

# THE MESSENGER

*From the Pastor's desk...*



## Gifts of Love

The harvest of 2015 is mostly in the books. I am told that it is a fair to good harvest, some crops have done better than others in the dry conditions of this past spring and summer. One thing that I know almost without exception is that the farmers of our community work hard and that they have a love/hate relationship with their work. Yes, farming is a business with its stress and challenges, but it is my impression that almost all of the farmers in our community do this work with a sense of purpose and love of God's creation. Farming is a duty and a delight.

Actually this is true of everything that we truly invest ourselves in, marriage, parenting, academics, sports, and hobbies as well as work. It is also true of our relationship with the church and specifically our stewardship. Giving of our time, our talents, and our possessions is a duty and a delight. Giving to the church is our duty, our responsibility and obligation as members. God's love for you will not change based on what you give to the church. We are commanded to give our first fruits to the church as an offering of Thanksgiving. The church needs offerings to do its work, to pay its bills, and give to others. Just like you get up and go to work on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of sugar beet harvest even though you are bone tired, you are expected to show up and do the work of ministry with your time, talents, and possessions.

But God doesn't leave us there. A pastor told the following story to Dr. Mark Allan Powell who included it in his book *Giving to God*. "When he was a child he lived in a small town and, on one occasion, his mother sent him to a florist to pick up some flowers for the dinner table. He had to carry the flowers through town from the store to his home and he was embarrassed to do this. He was afraid that his friends would see him and call him a sissy for carrying flowers. But a few

years later, he was in love with a young woman and he returned to that same florist's shop, purchased a bouquet for the object of his affection, and carried it through the same streets without shame. 'I was no longer concerned with what anyone would think of me,' the pastor concluded. 'I was just thinking of her, and of how happy she would be to get flowers, and of how happy I was to be the one to bring them to her.'" (*Giving to God: the Bibles' good news about living a generous life*, Mark Allan Powell, 2006, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., pp. 13 and 15)

Giving to the church is our delight, an act of love and devotion as members. God's love for you will not change based on what you give to the church. Most of what the Bible says about giving speaks about the joy of giving. When we give up something for the benefit of another, we are the ones who are blessed. When we give our time, talent, and possessions to the church, we do so as a way of showing our worship and devotion to God. Like the young man in the story, it is a "get to" not a "have to."

This year, as you consider your offerings to Bygland and Fisher Lutheran Churches for the year, ask yourself what is your duty to your congregation. What is required of you by the scriptures to fulfill your obligation? Are you tithing, giving 10 percent of your income? Can you grow toward that tithe? But don't leave it there. What would give you joy as you give your offerings? If you gave ten percent, or five percent to the church and five percent to other ministries, how would you feel about it? Could it be that you would feel like the young man in the story? Would you be delighted to know that you are the one giving?

Farming is work. It is also a labor of love. Giving to God is a duty. It is also a delight. God Bless your giving.

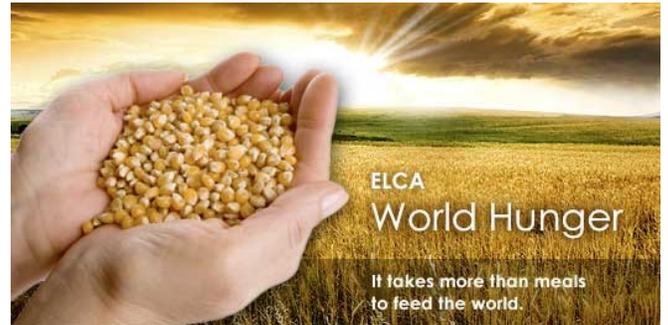
~Pastor Karen

# Parish News

## ELCA World Hunger

November is the month our parish has traditionally received offerings for ELCA World Hunger. Each Sunday during this month there will be a new bulletin insert with a story about how our dollars are used to help provide food and resources to hungry people. You are encouraged to go to [www.ELCA.org/hunger](http://www.ELCA.org/hunger) to learn more about this ministry carried out in the name of Jesus Christ. Your hunger dollars are at work:

- \* in St. Paul, MN, helping to fund Shobi's Table, a food ministry for people experiencing homelessness;
- \* in Beitbridge, Zimbabwe, providing a new borehole to provide clean, safe drinking water to the community;
- \* in Indonesia, where your gifts allow the HIV and AIDS Committee to care for children like seven year old Angel who is HIV positive and has lost both of her parents to AIDS.
- \* In Milwaukee, WI, helping to fund the Jobs Program at Cross Lutheran Church, so those who are experiencing poverty and hunger can find work to support themselves and their families.
- \* In Mindat township, Myanmar, where ELCA World Hunger dollars help to provide each household access to their own latrine and also provide funding for job training for unemployed women.
- \* In Liberia where Lutheran Disaster Response worked



hand in hand with Liberians to combat the Ebola outbreak by providing support to Phebe and Curran Lutheran hospitals as well as the Lutheran Church in Liberia. Sometimes the only authorities the local people would respond to were the church leaders and Bishop D. Jensen Seyenkulo.

\* In Burundi, where the ELCA Malaria Campaign provides education, advocacy, and medical supplies to combat the effects of malaria on the health and wellbeing of the people.

### Financial highlights from 2014 are:

- ELCA World Hunger revenue \$19,320,529 and expenditures \$18,401,146
- ELCA Malaria Campaign revenue \$2,814,128 and expenditures \$2,934,578
- Lutheran Disaster Response revenue \$6,100,631 and expenditures \$11,207,335



### Who are Valley Memorial Homes' Auxiliary organizations?

Valley Memorial Homes is blessed to have two caring auxiliary organizations that provide volunteers, help raise awareness and give financial support for projects and programs. They are the **Bethesda Society** and the **Valley Memorial Club**. The Bethesda Society began in 1914 to raise funds for the first nursing home and have been active ever since. Their major project is raising funds for the Bethesda Society Chaplaincy Endowment Fund. The Valley Memorial Club began in 1973 to help provide 'extras' for all Valley Memorial Homes residents and tenants. Please contact Sue at 701-787-7984 if you would like any information about becoming a member of any of these wonderful organizations.



Thanksgiving Day worship is at Bygland Lutheran Church at 9:00 AM



# Fisher Lutheran News

## FISHER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES ~ OCTOBER 7, 2015

**Members Present:** Pastor Karen Young Trenne, Caroline Tinkham, Darryl Quern, Jon Ross, Sheryl Tinkham, Kelly Bakken

**Members Not Present:** Troy Newhouse, Lance Reitmeier, Ross Korynta, Ken Miller, Darryl Jorgenson

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President, Jon Ross.

**Devotions:** Pastor Karen led us in devotions based on Acts 9:1-25 "The Call to Saul".

**Secretary's Report:** Secretary's report was corrected to read that the forgery coverage has a \$25,000 limit not \$2500. Caroline moved that the report be accepted as corrected. Motion seconded and carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report was reviewed. Sheryl moved to accept the report as presented. Motion seconded and carried.

**Pastor's Report:** There were no Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, or New Members. Pastor reported being involved with: Red River Valley Juvenile Center, devotions at Good Samaritan, Pastoral care, Marriage preparations, Professional Leadership Retreat at Fair Hills, WELCA Fall Cluster Gathering. There is a Rise Up Concert Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 at Oak Grove Lutheran High School.

### Old Business:

- ◆ fisherbygland.org parish website is being created.
- ◆ LuAnn Ferguson from Mission Investment Fund will be with us at the November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting

### New Business:

- ◆ Jean Raines, Mission Interpreter for the Synod will be at the joint council meeting November 18<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ On motion by Caroline, seconded by Darryl Q, to stay with the Gold level Portico health plan for Pastor. Motion carried.
- ◆ World Hunger special offering will be collected in November.
- ◆ Darryl moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded and carried.

The meeting closed with all praying the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting is November 4, 2015 at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sheryl Tinkham



**November 9 & 10**—Quilting at 9:00 AM

**November 18**—Bible Study at 9:00 AM.  
Session 3: Tempo Giusto

## Wedding Bells!

Congratulations to Daniella Bata and Chad Gratton who were married by Pastor Karen at Adams Lutheran Church on October 17, 2015.

Congratulations also go out to Nichole Peterson and Kane Omile who were married at Bygland Lutheran Church on October 24, 2015.

May God bless your lives together!

## Worship & Music and Technology Committees Meet



The Fisher Worship & Music and Technology committees will meet during coffee on Sunday, November 15 to plan for the new year. Please bring ideas to share!



## 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.*

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### Unofficial/Unapproved Council Meeting Minutes - October 14, 2015 7:30pm

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

**Members absent:** Haley Thorson, Pam Robertson and Sheila Wurden

#### Call to Order

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

#### Devotions

Pastor Karen led devotions from the Bishop's Bible Studies on Saul.

#### Secretary's Report

The September minutes were reviewed. *A motion to approve the secretary's report was made by Randy and seconded by Alan. All were in favor, motion carried.*

#### Treasurer's Report

Randy provided a monthly balance sheet for September. Randy noted the prepayment for 1000 gallons of propane. *A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Troy and seconded by Ronnie. All were in favor, motion carried.*

#### Pastor's Report

Pastor Karen presented her report for September. There were no baptisms, new members, weddings or funerals. She provided an overview of recent pastoral activities and highlighted some upcoming events. A current parish fund financial statement was also distributed.

#### Old Business

**Signage** - Additional signs have been placed closer to town. The invoice for this project was \$591.00.

**Project Task Force** - Thanks to Jamie Brundin for heading the painting project (Sunday School wing, balcony stairway and the rear of the sanctuary.) Looks great!

**Website** - This project is still under development. Pastor Karen would like to include church software.

**Mudjacking** - Dakota Mudjacking has completed this project. (Front step, sidewalk and AC pads.)

#### New Business

**Health Insurance** - Portico plans were reviewed. *A motion to approve the Portico Gold Plus Plan was made by Troy and seconded by Eric. All were in favor, motion carried.*

**Elevator** - The elevator contract has been certified.

**Valley Memorial Homes Annual Meeting** - There was a miscommunication on the meeting date/time. As a result, BLC representatives were not able to attend.

**Next Meeting Date:** Executive Committee Meeting, November 7 at 7:30pm at BLC

Regular BLC Council Meeting, November 11 at 7:30pm

Joint Council meeting, November 18, 7:30pm at BLC

#### Adjourn

*A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Randy and seconded by Ronnie. All were in favor, the motion carried.*

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Karen Ebertowski in Haley's Absence



## BOOK CLUB

The Bygland Book Club will meet on November 19 to discuss *THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN* (Paula Hawkins). Meeting place will be announced later.



## SHOE BOX TIME!

As Christmas draws near, it's time to fill your shoebox for someone living at the Northland 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 at the Bygland church by December 13. The boxes will be delivered the following week.



**Share your blessings!**

## QUILTING

Bygland quilters will meet on November 4th and 11th at 9:00 AM at the church.

## BAPTISM BLESSINGS



Welcome to the Bygland family, Titus Neal Schaumburg, who was baptized on October 4, 2015 at Bygland Lutheran Church. Titus was born on July 7, 2015 to Eric and Kasandra Schaumburg. Proud siblings include Wyatt and Neva. Sponsors are Kelli Meehl and Bailey Richert.

## Lutefisk Dinner

Mark your calendars! The annual Bygland Lutheran Church Lutefisk Dinner is set for Sunday, December 6, 2015 after the 9:00 AM worship service. More information about the event will come as the date approaches.



**Northern Lights** ~ Have you subscribed to the “Northern Lights”, the NWMN Synod’s weekly email newsletter? It’s a great resource with current events happening in our synod. Go to the NW MN Synod website and type “northern lights” in the search bar. You can subscribe there for a free, weekly email to your in box!

## Bygland Lutheran Church Sunday School NEWS

*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." Matthew 19: 14*

Our Sunday school year is officially off to a great start here at Bygland Lutheran Church. All of our new (Welcome Owen Traub and Wyatt Schaumburg!) and returning students are here with smiling faces and open hearts, ready to be filled with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Our rally Sunday coincided with "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday on September 13, 2015. The students arrived at church wearing their God's Work, Our Hands t-shirts and received a special blessing of their back packs during the church service. During Sunday school the students were encouraged to consider their blessings. Learning that sometimes blessings are acquired (possessions that come into ones care); that blessings can be people who change or help you to grow; and mostly that blessings are experiences (both good and bad) that shape us into who we are. No matter what, we have been blessed. But we are always blessed with a purpose, so that we might bless others. This is God's will for us, that we would bless the world with God's grace. That we would be God's hands', doing God's work of making things new, right here, right now. Our students joined our congregation in God's Work, Our Hands projects, but adapted these projects to fit "little" hands. While our congregation worked on cleaning up the church yard and cemetery our students worked on a variety of simple projects: decorating bags for the *United Way Meals on Wheels* program; making stained-glass sun catchers for the elderly at *Valley Memorial Homes*; and creating prayer crosses to share a sign of hope for the home or hospital bound. Their hands are truly blessed to do the work of God!

Our first service project of the year, *Adopt-A-Highway*, took place on Saturday, September 26, 2015. Our student's again had a chance to use their hands to bless our community with cleaner roadsides.

Installation of teachers and volunteers followed on Sunday, September 27, 2015. Leaders of child and youth programming within our congregation were recognized as well and included our Board of education: Jeff Millar, Eric & Becky Egeland, and Holly Wavra; Teaching staff: Jeff Millar, Becky Egeland, Holly Wavra, Danielle Brundin, and Bailey McMahan; Substitute teachers: Kent Wavra, Becky Moe, and Rachel

Moe; Youth group committee: Eric & Becky Egeland and Jason & Haley Thorson; Easter breakfast coordinators: Troy & Patty Pecka; Special music coordinator: Barb Short; and Sunday school parents, Pastor Karen Young-Trenne, and all congregational members, for their continued support.



Our September and October days have been filled with classroom curriculum which included preschoolers learning about their Lutheran church; kindergarten and first grade students learning about the Lord's prayer; second graders learning about why we worship; third and fourth graders learning about Martin Luther and the Apostles Creed; and fifth and sixth graders exploring worship and learning how worship relates to the Bible. Preschool students Owen Traub and Wyatt Schaumburg were presented with their preschool Bibles on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Our third grade student, Seth Brundin, also received his study Bible on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

As October arrived, our Sunday school service projects continued to take shape. Each family, along with the congregation, were invited to participate in the following projects: *Operation Christmas Child*, where participants prepare a shoebox filled with items for a child in need of hope; Shoeboxes for the *Northlands Rescue Mission*, in which participants prepare a shoebox filled with personal care items to support local adults living in a shelter; and giving a donation of a non-perishable food items for the *Greater Grand Forks Food Shelf*. Our collection of items will be shared with the congregation during the worship service on Sunday, November 1, 2015 for consideration and prayer prior to them being taken to their respective collection centers.

For our final Sunday in October, students were given the chance to celebrate their generous hearts and compassionate hands during a Western themed carnival and meal entitled "The Great Savior's Roundup."

As a Sunday school we are looking forward to the days to come and anticipate all that God has planned for us.

Save the date: Bygland Lutheran Church Sunday school

Christmas program: Sunday, December 13, 2015. Time: TBA

# YOUTH NEWS

## Middle School Youth Gathering ~ November 20-21, 2015

The annual event for our youth (grades 6-8) is set for **Friday/Saturday, November 20-21**, at the Sanford Center in Bemidji. The theme is "You Take God's Breath Away". This year's gathering theme is "You Take God's Breath Away." Key-note speaker is Crystal Kirgiss, a member of the Youth Specialties national training team. Crystal speaks at camps and retreats, writes monthly columns for "Youthwalk" magazine, and has written many books for both adults and teens. Special music will be provided by From Here Forward, a band out of Moorhead, Minnesota. Registration is now open and closes November 16, 2015.

Save the date: The NWMN Synod of the ELCA Senior High Gathering (Grades 9-12) will be held on April 22, 2016 - April 24, 2016 at Young Life's Castaway Club on Pelican Lake, Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. The gathering's theme is "WORD." Early registration opens February 8, 2016 and closes April 1, 2016.

**Bygland** ~ For additional information or if you are interested in attending please contact a youth committee member. (Eric and Becky Egeland or Jason and Haley Thorson).

**Fisher** ~ Contact Tami Byklum or Nancy McDonald for more information and to register.

Please encourage your youth to attend this annual and special event. This is a very rewarding and fulfilling event for all involved! Check out the synod website for updates on youth events: [www.nwmnsynod.org](http://www.nwmnsynod.org)



### Wreaths for Sale!

It is that time of year again! The Fisher Lutheran Youth Group will be doing their annual wreath sales. The orders will be due the first week of November, so if you are interested please talk to one of the 7-12 graders. Orders will also be taken before and after church services in Fisher.

### Christmas Program Date Set

The Fisher Lutheran Sunday School Christmas program will be held on Sunday, December 13, during the 9:00 AM worship service. Please make sure your children are present for the scheduled practices for this very special event. The children will always remember these days and the adults look forward to them even more!



### Fisher Bygland Lutheran Parish

Pastor Karen Young Trenne

209 2nd St. S. P.O. Box 127 Fisher, MN 56723

Parish Office: 218-891-4632 Pastor Karen's Cell: 701-610-3543

## 25 FUN FACTS ABOUT LUTHERANS & LUTHERANISM

1. The Lutheran Church is the oldest Protestant tradition.
2. Martin Luther issued the "Disputation of Martin Luther on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences" that became known as his "95 Theses" in Wittenberg on Oct. 31, 1517.
3. Lutherans went viral nearly 500 years ago, when Martin Luther and his allies used the new media of the day -- pamphlets, ballads and woodcuts -- and circulated them through social networks to promote their message of the reformation of the church.
4. Following the practice of naming a "heresy" after its leader, the name Lutheran originated as a derogatory term used by Johann Eck during the Leipzig Debate in July 1519.
5. Rather than "Lutheran," Martin Luther preferred to describe the reformation as "evangelical," which is derived from the Greek word meaning "good news."
6. Generally speaking Lutheran teaching can be summed up by "Three Solas": 1) Grace Alone; 2) Faith Alone; 3) Scripture Alone.
7. The split between the Lutherans and the Roman Catholics began with the Edict of Worms in 1521, which officially excommunicated Luther and all of his followers.
8. Luther's Small Catechism was published in 1529 for the teaching of children at home by their parents.
9. Luther's Large Catechism consisted of works addressed particularly to clergymen to aid them in teaching their congregations.
10. The Book of Concord or "Concordia" (1580) contains documents that explain what Lutherans believe. It includes the three creeds of the ancient church and Reformation writings such as Luther's Small and Large Catechisms, and the Formula of Concord.
11. Composer Johann Sebastian Bach, a devout Lutheran, is credited with 1,126 musical works listed in the complete Bach catalog. He wrote about 200 cantatas, including at least two for each Sunday and holy day in the Lutheran church year.
12. Lutherans believe in "Salvation by grace through faith" -- that salvation comes by grace through faith alone, not by works and sacraments.
13. Philipp Melancthon (Feb.16, 1497 -- April 19, 1560), was one of the primary founders of Lutheranism. Born Philipp Schwartzertdt, he translated his name to its Greek form -- Melancthon. He made the distinction between law and gospel the central formula for Lutheran evangelical insight.
14. Since 1520, regular Lutheran services have been held in Copenhagen.
15. During the 16th century, Lutheranism spread through all of Scandinavia as the monarchs of Denmark-Norway (also Iceland) and Sweden (also Finland) adopted Lutheranism.
16. The first Lutheran worship service in North America is believed to have taken place in what is now known as Manitoba on Jan. 23, 1620. The sermon was delivered by Pastor Rasmus Jensen.
17. Massive immigration from traditionally Lutheran countries to the United States between 1840 and 1875 resulted in 58 Lutheran synods being formed.
18. The first Lutheran pastor to be ordained in the United States was German-born Justus Falckner on Nov. 24, 1703.
19. German Lutheran Pastor Henry Muhlenberg was sent to North America as a missionary upon the request of Pennsylvania colonists. He is considered the patriarch of American Lutheranism.
20. As late as the 19th century, Lutherans in the United States still looked to their European homelands to supply pastors and worship materials.
21. Founded in 1826, the [Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg](#) in Pennsylvania is the oldest operating seminary in the ELCA.
22. Lutherans form the largest religious denomination in Namibia, formerly German Southwest Africa.
23. Founded in 1947 in Lund, Sweden, The Lutheran World Federation now has 143 member churches in 79 countries around the world representing 70.5 million Christians.
24. On Jan. 1, 1988, The American Lutheran Church, The Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, and The Lutheran Church in America officially merged to form the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).
25. The ELCA is the largest Lutheran body in the United States.

