

# THE MESSENGER



*From the Pastor's desk...*



A Year of Worship – Holidays and Holy Days

Blessed Advent! This is the season that gets drowned out by the commercial preparations for Christmas. The secular world observes the Christmas season starting at Thanksgiving and ending on New Year's Day. Our Christian celebration of Christmas is different. The season of Advent is observed the four Sundays prior to Christmas. The season of Christmas starts with Christmas Eve and goes through Epiphany on January 6. Sometimes it is difficult to keep holidays holy.

Gathering for worship is key to keeping holidays holy. When we take the time to worship, hear the Word of God, join in Holy Communion, pray, praise, sing, and offer our lives back to the God who granted life, we are keeping the day holy. And really, every time we gather for worship, we are keeping our day holy. I am so very thankful this Advent season to be able to share worship, holy days, with all of you. Each time we gather, God is in our midst, giving us his blessing, love, and forgiveness. We are sent out into our daily lives as missionaries of the Good News. That is holy indeed.

If you have any thoughts or questions about anything I have covered in this year of worship series I encourage you to call me at 218-891-4632 or send an email to [pastor@fisherbygland.org](mailto:pastor@fisherbygland.org).

My husband, Pastor Paul Trenne will be installed as Senior Pastor at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, East Grand Forks, on Sunday, December 9, at 9:00 and 11:00 worship and Wednesday, December 12:00 at 6:00 worship. Please hold Pastor Paul and the people of Our Savior's in your prayers.



Blessings to all of you during this season of Advent and Christmas. I hope to see all of you at worship!  
~Pastor Karen Young Trenne

# FISHER NEWS



Women <sup>of the</sup> ELCA 

Dec. 12th  
9:00 AM ~  
Fisher Bible Study



## PARISH NEWS

During each Sunday of the Advent season, we focus on one of the four virtues Jesus brings us: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. Others consider the lighting of the first candle to symbolize expectation, while the second symbolizes hope, the third joy and the fourth purity. The Christ candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day reminding Christians that Jesus is the light of the world.



## CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK

The Lions Clubs of Grand Forks are again sponsoring Christmas in the Park. Many local churches, businesses, organizations, and health care facilities have been working on projects that promise to light up the holiday season. Any profits realized from this event will be used to benefit local charities and to help needy families. If your congregation has not had a holiday display and would like to participate in this event, please call John Ramsey at 218-779-2841 and he will arrange for a holiday lot for your congregation.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

—NOVEMBER 23RD-DECEMBER 31, 2018

HOURS: 5:30-10:00 PM

ADMISSION:

CAR: 6:00

LIMO: 10.00

BUS: 20.00

Plan to visit the Christmas in the Park displays at Lincoln Park Drive.





## SHOE BOX NEWS

Shoe boxes filled with daily living items for people living at Northlands Rescue Mission are due to the church narthex by Dec. 16. Plastic totes, filled with everyday things like toothbrushes, toothpaste, liquid soap, shampoo, etc, will bring lots of comfort to someone.

So please **share your blessings** by filling a shoe box.

## YOU'RE INVITED! Byglund Sunday school news

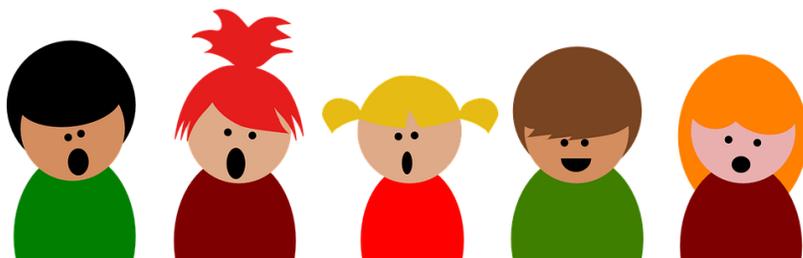
Glory to God!

Please help us celebrate.

**Where:** Byglund Lutheran Church,  
11 a.m. service

**What:** Sunday school Christmas message.

"Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." (Luke 2:15)



## Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner

The annual lutefisk and Meatball dinner is set for Sunday, December 2nd from 11:30-1:30.

Set up and decorating will take place on Saturday, December 1st at 9:00 AM.

Prices for the meal will be as

follows:

Adults \$15.00

Children (ages 5-12) \$5.00

Children under 5 are free

There will also be a craft and bake sale!!



# Fisher Lutheran Sunday School

Sending out an **S.O.S.** as we **Seek Our Savior!**

During the past month, the FLC Sunday School children have been participating in lessons from Pentecost and Christ the King Sunday. They've been discovering what it means to be a part of God's family...that we are to love God in everything we say, think, and do.

The children have been actively involved in service projects throughout the month. As part of our regular Mission Sunday offering, the children contributed items for the Northlands Rescue Mission's Thanksgiving meal. Items donated included boxes of stuffing, cans of green beans, Cream of Mushroom soup, fried onions, coffee and punch.

In honor of Thanksgiving, the children also assembled and donated 'Blizzard Boxes' to Lutheran Social Services Meals on Wheels. 'Blizzard Boxes' contain shelf-stable foods for older adults who receive Meals on Wheels in our area to ensure that they have nutritious food available, even when regular meal deliveries must be cancelled due to inclement weather.

*The FLC Sunday School is created the Blizzard Boxes as part of a Thrivent Action Team Project!*

Fisher Sunday School students and church members have enthusiastically been collecting 'Noisy Offering' throughout the fall. These funds were used to create Winter Weather Care Packages that were donated to the Community Violence Intervention Center in Grand Forks, ND for those in need. Each Winter Weather Care Package contained items such as hats/headbands, gloves/mittens, chap stick/lip balm and hand lotion. It is our hope that these items will help warm and provide comfort for others during the cold winter ahead.



## Fisher Lutheran Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 16, 2018

11:00 AM

### **MIRACLE at the CHRISTMAS CAFÉ**

*Welcome to Bethlehem and the Christmas Café...a small roadside cafe where the food "speaks for itself." At the Christmas Café, waitress Polly Porkchop and cook Mac N. Cheese, tell the story of that special night long ago, when they were dishing out food during Caesar's senseless census. Mix in a group of shepherds and a local innkeeper who drop by to tell about a world-changing miracle, and you've got a recipe for an unforgettable, homespun version of the greatest story ever told!*

Join us for our Christmas Program followed by a meal offered by the Fisher Lutheran Youth Group.



## Council Minutes

Are you looking for the full minutes of the church council meetings? Great! We want the members of our congregations to have access to all the minutes. Paper copies are available in each church narthex, or you may call the parish office 218-891-4632 or email Jami at [office@fisherbygland.org](mailto:office@fisherbygland.org) to have a copy sent to you in the mail. Council highlights will be printed in the newsletter each month.

### **Bygland Council Highlights**

The meeting was held on November 14 with a quorum present. Devotions, Secretary's, Treasurer's, Financial Secretary's, and Pastor's reports were given.

#### **Old Business:**

Membership Roster is an ongoing project.

Parsonage report reviewed.

Church insurance quotes were received from Church Mutual and American Church Group. The decision to keep Church Mutual Insurance was made.

Semi-annual church cleaning is on hold.

#### **New Business:**

The youth group advisors gave a presentation about the group's plans for a mission trip through Luther Crest Bible Camp to Chicago next summer. The budget for the trip was presented. The council voted to pay the chaperones' fees for the trip. Fundraising for youth will be taking place. We fully support our Youth Group having this experience.

Pastor Karen presented a proposed Wedding Policy.

Plans for the Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner were discussed.

Joint Parish Council Meeting will be held at Bygland, November 28, at 7:30 pm.

Next meeting December 12, at 7:30.

### **Fisher Council Highlights**

The meeting was held on November 21 with a quorum present. Reports were given by the Secretary, Treasurer, and Pastor.

Committee reports

Parsonage

Sunday School – budget needs

#### **Old Business**

Sidewalk Railing – a decision was made about design and price

Building repairs were reported

Electronic Giving – hope to implement at first of year

#### **New Business**

Pastor Karen presented a new wedding policy for consideration

Budget meeting will be held in December

Joint Parish Council meeting will be held at Bygland, November 28, at 7:30

Next meeting will be December 19, at 7:30

# Nativity Wordsearch



k	s	b	c	a	n	g	e	l	u
i	m	a	n	g	e	r	j	k	t
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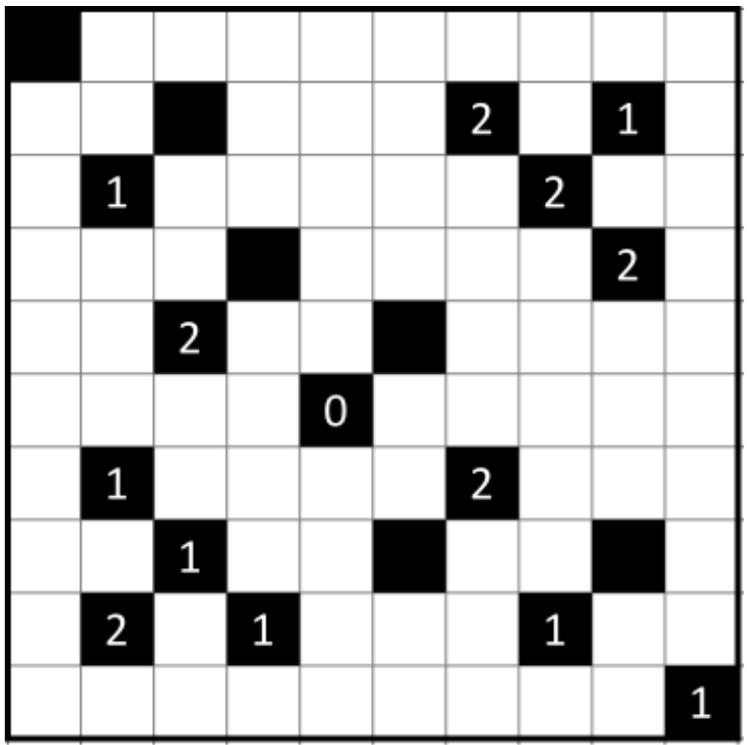
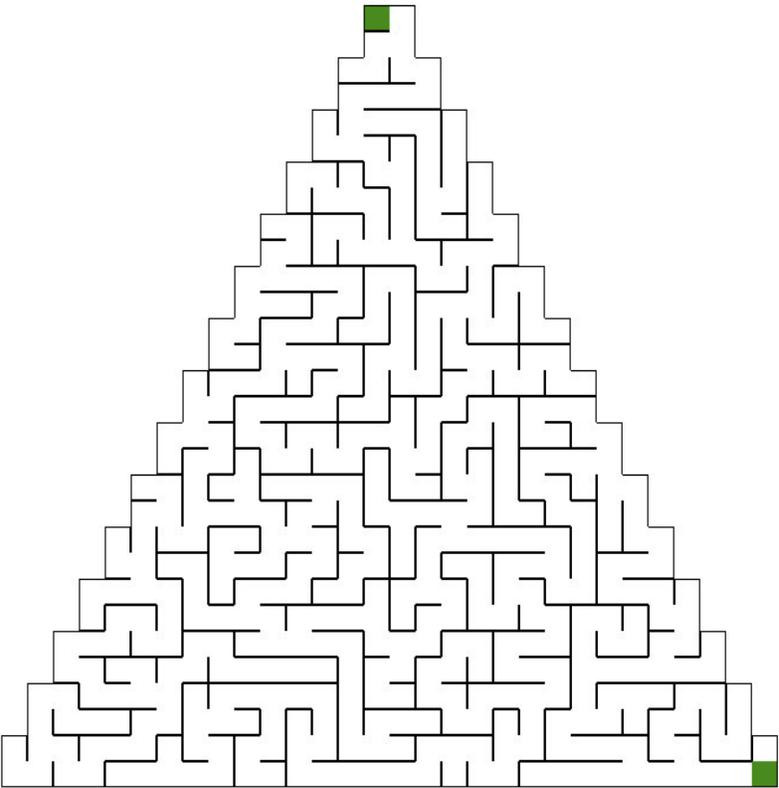
- angel
- donkey
- Jesus
- Joseph
- kings
- manger
- Mary
- shepherd
- stable
- star



# Mr. Snowman!



Let's build a snowman! First we need to have a really \_\_\_\_\_ snowstorm, of course on a \_\_\_\_\_ day. Watching all that \_\_\_\_\_ snow fall makes me \_\_\_\_\_ for a bowl of \_\_\_\_\_! \_\_\_\_\_ it's still \_\_\_\_\_ and there's a lot of it! Let's go! Next is \_\_\_\_\_ to go out in the cold. Once that is done, we need to get busy. We make a \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ it in the \_\_\_\_\_. It gets so \_\_\_\_\_ we can't roll it anymore. Then we do \_\_\_\_\_ more and stack them on top of each other. We \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ in the driveway for the \_\_\_\_\_, eyes and \_\_\_\_\_. Mom gives us a scarf, hat and \_\_\_\_\_ to complete Mr. \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ he's done! Finally. Now the best part, \_\_\_\_\_.



Fisher Bygland Lutheran Parish

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# ELCA Good Gifts: Advent Tree Ornaments and Cards

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we believe that God is calling us into the world – together. And with generous, loving hands, we can make a difference. ELCA Good Gifts is your opportunity to provide critical support to the ministries and programs that mean the most to you and the people you love. Bygland and Fisher each have tree ornaments and cards for gift giving. Here is how it works:



## 1. Choose your ornament.

Select an ornament for a gift that means the most to you. Take the ornament home to place on your own tree. Give a gift to ELCA Good Gifts for the amount on the ornament. Write a check out to your congregation for the amount with ELCA Good Gifts in the memo line or use your credit or debit card online at [ELCA.org/goodgifts](http://ELCA.org/goodgifts) or by phone, 800-638-3522.



## 2. Get a card

If your gift is in honor of a friend or loved one, it's easy to tell them about it. Choose a card available next to the Advent tree. Give a gift to ELCA Good Gifts for the amount on the card. Write a check out to your congregation for the amount with ELCA Good Gifts in the memo line or use your credit or debit card online at [ELCA.org/goodgifts](http://ELCA.org/goodgifts) or by phone, 800-638-3522.



## 3. Where your money goes

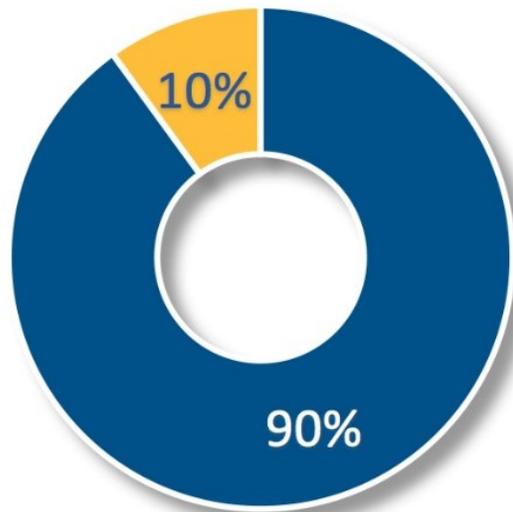
Every project in every community starts with listening. We believe that our congregations, companion churches and partners know their communities best. That's why *they* identify the needs and priorities in their communities, as well as the solutions they believe will make the biggest impact.

**You gifts support work  
in 83 countries.**



More information is available in the ELCA Good Gifts catalog available in the narthex at each Bygland and Fisher and online at [ELCA.org/goodgifts](http://ELCA.org/goodgifts)

**More than 90 percent of your gifts  
directly support our programs.**



■ Program ■ Administration and Fundraising

The gifts on the cards and ornaments are real examples from projects currently supported through different churchwide ministries. The projects have been planned by our partners – meaning that each community receives exactly the kind of support they need and none of what they don't. Your donation will be used where it is needed most within the wider category of each gift you've selected. (For example, a gift of vaccinations may be used to support other health care initiatives.) This allows our church to stay adaptive, flexible and effective in the work that we do. Because we seek to honor your generosity and keep administrative costs low, we do not track individual financial gifts to specific families or locations in the U.S. or abroad.

More than 90 percent of your gifts directly support our programs. Less than 10 percent is used for administration and fundraising.