

THE MESSENGER



From the Pastor's desk...

The Generosity Stewardship Series

A few reflections from the conversation led by the Rev. Tim Brown about the role offering plays in worship and how to highlight it in the worship service. Stewardship is the way we 'do' life. How do you 'steward' your life? Stewardship is always a call to conversion, even so generosity is a learned behavior. Humans naturally conserve. Who taught you to be generous?

First and foremost a 'thank you' to Fisher/Bygland Parish leadership for joining in the Zoom conversation. Our Parish was the represented more than any other in 3 Synods! Well done.

A few questions for consideration:

- *What makes us generous?
- *What is your first memory of the offering?
- *Have you ever wondered where the offering goes?
- *What is unique about the Fisher/Bygland Parish that has the potential to change lives?

Of course we know that the act of making an offering is a means to draw closer to God. God loves when we give of ourselves for the greater good. Making an offering is a response to God's grace.

Recently I read a book titled, "We Make a Life By What We Give", in which I was reminded of the Golden Rule. "The Golden Rule does not authorize us to divide the world into good people and bad people, us and them. It does not tell us to be nice to people who are like us, but abuse those who are different than us. It does not say that we should treat good people well, but do as we please to the bad ones. Nor does it divide the day into convenient times and inconvenient times. It does not say that so long as we are well-rested and feeling cheerful, we should treat people as we would like to be treated. Nor does it provide a variety of excuses for behaving badly. It does not say that sleep deprivation, or an overfilled schedule, or an unpleasant encounter with a colleague provides us with carte blanche to treat people in uncivil or hurtful way."

The Golden Rule is meant for us to see one another as one community, even so, our world is deeply broken and people are fearful and scared. The human inclination to fear is to hold on to what ever we believe we have, or that which we think we deserve. As believers we know that all we have and all we are is God's. There is no better time than a day such as today to prayerfully consider how we are responding to God's grace through offering our entire selves and possessions to God's Glory.

In the coming weeks every member of the Parish will receive a Time and Talent sheet. The intention is for each of us to consider the offering of our time and talents to the Body of Christ in concrete ways. Please make it a priority to complete the short inventory and return it to church. I am super excited to collate the results and see ways for us to fully live into the potential of changing live though the help of the Holy Spirit, and a bit of willingness on our part.

Let's be Kind and Generous!
Pastor Gretchen



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 WINTER/SPRING 2025

BIBLE STUDY



“FAITHFULNESS IN THESE DAYS”

By Denise Rector

FEBRUARY 19, 2025 @ 9:00 AM

Session Two – Faith in the Depths: Psalm 22

David testifies that God is God and worthy of praise, even as David is in despair. It’s no wonder that Jesus cried out to God during the crucifixion using these very words. In our worst times, this psalm gives us a way to contemplate God’s holiness.



Gather
Zoom Bible
Study

You can also join the Gather Zoom Bible Study session each

4th Monday of the Month

7:00-8:00 PM

Zoom Meeting ID 830 8115 5921

SAVE THE DATE

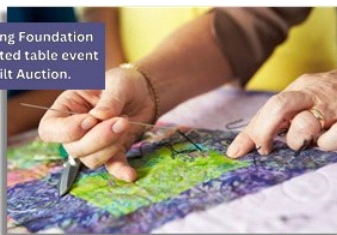
APRIL 26, 2025

Calvary Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall
1405 S. 9th St., Grand Forks, ND

Join the Valley Senior Living Foundation for the 10th annual decorated table event and the 2nd annual Quilt Auction.

- Donate a Quilt
- Host a Decorated Table
- Purchase a Seat for Brunch

For more information contact:
Kayla Gust at 701-787-7989 or
kgust@valleyseniorliving.org



2nd Annual Quilt Auction and 10th Annual Around Our Table



Event tickets will be available for purchase soon.



PATCHWORK
PARISHIONERS

FISHER LUTHERAN QUILTING

February 10 & 11/ 24 & 25

March 10 & 11 / 24 & 25

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Gatherers Give with Glad Hearts

Fisher Lutheran Church

January – March Donations

will be gathered for...

Care & Share of Crookston, Inc

Simply purchase any items from the list to donate, return them to Fisher Lutheran in the gathering bag and they will be delivered to Care & Share.

- Diapers (All Sizes)
- Baby Wipes
- Pack & Play
- Baby Crib
- Deodorant (Men’s & Women’s)
- Men’s & Women’s Body Wash/Soap
- Shavers & Shaving Cream (Men’s & Women’s)
- Socks (Men’s & Women’s Sizes)
- Grooming Kits (Fingernail & Toenail Clippers)
- Women’s Feminine Hygiene Products
- Women’s Jackets
- Women’s Hats & Gloves
- Bras, Underwear & Pajamas
- Men’s 2 XL Clothing, Jackets, Hats & Gloves
- Larger Men’s Boxers/Briefs & Pajamas

Care and Share of Crookston, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit. There are many ways you could donate:

Online through GiveMN.org

Donate online at <https://www.givemn.org/organization/Care-And-Share>

Amazon Wish List

Getting an Amazon Wish List package always makes Care & Share smile and brightens their day! The generous donations they receive, including through the Amazon Wish List, help them better meet the needs of residents.

<https://urlgeni.us/amazon/CareandShare>

Purchases made from the Care & Share Wishlist will be shipped directly to the shelter. If you would like a receipt and/or recognition, please enter your full name in the "gift message" box upon checkout.

*Fisher Lutheran Church
25 Year Rededication*

Sunday, April 6, 2025
11:00 AM Service
12:00 PM Fellowship Meal

*Living out an active
commitment to Christ:
Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow*



BYGLAND NEWS



**BYGLAND
FINGER FOOD
POTLUCK**

After worship service and
before the Annual Meeting
on February 2nd



Giving Hearts Day

Help us continue to create beautiful
INTERGENERATIONAL STORIES
at Valley Senior Living.

**SCAN
CODE TO
DONATE
NOW**



Donate online:
January 13 - February 13
GivingHeartsDay.org

Drop off your gift to:
Any Valley Senior Living location

Mail your gift to:
Valley Senior Living Foundation
2900 14th Ave S Grand Forks, ND 58201

1st Communion 2025

Congratulations Parents of a 5th grader! It is time for your young person to begin preparations to receive Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday Worship on April 17th at 7pm at Fisher Lutheran Church.

Attendance with a parent or another family member at all 3 class sessions is required:

**Sunday March 9th-RESCHEDULED TO Sunday March 2nd* 1:30-3:30- Meet at FLC for instruction.

*Please bring Baptismal memories.

*Sunday March 23rd 1:30-3:30-Meet at Joyce Brune's home at 211 N 4th street for chalice pottery making.

*Wednesday April 16th 6:00-FLC-Bread baking.

*Ingredient supply list to follow...

Individual, family and class pictures will be taken prior to Maundy Thursday Worship at FLC at 6:15. Please have your 5th grader dress according to their role in the reenactment of the Gospel of John 13.

In preparation for class on March 9th, please prepare with your 5th grader by sharing the story of their Baptism. Gather together and bring to share their Baptismal gown, Baptismal candle, Baptismal certificate, pictures or any other memories from their Baptismal day.

In addition help your 5th grader to make contact with their Baptismal Sponsors. Have your 5th grader ask their Sponsors what memories they recall of their Baptismal Day. Be sure to invite sponsors to the Maundy Thursday Worship service Fisher Lutheran at 7 PM.



A BIG thank you to all that helped serve at the Northlands Mission this last month!! If you have further interest in serving a meal, please let Pastor Gretchen know.

Peoples Church

WHO ARE WE?

	<p>A Staple of the Community For 26 years, Peoples Church has been serving those in need in the Bemidji and surrounding areas</p>
	<p>Shelter As an emergency shelter, we are open year-round and serve all people. You do not have to be sober to stay with us but we ask that folks not use substances on site. We serve mostly adults and accommodate for couples.</p>
	<p>Hot Meals We serve supper Monday, Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday and have breakfast every day of the week. Anyone is invited to come eat with us or to take plates to go. We have a feast on Sunday at 3p and a light lunch in the afternoon.</p>
	<p>Canned Goods Pantry There is a canned goods pantry available for anyone in the community. Come and take what you need for the day, we are happy to share. We also always have food available if you are hungry.</p>
	<p>Provider Clinic Tuesday mornings several different providers from the community come to help folks accomplish their goals. Whether it is getting paperwork completed, signing up for medical insurance, seeking housing, or receiving foot care.</p>

Pastor Birgitte Simpson will be joining us on Feb. 9th. She will be preaching and available for conversation following worship. She is the Mission Developer at People's Church in Bemidji.

Peoples Church is an indigenous and multicultural ministry of the ELCA. We live out our mission by focusing on three important areas: spiritual care, food, and shelter.

We have worship on Sunday afternoons, building a community made up of both our overnight guests and other community members. As an indigenous ministry, we authentically incorporate elements of traditional Native American spirituality alongside Christian spiritual practices.

Our food ministry serves folks that are staying with us overnight, people who are experiencing homelessness and are staying at other shelters, and people who are housed in the community but need help with food costs. We have an as needed food pantry on site, serve breakfast 7 days a week, and serve hot meals 5 days a week. On an average day we feed anywhere from 70-95 meals.

We are a year round overnight shelter, offering shelter and a place to call home for anyone in need. On average, we shelter 20 people a night and have a max capacity of 25 people.

In the 28 years of this ministry's life we have seen that everyone we meet has inherent dignity as a child of God and our role is to reflect that dignity and to be a sign of God's grace in the world.

Delivery Info

Sunday Deliveries are preferred.
Call 218-214-9066 to make deliveries.
We are so grateful for your help to keep this needed service running!
Miiigwech!

Paper/Plastic

Garbage bags- 30 gal
toilet paper
paper napkins
paper plates
Ziplock baggies- snack and sandwich sized

Cleaning

Bleach
Pinesol/Fabuloso
Toilet/bathroom cleaners
Dish Soap
Laundry detergent (pods for easy distribution)

Canned/Dry Food

Jelly
Peanut Butter
Sugar
Creamer
Coffee
Juice or drink mix

Personal Hygiene

Deodorant
Razors/Shaving Cream
Combs/Brushes
Nail clippers/files
Shampoo/Conditioner

WISH LIST

Want to help?
Donate from this list!

Personal Hygiene cont'd

Throat lozenges
Ibuprofen/Tylenol
Tums/Rolaids
Tampons

Linens

Twin Sized Sheet Sets
OR
Gently used sheets: pillowcases, fitted, and flat sheets
Bath Towels

Fresh Food

Milk
Bread
Margarine
Peppers/Onions
Bananas, oranges, soft fruit