

THE MESSENGER



From the Pastor's desk...

Dear Members of Fisher Lutheran Church and Bygland Lutheran Church,
The Fisher and Bygland Lutheran Church Councils would like to share an important update regarding pastoral ministry within our parish.

, the councils have made After careful discussion and consideration of the financial needs of both congregations the decision to conclude Pastor Rohde's interim contract. This decision was made as we explore a part-time clergy model that will allow us to continue providing meaningful pastoral ministry while being fiscally responsible and mindful of the resources of both congregations.

We are grateful to Pastor Rohde for his faithful service and leadership during this time of transition. He has served our parish well, and we sincerely appreciate the time, care, and ministry he has shared with Fisher and Bygland. Pastor Rohde's final Sunday with was September 20, 2026. We wish him God's blessings as he concludes his ministry among us. As we begin this next chapter together, the councils have made arrangements to share the pastoral responsibilities of our parish between Pastor Mike Ozaki and Janine Krueger, Synod Authorized Minister. We are thankful for their willingness to serve our congregations and look forward to the gifts each will bring to our shared ministry.

Following September 20, 2026:

- Janina Krueger will lead worship at Fisher and Bygland on the first Sunday of each month. She will also officiate at funerals, memorial services, and celebrations of life.
- Ms. Krueger will provide pastoral care as requested by Fisher Lutheran Church and/or Bygland Lutheran Church. This may include hospital visits, homebound visits, care facility visits, emergency or crisis pastoral care, and other pastoral visits as requested by the parish.
- Pastor Mike Ozaki will lead worship services on the remaining Sundays of each month, providing continued pastoral leadership for our congregations. He will also guide our confirmation ministry, meeting with our youth on scheduled Sunday afternoons from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. as they continue to grow in faith and prepare for confirmation.

We recognize that pastoral transitions bring change and adjustment. The councils are committed to working together to provide continuity in worship, confirmation ministry, pastoral care, and the other ministry needs of our congregations.

We ask for your prayers and support for Pastor Rohde as he concludes his ministry with us, for Pastor Ozaki and Janina Krueger as they begin serving our parish in these new roles, and for the members and leaders of both Fisher and Bygland as we continue discerning the future of our shared ministry.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness and commitment to the ministry of the Fisher/Bygland Lutheran Parish. May God continue to guide us as we move forward together in faith.

Together in faith,

Fisher Lutheran Church Council

Bygland Lutheran Church Council



Women of the ELCA

Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.



Women
of Faith
Serving
with Love



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."



Faith
Leads
Us
Forward



FISHER LUTHERAN WELCA FALL 2026 BIBLE STUDY

*"Bold Faith on an
Unexpected Journey"*

A three-part Bible study
by the Rev. Tiffany Chaney

SESSION TWO

"Choosing Loyalty, Finding Love"



October 21, 2026
@ 9:00 AM



Faith often leads us down paths we didn't expect—into wilderness places, across unfamiliar lands, and through seasons of grief and hope. This three-session study takes us on a journey with Hagar, Ruth and Mary Magdalene, women whose bold faith transformed their unexpected stories. Their encounters with God remind us that we, too, are seen, sustained and sent to carry good news into the world.



Session Two: Ruth, a Moabite widow, chooses to remain with her mother-in-law Naomi and step into an unknown future. Her bold faith is revealed in **loyalty**, courage and openness to God's provision. In Ruth's story, we see how God weaves love, community and promise through even the most uncertain paths. This session invites participants to reflect on the risks of faith, the gift of relationships and the ways God works through everyday loyalty to bring forth extraordinary love.



PATCHWORK PARISHIONERS

FISHER LUTHERAN QUILTING

Volunteer to Quilt for Kids and
Families in Need



Join us

October 12 & 13 / 26 & 27
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM



NWMN Synod WELCA Leadership Day!

Friday, Oct. 30, 2026
9:30 - 3:00

Little Norway Church
10802 423rd St SE Fertile, MN

If you are a leader in your unit,
conference or the synod – you are invited!
We are here to help you succeed
in your role!

Special speaker: Pastor Gentle Nettland

No charge • good food • good fellowship

To Register:

Contact Marlene Block (SWO Board Member)
marleneb@gvtel.com or call 218-289-4046
by Oct. 15th

Join us!

CONGRATULATIONS ETTA MCDONALD!

Fisher Lutheran Church WELCA is pleased to congratulate Etta McDonald on receiving the NW MN Synodical Women's Organization of the ELCA's Mary Magdalene Award, recognizing her many years of faithful service and dedication to the church.

Since joining Fisher Lutheran in 1960, Etta has shared her faith through teaching Sunday School, serving on the church council and call committee, giving more than 60 years of dedicated service to WELCA, as well as serving four years as secretary for the Northwestern Minnesota Synod Women of the ELCA.

For the past 30 years, Etta's quilting ministry has been another wonderful expression of her faith. Through countless hours of creating quilt tops and backs, she has helped complete more than 1,200 quilts, providing warmth, comfort, and care to others.

Etta's life of service beautifully reflects Jesus' call to "Go and tell"—not only through words, but through loving hands, a generous heart, and steadfast faith.

Congratulations, Etta, on this well-deserved honor!
We give thanks for you and the many ways you have blessed Fisher Lutheran Church and others through your faithful service.



All Women Are Welcome!



Nature is one of God's beautiful creations. Through nature, God is able to teach us, speak to us, and provide for us. For this reason, we can find in scripture that we humans are called to protect all He has created.

"But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind." Job 12: 7-10

Thank you to all of those who participated in the Bygland Lutheran Church Adopt-A-Highway service project on Saturday, September 12, 2026: Chris Egeland, Jeff Millar, Kent & Holly Wavra, Marsha Ketrang, Alan & Linda Halvorson, Steve Moe, Rachel & Emma Traub, and Mike & Trina Baldock. You have engaged in an opportunity to demonstrate care and respect towards our beautiful earth. It was a windy, but sunny day to be out serving with our family, friends, and neighbors. It was fun to observe the life of the land around us: farmers busy harvesting fields, grasshoppers hopping, and the wind blowing. We thank you for your time and energy. We give a special thank you to Jeff Millar for providing door prizes and to Kent & Holly Wavra for providing bottled water and snacks.

All friends, neighbors, and parish members are welcome to participate in our program. Mark your calendar for our next collection date: Saturday, April 24, 2027 starting at 10 a.m. We will meet at the Bygland Lutheran Church, south door.



August 15th – October 25th

FOSTER CARE PARENTS NEEDED

Be a part of something bigger. Learn how to become a foster parent for Polk County.



What to look forward to:

- ▷ Heartfelt testimonies from foster parents and youth who have experienced Foster Care.
- ▷ Opportunities to connect, learn, and ask questions.
- ▷ Learn about the licensing process and what it takes to become licensed.

Come be part of the journey—Change a life

DATE/TIME
THURSDAY, APRIL 16TH
5:30PM-7:00PM

WHERE
FAMILY OF GOD CHURCH
327 5TH AVE SE
EAST GRAND FORKS, MN 56721



RSVP CONTACT: ANNABELLE NARLOCK

218-399-8540

ANNABELLE.NARLOCK@POLKCOUNTYMN.GOV

FISHER LUTHERAN CHURCH

FAITH • FELLOWSHIP • SERVICE

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

Sunday, September 13, 2026

Fisher Lutheran Church celebrated our annual God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday with a day of worship, fellowship, and service! Following the Praise & Worship service, the congregation enjoyed a delicious fellowship meal hosted by the Fisher Lutheran Youth Group.

After the meal, members put their faith into action by packing School Kits for Lutheran World Relief and completing several needed service projects around the church building. Thank you to everyone who donated supplies, prepared and served the meal, packed school kits, and shared their time and talents. Together, our hands were busy doing God's work!



FISHER LUTHERAN YOUTH GROUP

High School Youth Event • Sunday, September 20, 2026

Members of the Fisher Lutheran Youth Group attended a High School Youth Event at Sacred Heart on Sept. 20th featuring Pam Stenzel. Ms. Stenzel shared a faith-based message encouraging young people to consider a positive vision for marriage, family and sexual integrity. Her presentation also addressed the physical, emotional and relational consequences of sexual choices outside of God's design. We are thankful for opportunities like this for our youth to gather with other young Christians, grow in faith, and take part in meaningful conversations.





Bold Women. Faithful Together.
For a Just World.



*Grateful
Women
Change
the World*
♡

FAITH
HOPE
GRATITUDE
ACTION

*Give Thanks.
Make a Difference.*

2026 Women of the ELCA Thankoffering Service



Gratitude.

Gratitude cultivated, recognized, expressed and acted on. The ways we show gratitude and act on it are the ways we actually do make a difference in the world.

Lutheran women have a particular way of acting on gratitude – Thankofferings.

What do Thankofferings support?

The founders of Women of the ELCA decided back in 1988 that Thankofferings are to support the ongoing ministries of the churchwide women's organization. Your gifts to Women of the ELCA through Thankofferings make our advocacy work, our support of WELCA groups in congregations and synods, resources, grants, scholarships, publications and the triennial convention possible!



Advocacy
Work



Support for
WELCA Groups



Resources



Grants &
Scholarships



Publications



Triennial
Convention

*All Are
Welcome!*
♡

The 2026 Women of the ELCA
Thankoffering Service will take place
online and will be **livestreamed**.



October 15 @ 9:50 am - 11:00 am

Fisher Lutheran WELCA

invites all women of the church to gather to watch
the livestreamed service together.

*Many
Gifts
One
Purpose*
♡

GRATITUDE CHANGES LIVES

HUGO'S

• FAMILY MARKETPLACE •

Good Deals
Bright Futures! 



ONLY
\$10
EACH

Coupon Books FOR A GREAT CAUSE!

Fisher Lutheran Church Youth Group

is selling Hugo's Coupon Books for \$10
to raise funds to support their

Summer 2027 Trip!



GREAT SAVINGS
for you!



**SUPPORT
OUR YOUTH**
in their faith journey!



**HELP MAKE
THE TRIP POSSIBLE!**



FISHER LUTHERAN CHURCH
Youth Group

*Thank you
for your support!* 

FAITH • FRIENDSHIP • SERVICE • ADVENTURE

2026

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

- ☐ September 27th (6th-9th Grade)
- ☐ October 11th (6th-9th Grade)
- ☐ October 25th (Confirmation Ceremony for 9th)
- ☐ November 8th (8th Grade)
- ☐ November 22nd (6th & 7th Grade)
- ☐ December 13th (8th Grade)
- ☐ December 20th (6th & 7th Grade)
- ☐ January 10th (8th Grade)
- ☐ January 24th (6th & 7th Grade)
- ☐ February 21st (8th Grade)
- ☐ February 28th (6th & 7th Grade)
- ☐ March 14th (6th-8th Grade)
- ☐ April 11th (8th Grade)
- ☐ April 18th (6th & 7th Grade)
- ☐ May 16th (6th-8th Grade)

Important Dates to Remember:

- 9th Grade Faith Statements Due: October 25th, 2026
- 9th Grade Confirmation: October 25th, 2026

Youth Events will be added throughout the year by the youth committee and all confirmands are encouraged to participate.

Nelson's Pumpkin Patch We ♥ Our Pumpkins

Fall 2026 Season

Sat. September 5th – Sun. October 25th

Monday – Friday: 3 pm – 7 pm

Saturday – Sunday: 11 am – 6 pm

*Extended Hours: Oct. 22nd – 23rd: * 11 am – 7 pm

78th annual Bethany LUTHERAN Smorgasbord

SUNDAY
October 11th
11:30 AM – 2:30 PM



ADULTS \$20

CHILDREN \$5
(UNDER 12)

HOMEMADE SCANDINAVIAN FAVORITES

SWEDISH MEATBALLS, GRAVY, MASHED POTATOES,
LUTERISK CASSEROLE, SÖT SUPPE, FLÅT BROS,
LEFSE, RÖMMEGRÖT AND MORE!

DELIVERY AVAILABLE

11:30-12:30 ONLY.

PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO
SCHEDULE: (218) 253-2589

2026

Bethany Lutheran Church

1315 6th St NE, Red Lake Falls



@BETHANYLUTHERAN.RLF

Fisher Bygland Parish

We are affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and a member of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod. We are a two-point parish, serving the members of Fisher and Bygland

Bygland Lutheran Church

40976 235th St. SW

Fisher, MN 56723

218893-4243

Mission

"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."

Fisher Lutheran Church

209 2nd St. S.

Fisher, MN 56723

218-891-4632

Mission

As children of God, we invite all people to journey with us as we worship, grow in faith and serve in Jesus' name.

Email

office@fisherbygland.org

pastor@fisherbygland.org

Worship Services

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

Fisher and Bygland have alternating times each week.

Please view the calendar for worship times & locations!

**Fisher services streamed online via
Facebook**