

# THE MESSENGER



*From the Pastor's desk...*



The goal of this year's stewardship theme in my letters to you is not to get more money for the church. It is to help you grow closer to Jesus. Let me say that again, I want to help you to grow in your relationship with Jesus. I believe the stewardship of your time, talents, and resources is at the heart of helping you grow in that relationship. Last month I wrote about how we cannot serve two masters, God and wealth. Generous giving is one way to "side with the master who lasts forever," to quote Chick Lane, author of *Ask, Thank, Tell: Improving Stewardship Ministry in Your Congregation*. He goes on to describe six values of generous givers: intentional, regular, generous, first, proportional, and cheerful.

**Intentional:** Biblical stewards have a plan. They do not give based on what is left over after they have paid all their bills, or by what cash they have in their wallet when they attend worship. They decide about what they are going to give in advance of what they need for their own care and comfort.

**Regular:** Biblical stewards carry out their plan of giving on a regular basis. Like many of our personal practices, they don't do us as much good unless we are consistent. Think brushing your teeth or getting eight hours of sleep a night, these are much better for our health and well-being if we do them on a regular basis instead of only occasionally when we think about it or feel like it.

**Generous:** We have already touched on this. Chick Lane points out that, "we can't out give God." God's incredible generosity is the basis for our generosity. In 2 Corinthians 8:1-2, St. Paul tells of the church in Macedonia that, even though they were suffering poverty themselves, they gave generously and received many blessings. Generosity is like joy, the more you share, the more you receive.

**First:** This goes hand in hand with first three values. It is difficult to be intentional, regular and generous if we don't make giving our priority. When we give to God first, we are more able to discern between our wants and needs in a world where advertisers are paid to make us believe what they offer is a need.

**Proportional:** A tithe, or ten percent, is the Biblical standard for giving. If you are not a tither yet, I encourage you to determine what percent of your financial resources you are giving, and then try to increase that by one percent each year until you are at a tithe. The tithe is a great equalizer. It can be a small or large amount, depending on your income and resources. The amount of the offering is not as important as proportion of your life that it represents. How much of your life are you will to give back to God?

**Cheerful:** When we give less than we are able, our offerings are accompanied by guilt, shame, and sadness. Cheerfulness come naturally to those who are practicing Biblical stewardship.

I invite you to ponder these six values of Biblical stewardship. Try practicing one, then another, then another. See if you feel closer to Jesus. Let me know if you are growing in your relationship with him.

Fisher Lutheran is offering direct deposits. If you believe this will help you in your giving of offerings, I invite you to sign up. There are forms available in the Narthex. Bygland Lutheran is also willing to set this up if members are interested in doing this.



**BISHOP ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT: Meet the six pastors who have been pre-nominated for election to NW MN Synod Bishop on Thursday, May 16, 7:00 pm. At Zion Lutheran Church, 505 Main Ave. N, Thief River Falls.**

# PARISH NEWS

## Congratulations to the First Holy Communion Students!!

### Fisher:

Spencer Drengrson  
Aubriana Garcia  
Kadence Korynta  
Malene Reitmeier

### Bygland:

Sophia Pecka  
Avynn Thorson  
Waylon Starkey  
Reighan Wavra



**Camp Good Mourning**

**KIDS AND TEENS CRIEF CAMP**

**Life After Loss**

**June 21-23, 2019**

**Park River Bible Camp**

**Park River, ND**

Altru's Hospice is holding the 20th annual grief camp for children ages 6-18 years of age who have experienced the loss of a loved one. Camp Good Mourning helps children express feelings, learn healthy coping strategies and share experiences with other children who have lost a loved one. Recreational activities combined with discussion groups encourage campers to share their feeling of loss with each other. There is a \$25 registration fee.

To register for Camp Good Mourning to to [www.altru.org/hospice](http://www.altru.org/hospice) (under Grief Support). For more information, please contact Sue Mairs, camp coordinator, at 701-780-5285.



## **Camp Emmaus**

**July 13th, 2019 10 AM to 5 PM**

We invite you to join us as we celebrate 50 years of ministry at Pathways Bible Camps! The day will be filled with activities for all ages that bring the heart of camp life alive. Games, Bible Study, Arts & Crafts, and Canoeing will all be offered on the hour each hour. Wilderness Walks, Wiggle Time (kids 0-5), and a Campfire Jam Session will be built into the day along with lunch and a time for each generation to reminisce. We also look forward to Growing Together with you as we share in a time of worship that spans the past 50 years, while also taking a moment to look toward the future!

Visit [www.pathwaysbiblecamps.org](http://www.pathwaysbiblecamps.org) for more information or

**RSVP** to [www.facebook.com/PathwaysBibleCamps/](https://www.facebook.com/PathwaysBibleCamps/)

# BYGLAND NEWS

## Quilting

9:00 AM May 1st & May 8th

## BOOK CLUB NEWS

Members of the book club will meet at the church (7:00) on Wednesday, May 29, to discuss TWO GIRLS DOWN (Louisa Luna). New members are always welcome!

The Bygland youth group is seeking gently used household or clothing for their up-coming rummage and vendor sale to be held Saturday, May 18, 2019. Please contact Holly Wavra or Becky Egeland if you have any questions regarding donations.

**May 5th A reception hosted by the Confirmands families will be held immediately following service at Bygland.**

## FISHER NEWS

**Fisher Lutheran Direct Deposit Offerings are now available. To sign up grab a form in the Narthex or talk to Jami. 218-891-4632**



## Quilting

9:00 AM May 6th & 7th, 20th & 21st.

**May 14th**

“Coffee Time” at Turtle Manor

## WELCA Bible Study

May 15th 9:00 AM “Two-way blessings”

(an intergenerational devotional - Christa Von Zychlin

**June 10th & 11th** Fail Hills Retreat “Joy in the Journey”

Women <sup>of the</sup> **ELCA** 

A Reception will be held for the confirmands after the service on May 5th.

A reception for this year's Fisher Lutheran graduates will be held on Sunday, May 12 at 10:00 a.m. before Baccalaureate Worship!

**Please join them and their families as they celebrate their journeys thus far and to the future that God has planned for them!**



# NATIONAL MUSIC WEEK

May 5-12th

Music... A Magic Key



## Council Highlights

Fisher Council met March 20<sup>th</sup> 2019 following the mid-week Lenten service.

President John McDonald called the meeting to order at 8:12. Following devotions, reports were received from the secretary, treasurer, financial secretary, and pastor.

Correspondence was shared by Pastor Karen.

Committee Reports:

The parsonage committee reported on a meeting concerning the resignation of TruHome as our property manager.

Bruce Newhouse reported that Valley Memorial Homes Foundation has hired a new director, Jason Carlson.

Old Business:

Ken Miller was appointed by the council to be the Valley Memorial Homes Board Member after Bruce Newhouse completes his term.

Travis Schwarz gave an update on the organ upgrade from floppy disk to USB drive for \$870.

New Business

Mission Investment Fund investments were discussed and no action is being taken at this time.

Building keys and insurance coverage were discussed.

A Council member requested education time at each meeting to understand and discuss our relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, which took place.

Electronic Giving sign up was discussed. The stewardship committee will follow up with this.

A motion was passed for use of the church kitchen and building for the Fisher High School Prom Banquet May 3, 2019.

Next meeting April 17. The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 pm.

## Bygland Council Highlights

The meeting was held March 27 following mid-week Lenten services.

Devotions were led by Pastor Karen based upon Mark 10:14-16.

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

Old Business:

Membership Roster and Constitution, no changes

A USB drive was installed on the organ for recording.

The parsonage will be vacant after May. TruHome will no longer be our property manager.

New Business:

Committee Assignments were reviewed and will be updated at our next meeting.

Spring Clean Up day at the church was set for Saturday, April 27, at 9:00 am, Adopt a Highway at 10:00 am

Confirmation will be May 5.

Alan Halvorson is monitoring our sump pumps as the spring thaw continues.

Next meeting April 10. Adjourned.



# Fisher Lutheran Graduating class of 2019

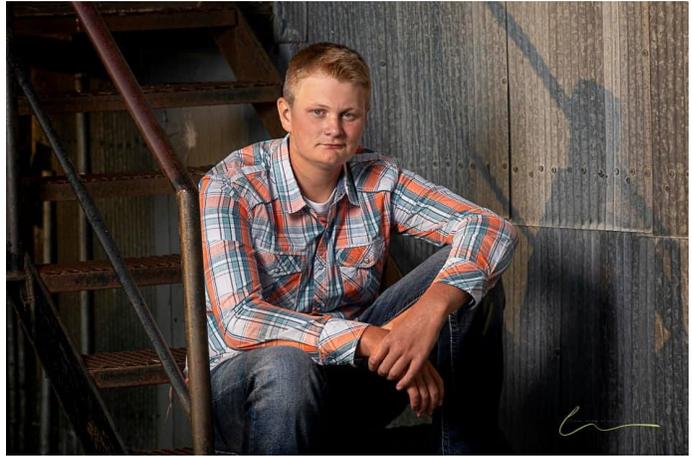
## Trea Darrin Byklum

**Parents:** Darrin and Tami Byklum

**Baptism Sponsors:** Karla Bancroft, Michelle Henrickson and Kent Janicke

**Graduating from Fisher on May 17th**

**Plans after Graduation:** Attend Northland Community College



## Wyatt David Kovarik

**Parents:** Danielle Gratton and Wade Kovarik

**Graduating from EGF on May 24th**

**Plans after Graduation:** Attend Northland Community and Technical College



## Reese Thomas Radi

**Parents:** David Radi and Barb Radi

**Baptism Sponsors:** Damen & Deb Frick, The late Todd Radi

**Graduation from Fisher on May 17th**

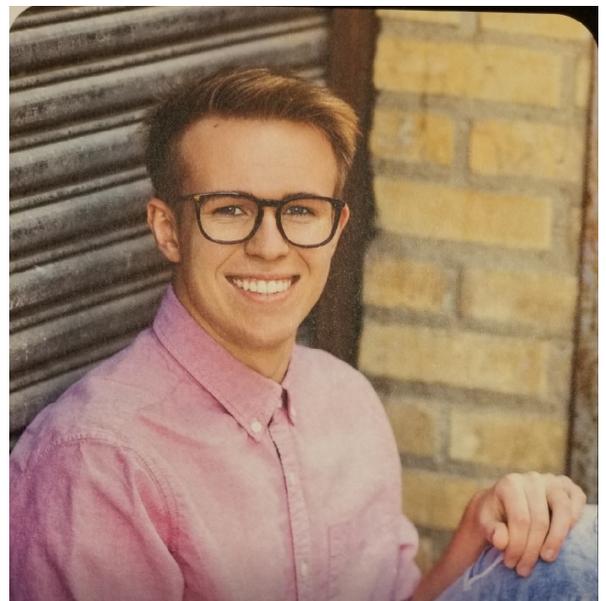
**Plans after Graduation:** Attend U of M

## Hellanna LaRae Gunstinson

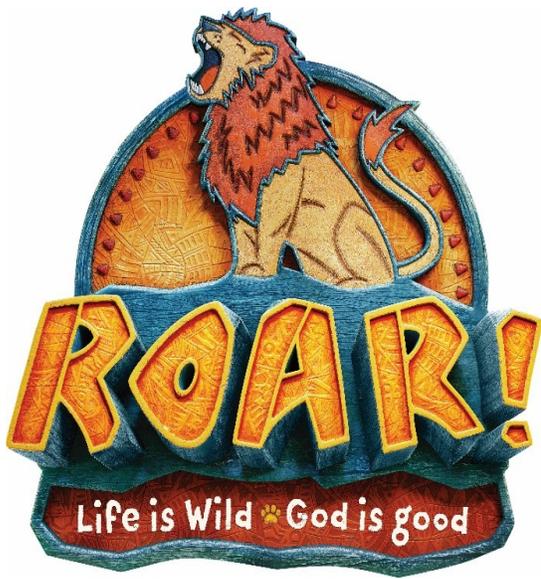
**Parents:** Maria Inocencio, the late Vernon Gunstinson

**Baptism Sponsors:** John & Sarah Olek

**Graduating from Fisher on May 17th**



We would like to Congratulate all this years graduates and wish them the<sup>5</sup>best of luck in the Future!!



**Fisher Lutheran Church  
Vacation Bible School  
June 17-20, 4:15-7:30 pm  
Kindergarten-Grade 6  
All children are welcome!**

**Registration fee: Free will offering  
Please complete one registration form per child**

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Last school grade completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of parent(s)/guardian(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home  
church: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or other medical conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency and parent(s) cannot be reached, contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to child: \_\_\_\_\_

Children involved in the summer recreation program at the Fisher School will be escorted to the church at 4:00.

Children not involved in the summer program and coming from daycare are WELCOME and encouraged to come at 5:35 for dinner, Wild Bible Adventures or KidVid Cinema, Imagination Station, and Safari Celebration. These children will receive **all** of the take home items.

Parents, please join us each evening at 6:50 for the Safari Celebration!

We need many volunteers. Please consider helping for one or more evenings. Come after work at any time.

Please call the parish office, 218-891-4632, with any questions. We look forward to a great VBS!