

# THE MESSENGER



*From the Pastor's desk...*



## Global Mission Offering

For those of you who follow the prayer requests on the midweek memo, you may have noticed that I have included Anne and Willie Langdji in the prayers on a weekly basis. Anne and Willie are the missionaries that our congregations have helped to sponsor since 2002.

Anne and Willie serve as Regional representatives for the ELCA for Western Africa. Their work focuses on health ministries and sustainable development. They live in the Central African Republic. Anne was raised in Minot and her parents now live in Montana. She holds a Bachelor's degree in International Service and a Master's degree in Public Health. She has served as a missionary with the ELCA from 1995 to the present, working in health care ministries in the Central African Republic and Senegal. Willie was born and raised in the region of Cameroon that borders eastern Nigeria. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Soil Science and a Master's degree in Development Studies. He has served since 1999 in agriculture development. Anne and Willie have a son, Micah, who is eight years old. This past July, Anne and Willie were in the United States sharing their ministries with congregations here. They spoke at St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Grand Forks about their life and ministry. We heard about political unrest and their inability to reach some of the people in their region with health care and development resources. We also heard that despite these challenges, the Lutheran Church in West Africa continues to reach the people there with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

There are 225 missionaries serving in 94 countries in ELCA Global Ministries. Many of these are actually volunteers in the Young Adults in Global Mission program. This program is for young adults ages 21-29 to serve for one year with our partner ministries around the world. Our ELCA missionaries serve at the invitation of our global church partners in many capacities: pastors, educators, administrators, physicians and health care workers, and development.

During the month of February, we will receive our special offerings for Global Mission for the ELCA. Please place your check in the offerings plate with Global Mission offering in the memo line. If you would like to give by credit card you may go to [www.ELCA.org/Globalchurch/donate](http://www.ELCA.org/Globalchurch/donate), or call 800-638-3522.

## Weekly Holy Communion

I wrote in January and spoke at the annual meetings about moving to weekly celebration of Holy Communion. I held a forum at each church with good attendance and great input. Some of the concerns I heard were about Holy Communion being something special and not common place. I also heard concern that our worship services maintain a sense of variety. The altar committee members in attendance said that the work load would not be too much. Weekly Holy Communion will offer the sacrament to those who are unable to worship weekly. It will be another way for us to experience God's grace every time we gather for Sunday worship. We are going to have a trial period starting with Lent and going through Easter, then we will visit about our experience of weekly Holy Communion. Please feel free to call me with your questions and concerns.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Karen Young Trenne

# PARISH NEWS

## What volunteer opportunities are available at Valley Memorial Homes?



Valley Memorial has over 300 volunteers throughout the year. Volunteers are very important to the residents and tenants who call Valley Memorial 'home'. They lend their hands and their hearts to assist with music, worship, Bible studies, activities, outings and the coffee shop. Volunteer needs at this time include one-on-one visits and assisting with holiday parties. If you are interested in any of these opportunities please contact Kaley at [701-787-7984](tel:701-787-7984) or [kittlejohn@valleymemorial.org](mailto:kittlejohn@valleymemorial.org).

Who does Valley Memorial Homes serve?

Valley Memorial Homes serves the greater Grand Forks area with compassionate care and service from a Christian perspective. We provide for over 525 residents with a full continuum of care in our five facilities. We strive to meet the needs of every person - physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually. Valley Memorial Homes employs over 750 people to help achieve this goal. We are proud to be a part of your congregation's mission, as well as a part of this community. Please visit our website at [www.valleymemorial.org](http://www.valleymemorial.org)



## Giving Hearts Day

← FEBRUARY 9TH →

[givingheartsday.org](http://givingheartsday.org)

# Creating meaningful days at **Valley Memorial Homes**

You can make a difference by giving online at [www.givingheartsday.org](http://www.givingheartsday.org) during the 24 hour Online Fundraiser on **Thursday February 9th, 2017**.

All donations of \$10 or more will be matched by generous donors during Giving Hearts Day.



The honored dead of our military are in need of your help at Crookston's Oakdale Cemetery. About 100 grave markers there have sunk into the ground and need to be elevated by people with shovels and strong backs. Would you please contact Mr. Peter Heydt to offer your services in this project? You can contact him via e-mail ([heydt.peter@gmail.com](mailto:heydt.peter@gmail.com)) or on his cell phone (289-0870). Donations for this project would also be appreciated, and will be matched, dollar for dollar, from a special fund specifically for this effort.



## 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.

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### Unofficial/Unapproved Council Meeting Minutes January 11, 2016 7:30pm

**Members present:** Roger Moe, Marsha Ketring, Alan Halvorson, Karen Ebertowski, Ronnie Thorson, Troy Pecka, Haley Thorson (arrived late), Eric Egeland, Randy Moe, Sheila Wurden and Pastor Karen

**Members absent:** Pam Robertson

#### **Call to Order**

The council meeting was called to order by Council President Roger Moe at 7:30pm and Pastor Karen led devotions on Lutherans Making a World of Difference.

#### **Secretary's Report**

Haley provided a copy of the December minutes.

*A motion to approve the secretary's report was made by Troy and seconded by Alan. All were in favor, motion carried.*

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Randy provided a balance sheet for December. He shared that we were at 98% of budget for 2016.

*A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Pam and seconded by Ronnie. All were in favor, motion carried.*

#### **Pastor's Report**

Pastor Karen provided a statistical report for December. There were no baptisms, funerals or new members. The weddings of Katherine Krostue and Cody Johnson (December 9<sup>th</sup>) as well as Haley Waller and Justin Vavrina (December 17<sup>th</sup>) were held at Bygland. She highlighted some regular pastoral activity as well as many upcoming events, including the Annual Meetings of both congregations and Conference Assembly (February 19<sup>th</sup>.)

#### *Old Business*

##### **Church Maintenance**

No updates regarding the Sterling bid on the replacement of the front doors. Roger will follow up with Jamie.

##### **Organist**

Jane Traub has been secured for both churches, through the month of January.

#### **Open Council Positions from 2017**

Pastor Karen spoke with the Bishop and they recommended following the church constitution as much as possible. Since there is interest in the current council to continue to serve, the recommendation was that the congregation could ask the membership to suspend the current constitution as it pertains to certain council term limits to allow the interested individuals to continue to serve. With that said, a ballot will not be presented to the membership until the congregation agrees to the suspension. This would allow any interested member to be presented for nomination at the annual meeting.

#### *New Business*

##### **Constitution Review**

Pastor Karen shared that there are parts of the constitution that are required to be in compliance with the model constitution. Any constitutional amendments would require an additional meeting of the congregation. Pastor Karen has copies of the suggested revisions available.

### Parsonage Vacancy

Interested tenants would like to move in on Jan 23. Pastor Karen advised the council to consider hiring a property management company since the new tenants are not members of the parish. The new company could also assist with background checks prior to lease signing. Management companies typically charge between 7-10% of the rent and a few companies are currently being vetted.

*Motion to approve the hiring of a property management company was made by Eric and seconded by Troy. All were in favor, motion carried.*

### 2017 BLC Budget

The council reviewed the 2016 proposed and actual budgets and prepared a proposed 2017 budget to carry to the membership at the annual meeting.

**Next Meeting Date: BLC Annual Meeting, January 29, following 11am service  
Regular BLC Council Meeting, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm**

### Adjourn

*A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Haley and seconded by Sheila . All were in favor, the motion carried.*

The meeting was closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Submitted by Haley Thorson, BLC Council Secretary



**BOOK CLUB NEWS**  
The Book Club members finished their reading season in November and will not meet again until March 27, at which time they will discuss THE GOLDFINCH (Donna Tartt). Happy winter reading!

**Women of the ELCA**  
6th & 7th Quilting in Fisher at 9:00 AM  
15th Bible Study at 9:00 AM  
20th & 21st Quilting in Fisher at 9:00 AM

“For God so lo**V**ed the world,  
That He g**A**ve  
His on**L**y  
Begott**E**n  
So**N**  
That Whosoever  
Believeth **I**n Him  
Should **N**ot perish  
But have **E**verlasting life.”  
-- John 3:16

**Pathways**  
Pathways brochures have arrived and are in the narthex in both churches. Get your kids registered before March 1st for the Early Bird Discount.



# FISHER NEWS

## Fisher Lutheran Church Council Minutes

January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Members Present:** Pastor Karen Young Trenne, Lance Reitmeir, Kelly Bakken, Sheryl Tinkham, , Darryl Quern, Ken Miller, Chad Knutson, Ross Korynta, Kelly Halverson, Gail Kasowski, Troy Newhouse.

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by President Lance Reitmeir

**Devotions:** Devotions were led by Pastor Karen Young Trenne

**Secretary's Report:** The Secretary's report for the December meeting was reviewed. A motion was made to accept the secretary's report. Motion was seconded, motion passed

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report for the month of November was reviewed. A motion was made to accept the treasury reports. The motion was seconded, motion passed.

### **Pastor's Report**

Pastor Karen ministered 1 funeral in December.

Activities Pastor Karen has been involved in include: Confirmation classes, Good Samaritan Center, Red River Valley Juvenile Center, Dean's Conference call, Conference meeting, Christmas Day worship & Lesson and Carols 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas.

Upcoming important dates include: Congregational Forum about weekly Holy Communion on Jan 15<sup>th</sup>; Fisher Lutheran Annual meeting on Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>; Adult Bible study @ Bygland Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> and Fisher Jan 30<sup>th</sup>; Conference Assembly on Feb 19<sup>th</sup>; Equipping Congregations Days February 18<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor Karen will be taking vacation February 13<sup>th</sup>-18.

### **Committee Report**

The Parsonage committee has found new tenants to reside in the parsonage and have prepaid January and February rent.

The Parsonage committee will investigate hiring a management company to handle the day to day and emergency needs of the parsonage.

The nominating committee informed the council that all positions have been filled on all committees and council positions for 2017

### **Old Business**

A motion was made to allow the technology committee to move on accepting the bid of the HB sound and light audio package. The motion was seconded, motion passed.

The council also asks that the technology committee further research the HB sound and light bid on the video package. The committee will need to determine who will operate and maintain the video system before the council decides to further pursue the investment.

Troy will investigate any potential cost savings with Ecolab regarding a 6 month contract vrs. Month to month services.

### **New Business**

Constitutional updates will need to be discussed at the annual meeting in order to match the model constitution as presented by the ELCA

The meeting was suspended to further discuss and detail the 2017 proposed budget before it is presented at the annual meeting.

The annual meeting for Fisher Lutheran will be held on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, following the 11AM church service

A motion was made to suspend the meeting and finalize the proposed budget at a later date to be determined before the annual meeting. Motion was seconded and passed.

Pastor Karen led us in praying the Lord's Prayer

The next council meeting is February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017

Respectfully submitted by Troy Newhouse, Secretary

# Italian Dinner

Saturday, February 19, 2017

6 PM Hors d'oeuvres

6:30 PM "Divine Dollar" auction begins (bring your dollar bills for some fun and a chance to win great prizes)

7 PM Dinner with entertainment by Tim Eggebraaten

Tickets \$25 each

Call or Text Bonnie at **218-289-1896** to purchase your tickets

Meal Choices: Chicken Alfredo or Spaghetti and Meatballs (Both with all the fixings and dessert)

***Proceeds go to support the youth attending the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, TX***



**Fisher Bygland Lutheran Parish**

Pastor Karen Young Trenne

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