

THE MESSENGER



From the Pastor's desk...

Happy New Year!

As we embark on 2024 I invite Fisher/Bygland Parish membership to consider attending a discernment retreat, hosted by Trinity Lutheran in Crookston, on January 20th from 9-3:30pm.

Congregational Discernment Retreat

A retreat designed to gather church leaders in discussions about mission and future goals for their congregations. We will be using the spiritual practice of VOCARE to guide our time together. VOCARE centers discernment around three questions:

Who are we called to be? What are we called to do? Why are we here?

VOCARE is an acronym with each letter representing a different topic of discernment.

VOCARE is a regular spiritual practice designed to help individuals and congregations to discern and embrace their multiple vocations so that they can more intentionally live life and faith on purpose for the common good. VOCARE invites ongoing reflection upon values, openness, call, attentiveness, regrets and the experience of the sacred in everyday life.

Values: What do we value, and how are we living these values?

Openness: To what is the congregation being asked to be open?

Call of God: What voices are calling to the congregation? Which ones do we listen to and why?

Attentiveness: Where is the congregation giving attention? Does this attention align with the values?

Regrets: Were there regrets or lost opportunities? What insight is gained from these?

Experiencing the Sacred: When, where, and how has the presence of the holy been encountered?

I believe there is value in congregations sharing a retreat space as they discern their own futures. This will provide an opportunity to hear what other congregations are thinking, doing discerning. There may even be some common ground where ministries might be shared or goals that might compliment another congregation. It is my hope this retreat will foster relationships as we engage a future that seems challenging and unknown.

Who should attend? Congregational leaders and others who share a vision of what their congregation could be. I would encourage one or two individuals you would consider as story-keepers/historians of the congregation. Those who would know the progression of the congregation through the years and identify who were the influencers at various stages of church life. Consider asking council members, church committee participants, people in every age category, and perhaps even your new members.

Please let me know if you have interest in attending this vital event for open conversation. I plan to attend on behalf of Fisher/Bygland Parish.

Sharing Christ's Service,
Pastor Gretchen Enoch



FISHER NEWS

The Tone Chimes Choir performed for us twice in December, and did an amazing job!!

Thank you for all the time and effort put in, to make this happen!!

Tami Newhouse, Kristen, Tristen & Harleigh Schwarz, Kadence & Lexi Korynta, Lori Morken, and Sheryl Tinkham.



FISHER YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The Youth Group has been busy planning a Mission Trip to Whitefish, MT on July 13-19. They will be taking the Amtrak train to Whitefish and staying at the Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. A busy week with some exciting things are being planned. Thank you to everyone who has supported the fundraising that the youth group has been doing throughout the year!!

The Youth invited the congregation to a fun baking day, A bake sake was held the following day. The Youth want to thank all who helped with baking and supported the Youth by buying our goodies!!

They are also selling Hugo Coupon books to raise money for Youth activities. These are a great fundraiser for the Youth. They make \$8.00 for each book sold. If you are interested in purchasing one, please let the office know and they will get one to you. They are \$10.00 a book and have many good deals, including a \$5.00 off and a \$10.00 off coupon.



THANK YOU FOR YOU CONTINUING SUPPORT!!!!



Women of the ELCA

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."

FISHER LUTHERAN WELCA WINTER/SPRING 2024 BIBLE STUDY

Scripture and Nature: Teachers of Faith

By Rev. Sara Olson-Smith

Jesus regularly invokes nature in his teaching, drawing us into deeper relationship with the created world. But it's not just Jesus inviting us to see creation as teacher and kin. The scriptures themselves help us see the important role of the created world in God's story and saving work. This four-session Bible study explores how biblical stories of the natural world help us to grow our love for and commitment to God, other people and our beloved earth.

Session One: Weather - Powerful Force for Change

January 17, 2024 @ 9:00 AM

We can't control the weather, but we can learn from it. Storms, rain, drought and wind shape the lives of human and non-human beings, both in scripture and today. As we face catastrophic storms and the weird weather of climate change, biblical stories of extraordinary weather convict and humble us. They show us how to live faithfully, moving us to act even when we feel powerless.



Daily Grace is an on-the-go companion for your journey, offering a faith reflection every day. Encounter God's extravagant, boundless and often surprising grace by signing up for a daily email message at <https://us7.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=38d837d7f50973ead605ee94e&id=2aa8313408>



Gather
Zoom Bible
Study



WOMEN WHO STITCH FISHER LUTHERAN QUILTING

January 8 & 9 / 22 & 23
February 12 & 13 / 26 & 27
March 11 & 12 / 25 & 26
April 8 & 9 / 22 & 23
9:00 am³

You can also join the Gather Zoom Bible Study session each
4th Monday of the Month
7:00-8:00 PM
Zoom Meeting ID 830 8115 5921



FAMILY

SLEDDING EVENT!

January 28, 2024

2 pm - 4 pm

Bring your sled and
join us at Central Park
in

Crookston, MN
for an afternoon
of family fun!

**EVERYONE
WELCOME!**



Hosted by Fisher Lutheran

For More Information call 218-891-4632

FISHER LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL 11-15-23

Members Present – Reed Tinkham, Wanda Rutherford, Tami Newhouse, Val Korynta, Phil Baird, Pastor Gretchen Enoch, Carmen Knutson, Jared Solheim and Vicky Korynta

Not Present – Delmar Peterson, Travis Schwarz and Ken Miller

Called to Order

The meeting was called to order and devotions were led by Vice-President, Vicky Korynta

Secretary's Report

The secretary's report from 10-18-23 was approved on motion by P. Baird, second by C. Knutson.

Parish Financial / Financial Secretary's Reports

Errors were noted in both the Parish Financial report as well as the Financial Secretary's report. The approval of these reports was tabled until errors could be addressed. It was noted that the deposit date on Icon reports should match the actual date of deposit of funds and that only one month should be included in report.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was reviewed and approved on motion by Val Korynta, second by P. Baird

Pastor's Report

Pastor Gretchen gave an overview of the Haden Institute Program and clarification of the 2024 Compensation Package information.

Work Group leaders will send Pastor a list of those completing duties each month.

Messenger

The Messenger deadline for submission is Nov .19th

Community Outreach

Fund balance is \$7,112.84

Old Business

Office Computer - The dollar amount of the new computer will be added to the 2023 budget and overage will be taken from the 2024 budget.

End of Year reports should be submitted by January 14, 2024.

The Nominating Committee is scheduled to meet Nov. 21 @ 7 pm.

New Business

The FLC Council approved the BLC suggested 4% increase of Jami Olson's wages beginning Jan. 1, 2024 on motion by R. Tinkham, second by Vicky Korynta. This increase would bring Jami's salary to \$18.20/Hr.

It was noted that Pastor Gretchen would be on retreat Sunday, Nov. 19 following worship through Wednesday, Nov. 22.

REMINDERS

FLC Council Retreat to be held Sunday, Dec. 10th, 1-3 PM at FLC. Topics will include:

Relationship Building, Goal Setting & Affirmation

The FLC Annual Mtg. will be held Jan. 21, 2024 / BLC Jan. 28, 2024

The current FLC budget standing will be included in the weekly bulletin as well as the Messenger.

It was suggested that all FLC deposits be made each Tuesday.

Val Korynta/P. Baird will ask the Youth Group if they would serve the meal for FLC's Annual Mtg.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned followed by the Lord's Prayer.

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 Minutes November 8th, 2023

Members present: Barry Traub, Becky Egeland, Randy Moe, Rachel Traub, Marsha Ketring, Alan Halvorson, Kent Wavra, Ronnie Thorson. **Members absent:** Chris Egeland, Steve Short, Roger Krostue and Pastor Gretchen.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm by Barry.

Devotions: none

Agenda/addition of items-Reviewed and additions made.

Secretary's report-Rachel presented the October minutes. *A motion to approve the Secretary's report as presented was made by Randy and seconded by Ronnie; motion carried.*

Treasurer's Report-Randy presented the Treasurer's report from last month. He also provided a chart of the end of year budget results from the last 20 years. As of October 31st, we are currently at 63% of our 2023 goal. *A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Kent and seconded by Ronnie; motion carried.*

Pastor's Report-In her absence, Pastor Gretchen provided the council with a video and packet of information on the Haden Institute.

Old business:

- Annual meeting was scheduled for January 28th, 2024.
- Parsonage update-Evitts Construction has finished its work on the roof and deck.
- Steeple update-Evitts has been hired to remove the damaged part of the church steeple. The goal is to complete the job this month (November).
- Follow-up from the joint council meeting. Proposals below are pending until approval is made by the Fisher council.
 - 1.Bygland council reviewed guidelines and proposed that Jami Olson (Parish secretary) receive a 4% raise in 2024.
 - 2.Bygland council proposed that Jami O. watch for upcoming sales on the chosen new computer for the parish office and then make the purchase, even though it was put in the budget for 2024.
 - 3.Bygland council also proposed that no one may spend over designated parish budget amounts without approval. If/when parish disbursements near budget allowed amounts in the future, further purchases in that category should be approved by both councils (or reps. from both) before going over budget. Proper receipts should be maintained as well.

New business:

- Lutefisk dinner-December 3rd. Church members met last week and reviewed plans and everything should be set. Wendy W. created a new placemat and council approved.
- Sharing of council minutes-Fisher council would like to share meeting minutes to improve communication between churches. Bygland agreed. Council secretaries will provide each other with a copy of the minutes each month.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Alan and seconded by Ronnie; motion carried. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

The next regular council meeting will be December 13th, 2023.

