

# THE MESSENGER



*From the Pastor's desk...*



A Year of Stewardship – Thanksgiving, Veterans, Prayer service, Life in the Red River Valley and All Saints

It has been a tough harvest season around here. Low commodity prices and tariffs have affected many farm operation bottom lines. Too much rain and an October blizzard have made harvesting difficult and for some, impossible. Many, including myself and my husband, have had water in our basements. Most days have been gloomy and colder than average, with only a few days of sunshine and warm breezes. It has been a difficult season. This a past Sunday, a farmer who was not able to be in the field harvesting, encouraged me to read a story in the Grand Forks Herald about Walt Straka, a Brainerd, MN, native who was 10 years old when the great depression hit in 1929. His family struggled to put food on the table and heat their home, but he claims he had a stable childhood. Straka enlisted in the Army National Guard in 1941 and was stationed in the Philippines when his unit was ordered to surrender with the fall of Bataan, April 9, 1942. He survived the Death March and Japanese captivity, withering away to 89 pounds. He survived, returned to Brainerd, married, together with his wife raised seven children, and on October 24, turned 100 years old. The farmer who encouraged me to read the story said that it had put everything into perspective for him. He told me, “We have so much to be thankful for.” (“Minnesota’s last Bataan Death March survivor reflects on 100<sup>th</sup> birthday,” by Gabriel Lagarde, Forum New Service was printed in the Herald on Sunday, October 27, 2019,) I give thanks for all who have fought honorably for the cause of freedom in the United States and around the world.

We have so much to be thankful for. It’s true. On October 17, 100 people from all over our region gathered at Fisher Lutheran with Bishop Bill Tesch to pray for farmers and those who work in agriculture. In the midst of a difficult season we gathered to ask for God’s blessing, for strength and patience, and to share our faith. The youth group share prayer rocks. The work group served awesome baked goods and coffee. WDAY did a story about it. I am thankful for Bishop Tesch, all who participated and served, and for the faith that unites us.

I don’t want to minimize what going on. Life in the Red River Valley can be tough. Even in the midst of difficulty, we are called to give thanks to God for his generous abundance. I am thankful for those who have served our country with honor and distinction. I am thankful for Bishop Tesch and the synod staff. I am thankful for those who have died and gone to the communion of saints. I am thankful for all of you who attend worship on a weekly or regular basis. I am thankful for your children who enrich our worship and the life of our congregations. I want all of you to know that I am thankful for each and every one of you. Most of all, I am thankful for God’s abundant grace, forgiveness and love. In this difficult harvest season it is enough to give us hope in the face of any hardship.

~Pastor Karen



# FISHER NEWS

Nov. 4th & 5th 9:00 AM Quilting

Nov. 20th WELCA Bible study



Fisher Lutheran sent 166 Lutheran world relief quilts, 73 school kits, and 24 personal care kits!! A huge thank you to our AMAZING quilters and to all that helped put the kits together.

## Christmas Poinsettias

If you are interested in providing a poinsettias/s for Christmas, please fill out a form (located in the Narthex) and give to Sheryl Tinkham or place in the "alter mailbox in the narthex along with a check or cash.

\*Please make checks out to Fisher Lutheran with "plant" on the memo line.

\*Order need to be in by Sunday November 24th

\* Prices range from \$12.00 to \$35.00 each. (Different sizes and colors are available )



## BYGLAND NEWS

**QUILTING:** No quilting until spring.

### BOOK CLUB NEWS

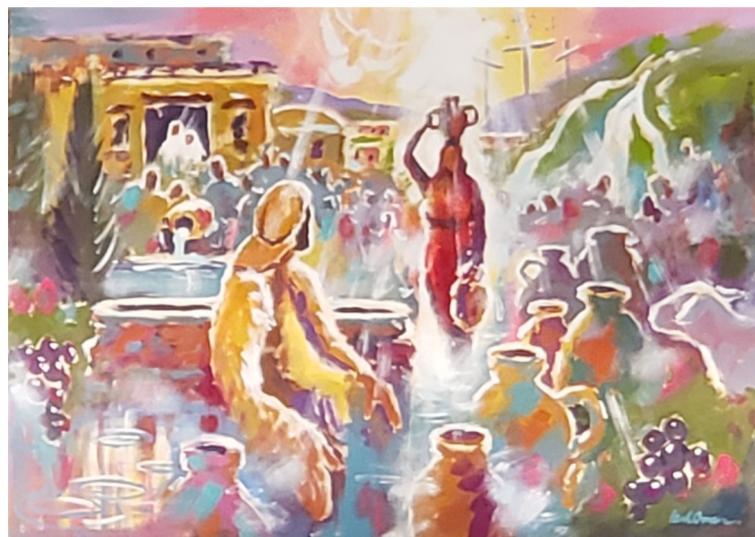
Members of the book club will gather for the last discussion of the year on Nov. 25 at the Bygland Church. They will discuss GINNY MOON (Benjamin Ludwig). New members are always welcome!

### IT'S SHOE BOX TIME!

As Christmas draws near, it's time to fill your shoe box for someone living at the Northlands Rescue Mission. Any personal care items will do - things like shampoo, toothpaste, a toothbrush, dental floss, shower gel (no bar soap, please), a small notebook, pen or pencil, stamps, shaving cream, disposable shavers, hand towel, face cloth, socks, gloves, cough drops, or anything else you can think of will be perfect. The items should be placed in a plastic tote which you can leave in the narthex of the Bygland Church by Dec. 11. The boxes will be delivered the following week. **Share your blessings.**

# PARISH NEWS

The 8th grade Confirmation students attended “Drawn to the World” worship and artistic experience at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church. Pastor Paul Oman painted a larger-than-life sized mural representing the “Living Water” before their eyes. It was a fun experience for the kids and they really enjoyed seeing it come together before their eyes.



*We remember all our Newly Baptized and Departed Saints.*

## Fisher

Departed Saints: Carroll Gene Beck

Baptized: Conley Justine Knutson, Addilyn

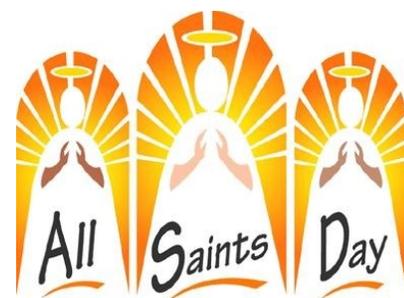
Loretta Goodwin, Addison Paige Braton & Maverick Ryan

Korynta

## Bygland

Departed Saints: Larry Kent Haroldson & Ole Lowell Flaatt

Baptized: Logan Walter Wurden & Reese Harper Brundin



# 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!!



## Training Ears to Hear

**Thursday, November 7th, 6:30pm @ Trinity Lutheran Church -  
Detroit Lakes**

**Sunday, November 10th, 2:00pm @ Zion Lutheran Church -  
Thief River Falls**

Our society bombards us with words, images, sounds and opportunities. To whom do you listen? How do you filter the noise through the lens of God? How do you live out your baptism when so much pulls us other ways?

The *Training Ears to Hear* event will help you discern listening while living out your baptism. Our keynote speaker will be Northwestern Minnesota Synod Bishop Bill Tesch.

*Sponsored by the Mission Interpretation Table and Stewardship Table of the  
Northwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA*

There is no charge for this event.

To register go to <https://nwmnsynod.regfox.com/2019-training-ears-to-hear>



# UNTIL ALL ARE FED

**The world provides enough food for all, but more than 800 million people around the world face chronic hunger.**

**We believe in a God of abundance, so as a church, we live out our call in baptism to strive for a just world where all are fed.** ELCA World Hunger is this church at work.

We walk alongside our partners and companions in the United States and more than 60 other countries. Generating unique solutions to local challenges starts by listening to our neighbors and communities. Then, together, we work and serve to help break the cycle of hunger and poverty — for good.

**M**aria is a mother to five children, all under the age of 18. She and her family have spent decades tending to their family farm in Malawi, where they have grown maize. If there was a drought, the harvest would yield less than expected. That would mean weeks — even months — without a reliable source of food. So Maria was eager to accept the opportunity to attend a Farmer Field School, an agricultural program offered by the Evangelical Lutheran Development Service in Malawi and supported by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger. Maria joined 40 other farmers in her community to learn about crop diversification and planting techniques. She was given new seeds and tools to get started. Maria's strategy was to plant new, more resilient crops, like soybeans and sweet potatoes, that she can sell at the market. This will provide a safety net if her maize crop fails. She's eager to show off her land, which now extends down the hill and far into the valley below. With more variety on her farm, she's much better equipped to handle the in-between times when the maize harvest is minimal. Better yet, she's witnessed a change in her children's health and energy with a greater variety of nutrients in their diet. Now they're focusing better in school and able to help out on the family's farm. "We used to be hungry, but [now] that is not the case," Maria says. "Now I see a good future for our children."

**HOW TO GIVE MAIL** Make checks payable to "ELCA World Hunger" and mail to: ELCA World Hunger P.O. Box 1809 Merrifield, VA 22116-8009 **ONLINE** [ELCA.org/hunger/donate](https://elca.org/hunger/donate) **SUNDAY OFFERING** Give through your congregation's Sunday offering. Make your checks payable to your congregation and write "ELCA World Hunger" on the memo line. For other ways to give please call 773-380-2616 or email [hunger@elca.org](mailto:hunger@elca.org).

**More than 85 cents of each dollar donated directly supports program work... with less than 15 cents going to administration and fundraising.** 5

# Give to the Max Day – Northwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA

<https://www.givemn.org/organization/Nwmnsynod>

Thank you for considering a gift to the Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Our vision is to be a people so emboldened by the Gospel of Jesus Christ that we are freed to become communities wholly devoted to loving Jesus and loving our neighbor. We believe that loving our neighbor means working for the well-being of all and keeping faith with all of God's creatures. We value and seek to celebrate the gifts and passions of each person. We believe that "love" means making an actual difference, leaving it better than we found it, making life better for our neighbors of faith, other faiths or no religious conviction.

**Your generous financial contributions will support:**

- Revitalizing rural communities: Our congregations have long been recognized as centers of vitality in rural Minnesota. Our highly trained leaders collaborate with community leaders to build capacity and raise the quality of life for everyone.
- Making places at the table for unheard voices: We actively seek ways to build relationships across race, culture and socio-economic differences. Our work empowers all people to find their voice and discover and use their gifts for the common good.
- That all may be fed: Our congregations across the region are leaders in providing basic nutrition to people struggling with hunger or food insecurity.
- Building Resilience: By engaging people in daily practice of the Christian faith we build resilience in communities. Studies consistently show that people who have a faith (any faith) and practice it are more resilient in every way in which it is measured. (See the work of Dr. Harold Koenig at Duke University and the RAND Corp report on Spiritual Fitness and Resilience.)



## Church Together - Pie with the Bishop!

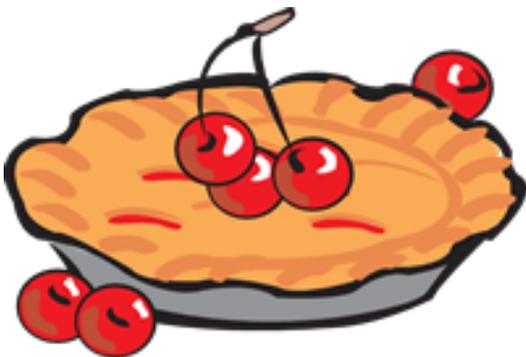
Come gather with siblings in Christ to meet our new Bishop, Pastor Bill Tesch, enjoy some delicious pie and make a new friend or two! This will be an opportunity to hear from the Bishop, ask questions about our Synod and ELCA and share your congregation's joys and sorrows with siblings in Christ from neighboring congregations.

If you aren't able to make your conference's date, please feel free to attend one of the other dates.

**Conferences 1 & 2** | Sunday, October 27 - 2:00-3:30 - Zion, Thief River Falls

**Conferences 7 & 8** | Sunday, November 3 - 2:00-3:30 - Bethlehem, Fergus Falls

**Conferences 3 & 5** | Sunday, November 17 - 3:00-4:30 - Bethlehem, Ulen



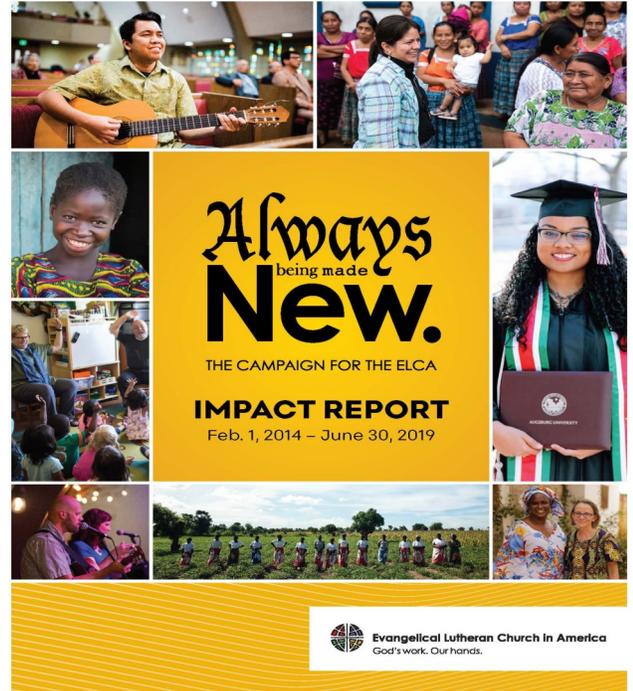
Dear friends in Christ,  
 We have so much to celebrate as we complete **Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA**, the first comprehensive campaign for this church. Through the generosity of members and congregations across this church, ELCA ministries received \$250 million—\$195 million in cash and multiyear commitments as well as \$55 million in planned gifts—to continue, strengthen and expand their work here at home and with our global companions around the world. Thank you. The final impact report will give you a glimpse of the campaign's impact on these crucial ministries.

The generosity of this church shows that, with God's blessing, our vision needs to be broader. Together, we have accomplished more than we ever thought possible — and this is just the beginning. This campaign has opened our imaginations and dreams for what more God is calling us to do in the years ahead.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to mobilize the resources of this church to do God's work in the world. We are so grateful for you. In Christ,

*Rev. Ronald T. Glusenkamp*

The Rev. Ronald T. Glusenkamp  
 Director, *The Campaign for the ELCA*



“O Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation. Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.”



## September Council Highlights

### Bygland Lutheran meeting October 9

9 members present, 3 members absent

Devotions were led by Pastor Karen based on the ELCA Always

Made New resource

Reports were received from the secretary, treasurer, financial secretary, and pastor

Old business included membership roster, constitution, parsonage, roof contract, and picture directory

New business included: Portico benefits package for Pastor Karen was chosen for 2020; furnace repair and maintenance; a sump pump was replaced; WIFI signal boost to entire building; Valley Senior Living report and closing of the Bethesda Society.

2019 Lutefisk Dinner was set for December 1. An organizational meeting will take place following 9:00 worship.

Next meeting: Joint Council-November 6, 7:30 at Bygland; Bygland Council-November 13, 7:30.

### Fisher Lutheran meeting October 16

Devotions were led by Pastor Karen

Secretary, treasurer, and pastor reports were received

Correspondence was reviewed

Committee reports were received from the parsonage and cemetery committees. Tree damage from windstorm has been removed from the cemetery

Old Business: Constitutional changes, Committee assignments, Jami and Justin Olson agreed to serve on the youth committee

New Business: American Legion Auxiliary was granted use of the kitchen, Sunday November 10<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon; WIFI service throughout the building was discussed and approved; the Portico Benefits package for Pastor Karen was chosen for 2020.

Next meeting: Joint Council-November 6, 7:30 at Bygland; Fisher Council-November 20, 7:30.

