's Organization offers a scholarship to high school seniors. Criteria for eligibility includes the following: a GPA of "C" or above; a member of an ELCA church; be a resident of the Northwestern MN Synod of the ELCA; and be attending an ELCA College. For more information contact Pastor Karen. Application deadline is May 1, 2016.



April 4 & 5 — Quilting at 9:00 AM

April 13 —Bethesda Society at 2:00 PM. (4000 Valley Square) Program: Sheryl and Vivian. Lunch: Sheryl, Etta, Clorise, Barb, Becky, and Charlotte.

April 20 —Bible Study at 9:00 AM. Session 4: Keep on Keeping On. *Philippians 4:4-23*.

April 25 & 26 —Quilting at 9:00 AM

April 30—WELCA Cluster 3 Spring Gathering at Bethany Lutheran in Red Lake Falls, MN.



CAN YOU TIE A KNOT?

Can you cut a piece of material into a 64" x 84" rectangle? The quilting ladies are inviting all women of the church to a special evening to do just that on **Monday, April 4, 2016, at 7:00 PM**. Light refreshments and munchies will be served. We would love to have you help us assemble a quilt or two for Lutheran World Relief!

Fisher Lutheran's Ministry of Service to Others!

FISHER LUTHERAN PIANO UPDATE

67/88 keys have been sponsored. Just 21 to go. Checks may be made out to Fisher Lutheran Church with "piano" on the memo line. Thank you to all who have sponsored keys!



YOUTH NEWS

And the Word became flesh and lived among us – John 1:14a

Registration is still open for the **2016 Synod's Senior High Youth Gathering**, April 22-24 at Young Life's Castaway Club in Detroit Lakes. This is for students in 9th-12th grade. Cost: The non-refundable registration is \$150/person (youth and adult). Included is a t-shirt, great music, powerful messages, terrific nightlife, moving educational experiences, housing, and meals. All of that while diving into God's Word and leaving how it connects to our own stories. Early registration closes April 1. Registrations received after April 1 will be \$200/person. Contact the youth group leaders for more information.



PATHWAYS OUTDOOR MINISTRIES

Pathways Bible Camps summer enrollment is now open! There are camps for all school-age children, ranging from the following: Half Pint Day (K-2) to High School Camp. There are also several options for adventure camps including "Wet & Wilderness", a houseboat trip, and a 2-week "Called and Sent" program for those entering grade 12—graduated senior.

Pathways Summer Splash Celebration is an all day program on Saturday, July 23, at Camp Emmaus. This is going to be a great day to come on out and celebrate and experience all that is camp. This is also an opportunity to provide, in a very fun way, some needed financial support for this Pathways Outdoors Ministry that we value so much. A more detailed schedule will be coming, but activities will include the following: swimming and canoeing, crafts, games, tours and hikes, low and high ropes courses demonstrations and activity, picnic lunch, quilt and fine art auction, camp style worship with Bishop Larry Wohlrabe, and an opportunity to relax and just enjoy the beautiful Camp Emmaus setting.



Check out the Pathways website for upcoming details at www.pathwaysbiblecamps.org

2016 SPRING WORKDAYS are set for May 7 at Camp Emmaus and May 21 at Camp MinneWakan. A typical workday agenda is as follows:

- 9:00-9:30 AM coffee/rolls with work assignments
- 12:00 light lunch
- Afternoon to finish projects
- 2:30-3:00 departure

Duties will include raking leaves, cabin cleaning, cleaning dining halls and kitchens, mowing areas, and other related tasks. For more information or to sign up call the camp office at 218-987-2600 or email pathways@pathwaysbiblecamps.com.



Fisher Bygland Lutheran Parish

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