

Rohde's Reforming Report

The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' – Acts 17:24-28

How does God move in the world? What does that even look like? Does God move in big and bold ways, or is God's movement small and subtle? Is God's movement obvious and earth-shaking like an elephant's footsteps? Or is God's movement weightless and smooth like a giant whale swimming through the ocean?

In the book of Genesis, we are told that at the beginning of creation, the Spirit of God moved over the waters of creation like a wind. In the second telling of creation, God is depicted as a creator who is among their creation, working with their hands in the dust and the clay. What does it mean for us to have a creator who gets their hands dirty, working intimately with and among their creation? How amazing!

We, of course, see God's movement in the physical movement of Jesus the Christ. Jesus' movements are ones full of compassion and love, forgiveness and mercy. For the Gospel writers, Jesus' movement throughout each Gospel is always towards Jerusalem, towards the cross, towards His crucifixion, death, and resurrection. And throughout the story of God's people, even beyond Jesus' resurrection and into the life of the Church today, we see and feel the movement of God in the world through the great Advocate, the Holy Spirit.

And how does the Church move? Does the movement of the Church match the movements of God? Does the Church sometimes find itself at odds with, or at the very least struggling with the abundance of God's love and grace that is the driving force for God's movement? What are some ways the Church might strive to participate more openly with God's movement in the world? On a global scale? What about a national scale, or even just within the community of Fisher and Bygland Lutheran Churches?

I seem to have more questions than answers for this newsletter. But questions can lead to some great insight and maybe even some movement! If you have any answers, or what to wonder out loud with me about these things. Please always feel free to reach out.

Blessed be your work in the world,

-Pastor Nicholas



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

SUMMER 2026

BIBLE STUDY

"I am Worthy"

A. A three-part Bible study by the Rev. Sara Olson Smith

Session Two

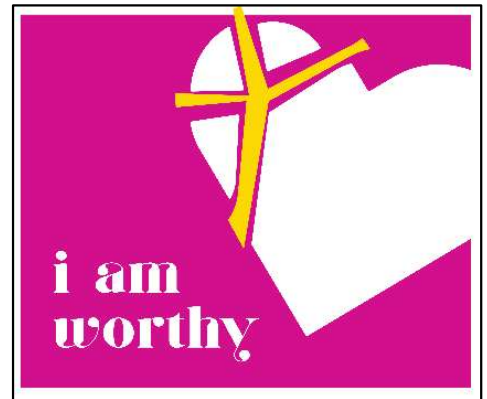
"I am more than one thing: Honoring our many identities."

July 15, 2026 @ 9:00 AM

Session Three

"I am because you are: We need on another."

August 19, 2026 @ 9:00 AM



This summer, Women of the ELCA participants are gathering in Des Moines, Iowa, under the theme "I am worthy." When Nobel Peace Prize winner Leymah Gbowee spoke in 2017, she invited WELCA participants to reclaim space for women and girls to lead and love in bold ways. This three-part Bible study helps us to define who we are, what we can be, and what we do in the world, in light of our God-given giftedness, identities and relationships.

Session Two: In session two, we'll explore how the multiple identities of several women in Scripture shape their faithful living. Esther is not just a queen, but a niece, as well as part of an oppressed community of faith. Ruth is so much more than just a widow. Mary Magdalene has more identities than can fit within the allowed word count of this paragraph. So do you!

Session Three: Our individual identities are always bound up in community. Jesus describes this vision using a vine and branches. Paul talks about a body with many parts. The prophets describe communities of liberative interdependence.


Archbishop Desmond Tutu describes this way of mutual interconnectedness as "Ubuntu," where "my humanity is caught up and bound up inextricably with yours. I can only be fully me if you are fully you."

In delving into Scripture, we learn how no one can flourish unless everyone does, and how our lives are bound up with one another and the planet.

Women of the ELCA
Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization
38th Annual Convention
September 18 & 19, 2026
Trinity Lutheran Church, Crookston, Minnesota

Theme: Button Up Your Faith
Hebrews 11:1: Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do.

Business Meeting
Bible Study by Pastor
Bible Meal
Closing Remarks by Bishop
and Team

Keynote Speaker

Gayle Lindfors
Inspirational Christian
Speaker and Author
Pastor of Olatona, MN
gayelindfors.com

Breakout Sessions
Diane Johnson & Gillis
Victim/Witness Coordinator- Facility Day Handler
Cathy Kowalson
Carolina Diaz
Care & Share Handouts Distributor

Check www.nmsynod.org
for more information
and updates.

Button Up Your Faith
Wall Hanging Project
Participate by bringing a button to attach to
our quilted wall hanging.

FISHER LUTHERAN QUILTING

Volunteer to Quilt for Kids and Families in Need

Often, when natural disasters strike or war drives families from their homes, our hearts ache with compassion but we don't know how to help. If you've wondered how to volunteer to quilt for charity, look no further. Making Lutheran World Relief Mission Quilts is a tangible way to express love to our neighbors in need. Quilts can be used as warm bedding, simple tents or floor coverings. Each one reflects God's loving presence in a world rife with suffering.

Join us

July 6th & 7th and 20th & 21st
August 10th & 11th and 24th & 25th
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Fisher Lutheran also provides quilts to various local organizations in need.

UPCOMING EVENTS

KIDS BIKE PARADE

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Parade starts at **11:30**

SERTOMA 4th OF JULY

— Celebrate —
THE 4TH OF JULY
★ with the ★
SERTOMA CLUB!

FAMILY • COMMUNITY • FUN

SERTOMA PARK
3300 11th Ave S.
Grand Forks, ND
11AM - 6PM

- ★ LIVE MUSIC
- ★ FOOD & DRINKS
- ★ GAMES & ACTIVITIES
- ★ FIREWORKS

Everyone Welcome!

Grape Mill Vineyard & Winery:
Sunday July 19
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

GRAPE MILL WINERY
DOG MEET & GREET

FISHER BIO Girls

5K RUN & WALK

YOU'RE INVITED TO CHEER

FISHER LUTHERAN CHURCH
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19TH
7:00 PM

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ARE WELCOME TO COME CHEER ON THE 2025 BIO GIRLS & ENJOY A SWEET TREAT IN THE PARKING LOT OF FISHER LUTHERAN CHURCH FOLLOWING THE 5K!

For More Information Contact:
Carmen Knutson
(218) 289-0746
fisher.mn@biogirls.org

For more information and the fun run route find us on Facebook: Bio Girls - Fisher, MN

JULY 28TH 5-8PM

Bible Boot Camp

FISHER LUTHERAN CHURCH

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF EXPLORING THE ADVENTURES OF GOD

REGISTER@ [HTTPS://VBSPRO.EVENTS/P/DBE153](https://vbspro.events/p/dbe153)
OR TEXT 218-289-0326

Sabbath at the Lake Women's Retreat

Tuesday August 18th, 2026
8:45-3:00

Trinity Point, N Trinity Point Rd SE
Mentor, MN 56736

- 1 Day Retreat on scenic Maple Lake
- 2 Sing-alongs with Carol Petersen and DeeAnn Leines
- 3 Breakout Sessions
- 4 Awesome Women Pastors

Sabbath at the Lake Women's Retreat

Step away from the busyness of everyday life and join other women for a day of renewal, fellowship, and rest at beautiful Trinity Point on Maple Lake.

Spend the day with pastors Katie Ohren-Shipman, Marilyn Grafstrom, Laurie Albertson, and Kelly Ahola, enjoy breakout sessions, sing-alongs with Carol Petersen and DeeAnn Leines, meaningful conversation, and time to draw closer to God in a peaceful lakeside setting. Morning coffee, snacks, and lunch are included. The cost is \$30 per person. Registrations and payment are due by August 10.



SEPTEMBER 26

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

CALVARY CHURCH IN ALEXANDRIA, MN
FREE CHILDCARE AGES 0-5TH GRADE

**RAISING
THE
NEXT GEN**

Designed to equip parents with practical insights, and inspiration for supporting kid and student mental health & emotional resilience in our connected world

Calling all parents, caregivers, & anyone invested in the next generation's growth and well-being



DR. CHINWE WILLIAMS

a nationally recognized speaker, therapist, and best-selling author specializing in anxiety, trauma, and wellness, with over 10 years of experience across clinical, academic, and corporate settings



WILL HUTCHERSON

an author, pastor, and founder of Curate Hope, a non-profit dedicated to suicide prevention and mental health awareness for teens



SCAN TO REGISTER AND LEARN MORE

CONNECT WITH OTHER PARENTS AND GAIN VALUABLE TOOLS FOR NAVIGATING MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES

WWW.RAISINGTHENEXTGEN.ORG/CONFERENCES

Fisher Bygland Parish

We are affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and a member of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod. We are a two-point parish, serving the members of Fisher and Bygland

Bygland Lutheran Church

40976 235th St. SW
Fisher, MN 56723
218893-4243

Mission

"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."

Fisher Lutheran Church

209 2nd St. S.
Fisher, MN 56723
218-891-4632

Mission

As children of God, we invite all people to journey with us as we worship, grow in faith and serve in Jesus' name.

Email

office@fisherbygland.org
pastor@fisherbygland.org

Worship Services

9:00 AM

Alternating between Fisher and Bygland each week through summer.

Please view the calendar for worship times & locations!

**Services streamed online via
Facebook**