

# THE MESSENGER



*From the Pastor's desk...*



## **We are a Global Church**

### India Trip Cancelled

This month I was going to write to you about the exciting opportunity I was going to have to travel to India to visit our sister synod the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Synod. You may remember that Holly Wavra and Arlet Phillips from Bygland were part of the pilgrimage to our sister synod in 2012. I had pondered going at that time, but I couldn't. So, when the Bishop invited the conference deans to consider this pilgrimage, I jumped at the chance.

Bishop Wohlrabe had put together a group of 8 to travel during the month of November to attend the Pastor's Day Celebration held on Martin Luther's birthday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. Alas, it was not to be. Our group included Bishop Wohlrabe and his wife Joy, retired Concordia College professor Hank Tkachuk and his wife Lynn, myself, another pastor and two lay people from our synod. Hank died suddenly and unexpectedly on September 13. Hank was the coordinator of the trip, making all the reservations and arrangements for our travel. He had purchased the airline tickets, but none of the in-country arrangements had been made. It was decided after a couple hours long meeting of prayer and discernment, that we simply could not proceed without Hank's contributions.

Did you know that worldwide there are more Lutherans who are not Caucasian than those that are? Our missionaries from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries did good work spreading the Gospel and inviting others to be disciples of Jesus. The Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Synod was founded as a mission field of the then United Lutheran Church in America (ULCA) by John Christian Frederick Heyer on 31 July 1842. As a first step, schools were established. With new baptisms, the confidence of the missionaries increased. Later hospitals were established. Today the AELC has over 800,000 baptized members, over 5000 congregations, and 600 ordained pastors and a large number of lay workers.

We celebrate with our brothers and sisters in the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Synod, even though we will not be together, the great things that God has done, and is doing in his church throughout the world!

### Special Offerings

This month Fisher Lutheran will receive an offering for Lift Kosova and the WELCA Thank offering. Members of both Fisher and Bygland are invited to send offerings for Hurricane Florence relief to Lutheran Disaster Response, write Hurricane Response on your memo line. Send to:

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

**P.O. Box 1809**

**Merrifield, VA 22116-8009**

### Harvest Prayers

This October we will be including special prayers for harvest. It has been brought to my attention that not all area farmers are involved with the sugar beet harvest. I know that harvest is an ongoing process from the end of July through November. Our prayers are meant to be inclusive of all farmers and farm workers for the entire season.

Hope to see you all in worship this October!

~Pastor Karen



## Thankoffering

Thankofferings support the total outreach of Women of the ELCA through the ministries of the churchwide organization.

Offerings provide for:

- Leadership training
- Gather magazine and Bible Study*
- Support for new units
- Spiritual gifts and discipleship programming
- Program resources on women's health, spiritual practices, church history, human trafficking and more
- Café e-zine and podcast*
- Racial justice network and trainings
- Advocacy for women and children
- Outreach through social media
- Partnering with other Christian women's organizations



Thankoffering envelopes will be available on Sunday September 30th through October 14th. Envelopes may be left in the offering plate on those Sundays or you can turn them into Sheryl Tinkham at anytime.



Women of the ELCA 

Oct. 8th, 9th, 22nd & 23rd Quilting  
at 9:00 AM.

Oct. 13th ELCA Fall Gathering - Fertile MN.



Thank you to  
all who helped  
out on "God's  
Work. Our  
Hand's "  
Sunday





**QUILTING:** Oct. 3 & 10, beginning at 9:00

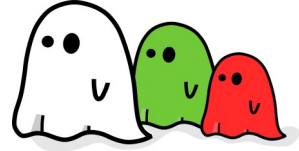
## **BOOK CLUB NEWS**

Book club members will gather at the church on Oct. 29 (7:00) to discuss **THE BILLIONAIRE'S VINEGAR** (Benjamin Wallace).

New members are always welcome!

## **SHOE BOX SEASON APPROACHES**

Begin early to pick up daily living items for someone at the Northlands Rescue Mission. Please pack them in a plastic tote so that you can deliver the box to the church in December. Share your blessings.



Our hands have polluted your creation and misused our resources. Now we seek clean air, soil, water, and abundant life for all living things. ***Renew our hands for your work, O God, today and everyday. Blessed be the works of your hands, O Holy One.***

Thank you to all of those who participated in the Bygland Lutheran Church and Sunday school Adopt-A-Highway service project as part of God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, held September 9, 2018: Eric Egeland, Barry Traub, Kent Wavra, Holly Wavra, Zach Wavra, Reighan Wavra, Steve Short, Courtney Robertson, Hayli Robertson, Laura Arnold, Mason Arnold, Jay Almlie, Erin Almlie, Gabe Almlie, Marsha Ketring, Randy Moe, Alan Halvorson, Danielle Brundin, Seth Brundin, Paige Brundin, Sidney Brundin, Troy Pecka, Patty Pecka, Sophie Pecka, and Jeff Millar. You have engaged in an opportunity to demonstrate care and restoration to our beautiful earth. It was a beautiful, sunny day to be out serving with our family, friends, and neighbors. We thank you for your time and energy. We give a special thank you to Jeff Millar for providing some door prizes for the day.

All friends, neighbors, and parish members are welcome to participate in our program. Mark your calendar for our next collection date: Saturday, April 27, 2019 starting at 10:00 a.m. Participants will meet at the Bygland Lutheran Church, south door. Please dress accordingly.

### **Fisher Bygland Lutheran Parish**

Pastor Karen Young Trenne

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# **FISHER MINUTES**

**9-19-18**

Members Present: Pastor Karen, Reed Tinkham, Travis Schwarz, Gail Kasowski, Tami Newhouse, James Matthews, Jared Solheim

The meeting was called to order @ 7:30 pm.

Pastor Karen led Devotions

**Secretary's Report** – The minutes from the July 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved by the Council on motion by J. Matthews, second my G. Kasowski.

**Treasurer's Report** – The Treasurer's reports for July & August 2018 were presented by R. Tinkham and approved by the Council on motion by T. Schwarz, second my J. Solheim.

**Pastor's Report** – Pastor Karen reported that one baptism was held at Fisher Lutheran during the month of July as well as a funeral in August. Other activities noted included a Dean's Conference Call, Good Samaritan worship, VMH Board Meeting devotions, a visit by our missionaries Anne & Willie Langdji at University Lutheran Church, Conference Professional Leaders gathering at Trinity Point and Rev. Bill Reck's retirement program.

Pastor Karen is the Conference Dean for our area, and has been asked to take part in a 11 day Synod trip to India, Nov. 5 - 16. Fisher Lutheran had voted earlier to accept the Synod guidelines which allow for accumulation of unused Continuing Education days for up to three years. Pastor Karen requested using her two remaining weeks of Continuing Education from 2016 & 2017 to cover the leave. On motion by T. Schwarz, second by J. Matthews the Council granted the request.

Also noted in the Pastor's Report:

- The WELCA Synod Convention was held Sept. 14-15 at Trinity Lutheran in Detroit Lakes
- The Fall Theological Conference at Fair Hills took place Sept 16-18
- Confirmation for students in Gr. 6-8 meet on Wednesday evenings and the 9<sup>th</sup> Gr. Confirmation class would be meeting on Sept. 23
- VMH Annual Meeting – Sept. 24 @ 6:30 pm
- Pastor Karen will be on vacation Oct. 2-8
- The Joint Parish Council will meet @ Bygland on Nov. 28 @ 7:30 pm

**Committee Reports** – G. Kasowski presented a report from True Home Property Solutions. It was noted that there were a few expenses for repairs and that Bygland Council members had requested that a different individual be hired to complete repairs in the future.

The Property Committee has noted that the following items need to be addressed:

- Toilet plumbing issue in women's bathroom
- Repair of lock on handicap accessible bathroom
- Ceiling tile in fellowship hall

R. Tinkham reported that replacement windows for two of the classrooms had been ordered

**Old Business** – The following special offerings will be accepted throughout the upcoming months:

- October – Lift Kosovo / WELCA Thank Offering
- November – World Hunger
- December – Lutheran World Relief
- January – Military Bible Sticks
- February – Global Mission
- March – VMH Chaplaincy
- April – Gideons
- May – Fund for Leaders

**New Business** – On motion by T. Newhouse, second by G. Kasowski, Wagner Landscaping would be paid \$5082.55 for improvements to the church landscape. Funds would be taken from the undesignated memorial fund.

The Council approved the use of the church kitchen on Nov. 11 @ 2:00 pm by the Fisher American Legion Auxiliary to prepare the Veterans Day lunch. Motion by G. Kasowski, Second by J. Matthews

There was no report available on the progress of setting up electronic giving. A suggestion was made to explore Venmo, free digital wallet that lets you make and share payments.

Approval was given to continue Portico Gold + coverage for Pastor Karen's benefits for 2019. The 2018 cost to Fisher Lutheran for this benefits plan is \$11,532.48.

Reed Tinkham declared the meeting adjourned.



# BYGLAND MINUTES

**Unofficial/Unapproved  
September 12th, 2018**

**Members present:** Eric Egeland, Pastor Karen, Barry Traub, Jason Thorson, Steve Short, Wendy Waller, Marsha Ketring, Ronnie Thorson, Randy Moe, Karen Ebertowski, Roger Krostue

**Members absent:**

**Call to order-**The meeting was called to order by Eric Egeland

**Devotions-**Pastor Karen led devotions

**Agenda/addition of items was discussed-**Motion to approve: Randy M., seconded by Jason T., *motion carried.*

**Secretary's report-**read by Wendy Waller. Motion to approve: Ronnie T., seconded by Barry T., *motion carried.*

**Treasurer's report-**read by Randy Moe. Motion to approve the monthly report was made by Karen E., seconded by Barry T., *motion carried.*

**Financial Secretary report-**We reviewed the financial secretary's report.

**Pastor's report-**Pastor Karen went over her report for the summer months.

**Old business:**

- The membership roster is still an ongoing project.
- An amendment was made to the last meeting minutes: Fisher requires no registration fee for Vacation Bible School for any child to attend. The Bygland council has agreed to make a monetary donation to assist with costs.
- The parsonage tenant is experiencing miscommunication with the water bill. The city of Fisher bills TruHome and TruHome hadn't forwarded to the tenant.
- Pastor Karen has decided against switching the lectionary cycle.

**New business:**

- A motion was made to grant Pastor Karen 2 weeks of continuing education time under the Synod assembly guidelines for a mission trip to India. Barry Traub made the motion, Jason T. seconded it, *motion carried.*
- The state of MN inspected our elevator and they reported that we have repairs to make. Randy called Otis elevator and forwarded the information to them. Otis looked at the elevator and sent Randy a bill of \$2,850 to bring it up to compliance with new regulations. These repairs are not covered by our regular maintenance contract. A motion was made to make the required upgrades to our elevator to bring it up to MN code for approximately \$3000 by Barry T. and seconded by Wendy W., *motion carried.*
- Our quilters found evidence of rodent activity recently. Godfathers exterminating has been our service. Eric is going to contact them about stopping by. Randy also brought up spraying for asian beetles. He is going to check on getting this done.
- Eric has been approached about having the church more thoroughly cleaned once or twice a year. Options were discussed for having this done.

A motion was made by Randy M. .. to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Barry T.. The meeting was adjourned. Pastor Karen closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will be on October 10th, 2018 at 7:30 pm.

~ Conference #3 ~



# Fall Gathering



# Saturday, October 13, 2018

**Registration/Coffee 8:30 - 9:00 AM**

**Fee: \$10.00 (Includes Lunch)**

# Concordia Lutheran Church - Fertile

## 100 Jefferson Ave SW ~ Fertile, Minnesota



# "Resting in the Lord"

**Theme Verse:** *"Be still and know that I am God" - Psalm 46:10*



**Speaker:** *“Can You Hear My Voice?”*

Leah Winjum

Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministry, Trinity-Crookston

**Physical Offering:** Personal Care Items for Fertile Area Food Shelf

[illegible]

### WELCA Unit Fees:

\$15.00 for congregations under 300

\$30.00 for congregations 300 and over

**Please make Unit Fee checks payable to: Women of the ELCA**

**Send to:** **Connie Haller, Financial Recorder**

**1413 S Main Street**

**Crookston MN 56716**