

# THE MESSENGER



*From the Pastor's desk...*



## Advent Waiting

The following is an excerpt from a seasonal introduction that was first published in *Sundays and Seasons 2018, Year B*, copyright © 2017 Augsburg Fortress.

Advent is both a wonderful and a challenging liturgical season. We begin a new church year while the world is busy finishing a calendar year—and the month is filled with shopping, pageants, and parties beyond what our energy and time can handle. But while society urges us to hurry and spend, scripture and tradition beckon us to slow down and wait.

The Advent wreath can be traced to the Romans' ancient rite of waiting in the darkness for the return of the sun, and for the Feast of the Sun on December 25. According to scholar Gertrud Mueller Nelson, the ancients took a wheel off their wagons and fastened torches to it to see them through the darkness. The only thing alive in the winter, evergreen, was brought inside and fastened to the wheel. To those huddled in darkness, it was a sign of vegetation and springtime. More than three hundred years ago, German Christians fashioned the same elements into the Advent wreath—the greens a sign of hope and eternity. What was once a Feast of the *Sun* has become for us the Feast of the *Son*.

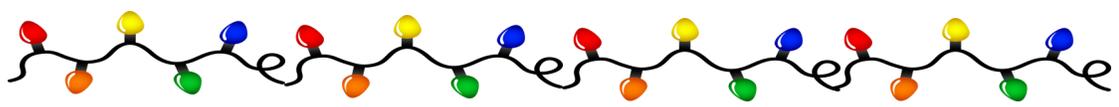
Today our Advent wreaths are often purchased, as are Advent calendars. Even the local secular bookstore has those (sometimes filled with chocolate). Both are symbols and tools of what Advent urges us to do: mark the passage of time as we wait. Despite all evidence to the contrary, Advent is about the art of waiting.

Though all of us are tempted to act otherwise, now is the time for slowing down and leaning together. As with the ancients, we gather in the darkness to wait for the light. If our ancestors removed a wagon wheel for torchlight, consider what it would be like for us to take a wheel off our car, truck, or minivan. Instead of rushing to the mall, we'd stay home but also gather with friends to sing ancient hymns and hear readings of prophecy and promise. In the dead of winter, we need one another and we need signs that the sun (and the Son) will come again—life returning to dark and dormant land and lives. Like the ancients who gathered together for courage and hope that the sun would return, we gather each week to hear the word that does not pass away.

With texts and traditions as guides, this Advent let us challenge one another to honor these dark days. As twenty-first-century people, we are not good at either embracing darkness or slowing down. We don't even know darkness anymore—we've banished it with electricity, everywhere and at all hours. And we certainly can't wait. We look for the shortest line at the grocery store and rush through yellow lights. But we know incubation is what we often most need: for grapes to become fine wine, for a novel to be written, for dough to rise, for a crop to grow, for a baby to be born. It is in the waiting that we learn about ourselves and others, taking important steps toward understanding. Perhaps there is no better gift to teach our children than the ability to wait. Christmas *is* coming; it's just not here yet.



# PEACE



## Walk to Bethlehem

“Where is He who's been born of the King of Jews? For we saw His star in the East and have come to worship Him” -

Matthew 2:2

Faith Community Nurse

Materials available in Narthex

Hosted by the Fisher Lutheran Church



What ~ Join us as we walk the path Mary and Joseph did  
2,000 years ago.

When ~ From October 8th to December 24th

All Participant will be entered to win prizes!!

Women of the ELCA 

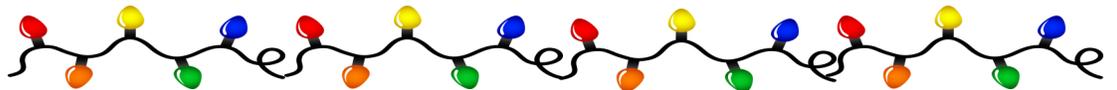


December 13th ~  
9:00 AM Bible Study



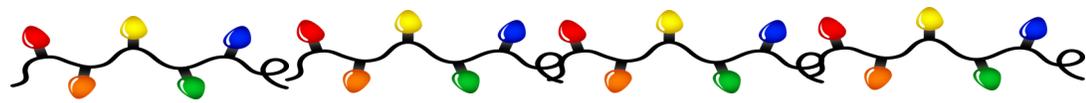
**Christmas  
Program ~**

December 10th at  
9:00 AM.



Are you looking for a way to give back to your fellow community members through your gift of time? If so, this might be your calling. Valley Memorial Homes is looking for volunteers to assist in our Myra Café at 4000 Valley Square. Café volunteer assist with the serving prepared food and beverages to elders, families and staff as well as assisting them with their purchases. This volunteer opportunity is a fun and flexible opportunity for those who enjoy helping and meeting others. If you are interested please contact Kaley at [701-787-7984](tel:701-787-7984).





## SHOEBOX NEWS

Shoebboxes filled with daily living items for people living at Northlands Rescue Mission are due to the church narthex by Dec. 10. 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 shoebox.



**Christmas Program** ~ December 17th at 3:00 PM Followed by a Christmas cookie reception.

There will be no Sunday School on Dec. 3rd, 24th And 31st.



## Lutefisk Dinner

The annual lutefisk dinner is set for Sunday, December 3rd from 11:30-1:30.

Set up and decorating will take place on Saturday, December 2nd at 9:00 AM.

Prices for the meal will be as follows:

Adults \$15.00

Children (ages 5-12) \$12.00

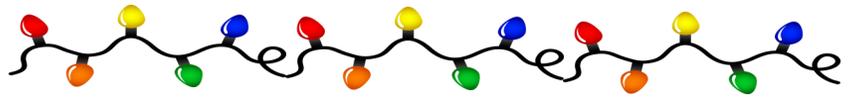
Children 4 and under free

There will also be a craft and bake sale!!



*Jesus*  
is the Reason  
for the Season.





**Bygland Lutheran Church Council Minutes  
November 8, 2017 7:30pm**

**Members present:** Roger Moe, Marsha Ketring, Karen Ebertowski, Haley Thorson, Randy Moe, Alan Halvorson, Sheila Wurden, Pam Robertson, Ronnie Thorson, Eric Egeland and Pastor Karen

**Members absent:** Troy Pecka and Sheila Wurden

**Call to Order**

The council meeting was called to order by Council President Roger Moe at 7:30pm. Pastor Karen shared devotions.

**Secretary's Report**

Haley provided a copy of the October minutes.

*A motion to approve the secretary's report was made and seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.*

**Treasurer's Report**

Randy provided a balance sheet for September. He shared that we were currently at about 66% of budget.

*A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made and seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.*

**Pastor's Report**

Pastor Karen provided a statistical report for October. There were no weddings, new members or funerals. Cooper Scott Bredvik was baptized on 10/15 and Gabriel Almlie was confirmed 10/29.

*Old Business*

**Church Maintenance**

The remainder of the door painting project has been completed. (Trim and side door.) The signage that blew down last summer near the north end of Highway 58 should be replaced before the Lutefisk Dinner. Alan reported the final furnace that has not yet been replaced should be looked at. Randy will call Hastings to schedule an estimate on repair. Jay Almlie reported to Pastor Karen that the steeple had suffered some damage in recent weather and should be looked at.

**Lutefisk Dinner**

A small group met in early November to organize. Letters will be sent to families within the congregation with job descriptions. Setup will be 10/2 at 9am.

**BLC Farmland Lease/Rent**

The council discussed utilizing the December BLC Council meeting (12/13 at 7:30p) to draw for renewal of the church farmland. Land rent pricing was discussed.

*A motion to increase the land rent from \$115/acre to \$120/acre was made and seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.*

*New Business (None)*

**Next Meeting Date: December 13, 7:30pm**

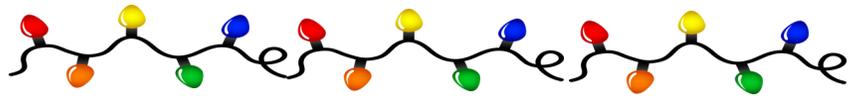
**Joint BLC/FLC Council, November 15<sup>th</sup> at Bygland/ Executive Committee at 6:30pm, Full Councils at 7:30pm**

**Adjourn**

*A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. All were in favor, the motion carried. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.*

Submitted by Haley Thorson, BLC Council Secretary





11-1-7

Meeting called to order at 7:37 pm by President Ken Miller.

Members Present- Pastor Karen, President Ken Miller, Reed Tinkham, Amanda Holte, Sheryl Tinkham, Darryl Quern, Chad Knutson, Dave Radi, Danielle Grotton.

Devotions were led by Pastor Karen.

The Faith Community Nurse, Danielle Grotton, addressed the council about the AED grant the church applied for. The grant was denied by the Fisher Area Community Fund. The next mode of action for receiving an AED will be to apply for a grant to the Halstad Telephone Company that would match 50% of the funds needed to purchase the AED.

Danielle also stated that the Community Assessment Report will be presented at the Grand Forks Public Health Building at a date that is yet to be determined.

Secretary's Report- The Council reviewed the minutes from the October meeting. A motion was made by Reed T. to approve the minutes, second by Darryl Quern.

Treasurer's Report- The Treasurer's Report for the month of October was reviewed by the council. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Darryl Q., second by Sheryl T.

Pastor's Report- There is a Joint Council Meeting at Bygland Church on November 15, 7:30pm. Thanksgiving Worship will be on November 23 at the Bygland Church.

Committee Reports- No reports were given.

Old Business- There was no Old Business to discuss.

New Business- There was no New Business to discuss.

The Next Meeting will be the Joint Council Meeting at Bygland Church November 15 at 7:30pm.

The Next Fisher Council Meeting will be December 6 at 7:30 pm.

There is a Together In Ministry Meeting at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Crookston on November 30 from 7:00-8:30pm.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:47 pm by Dave Radi, second by Reed T.



**Fisher Bygland Lutheran Parish**

Pastor Karen Young Trenne

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# You're Invited!

## Community Assessment Presentation on the Fisher Lutheran Church

where:

Grand Forks Public Health, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
151 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St, Grand Forks, ND 58201

when:

Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> 1-2 pm

Presented by  
Public Health  
Clinical Section 3  
UND Nursing  
Students

**UND** UNIVERSITY OF  
**NORTH DAKOTA**  
COLLEGE OF NURSING & PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINES

# Fisher/Bygland Lutheran Parish



## Joint Council Meeting Minutes November 15, 2017 7:30pm

**Members Present:** Roger Moe, Haley Thorson, Troy Pecka, Alan Halvorson, Eric Egeland, Randy Moe, Sheila Wurden, Karen Ebertowski, Marsha Ketring, Ken Miller, Sharyl Tinkham, Darryl Quern, Reed Tinkham, Chad Knutson, Gail Kasowski, Amanda Holte, Dave Radi, Travis Schwarz and Pastor Karen

The meeting was called to order by BLC Council President Roger Moe.

Pastor Karen opened with prayer and introduced special guest Steve Peterson from Pathways. He thanked the parish for their continued support of the Pathways Ministries and shared more detail regarding current programming and recent accomplishments.

The agenda was presented and approved.

### **Secretary's report**

The minutes from the June 2017 Joint Council Meeting were reviewed by Chad Knutson.

*A motion to approve the Secretary's Report was made and seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.*

### **Parish Secretary/Treasurer's Report**

A 2017 YTD Parish and Parsonage Financial Reports were distributed. Gail noted a discrepancy with the parsonage rent payments (as all rent up to November had been paid in full.) Pastor Karen will seek clarification with Jami regarding the amounts.

*A motion to approve the Parish Secretary's Report was made and seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.*

### **Pastor's report**

Pastor Karen thanked the parish for a "good year of ministry," and shared that confirmation has been going well but is challenged by the youngness of the 6<sup>th</sup> graders and their ability to apply lessons to their own life. She shared that both councils had reviewed the Constitutions, Bible Study would be returning on Mondays after the holiday season and things are going very well in the church office. A discussion was held regarding Communion on every Sunday. Both councils have received both warm and cool feedback and decided that the annual meetings of the respective congregations would be a good place for individuals to share feedback with each other before making a decision. Pastor Karen pointed out that it would be challenging if the congregations chose different communion options but that it could be worked out if necessary.

*A motion to approve the carry over request was made by Eric E and seconded by Alan H. All were in favor, motion carried.*

### **Old Business**

#### *Parish Weather Announcements*

The councils decided to continue to broadcast parish weather announcements on KROX, WDAZ, KNOX and KRJB in addition to mass email, the parish website and text when possible.

#### *Parsonage Report*

Gail K reported that the tenants are current and up to date with rent payment. She shared that the management company had been into the parsonage to inspect and did not find any violation. Concerns from the community have been followed up on and things seem to be going okay.

# Joint Minutes Continued

**Next Joint Council meeting dates: June 20, 2018 at FLC /November 21, 2018 at BLC**

## **New Business**

### *Pastor's Compensation*

Pastor Karen's compensation package was discussed. A copy of the worksheet from the ELCA Guidelines were presented. Pastor Karen would be in the 25<sup>th</sup> year of service for the 2018 FY. The base salary for 2017 Guidelines would be \$48,612. The total compensation would be \$68030. With the addition of pension, the total would be 90,855. With the ELCA's changes to the Guidelines, this is approximately a 5% increase over last year.

*A motion to approve the compensation package at the guideline for 25 years of service was made and seconded All were in favor, motion carried.*



Pastor Karen also requested two additional vacation Sundays (above the annual allocation of 4) for family needs.

*A motion to grant the additional 2 Sundays was made and seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.*

### *Parish Budget*

A proposed total parish budget of \$940 was discussed.

Computer/Software- \$700, Website- \$400, Pulpit- \$1200, Bulletins-\$500, Supplies-\$300, Copy Machine Expenses-\$800, Postage-\$300, Synod Events- \$1000, Professional Expenses/Continuing Ed-\$1400, Educational materials-\$900, Mileage-\$1700, Misc- \$200

*A motion to accept the proposed parish budget was made and seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.*

### *Parish Secretary Salary*

A discussion was held to increase the Parish Secretary's wage considering ELCA Guidelines increased.

*A motion to increase the Parish Secretary wage from \$13 to \$13.40 was made and seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.*

### *Worship Schedule*

The following worship schedule was proposed:

Ash Wed- Feb 14, BLC 7p

President's Day Weekend - Feb 18, FLC Joint Service 9a (supply will be used due to ski trips)

Maundy Thurs- March 29, FLC 7p

Good Friday- March 30, BLC 7p

Easter- April 1, BLC at 7a, FLC at 10a

Thanksgiving- Nov 22, FLC 9a

Christmas Eve- Dec 24, BLC 5p

Christmas Day- Dec 25, FLC 10a

Sunday , Dec 30- Joint service at FLC 9a

*A motion to approve the proposed worship schedule was made and seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.*

*A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.*

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

