

“Knowing Christ – Making Christ Known Through Faith, Hope and Love.”

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

*The wise may bring their learning, the rich may
bring their wealth,
And some may bring their greatness, and some
bring strength and health;
We, too, would bring our treasures to offer to the
King;
We have no wealth or learning; what shall we
children bring?*

*We'll bring Him hearts that love Him; we'll bring
Him thankful praise,
And young souls meekly striving to walk in holy
ways;
And these shall be the treasures we offer to the
King,
And these are gifts that even the poorest child may
bring.*

This was the Advent song we sang each year that I was in Sunday School. I still remember the words, the tune, where the flute solo came in, and when we would sing it during the service. We all have something to offer in this Christmas season to one another and to our Lord whose birth we celebrate. Presents are great. Throwing our extra change in those red Salvation Army buckets is a generous gesture that pops up this time of year. Those are perhaps some of the things that come to mind when we think of Christmas.

But we have more to give than those Christmas time traditions for longer than even stores celebrate the holiday season. The words of that song I sang as a child comes to mind. Hearts that love Him. Thankful praise. And souls meekly striving to walk in holy ways. So as we prepare for Christmas, we walk through the season of Advent, of waiting, of preparation, may you have a blessed Advent and Christmas with preparations that not only include packages, baked goodies and stockings but words of

thankfulness and acts of love and care that will last longer than even all those Christmas goodies.

A blessed Advent and Christmas to you!
United in Christ,

Pastor Jeanette

Our Church Calendar

November 30th - 1st Sunday of Advent
Hanging of the Greens Service
Faith as a way of Life
Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:2-4; 3:17-19

December 7th - 2nd Sunday of Advent
Sunday School Sings During Worship!
Noisy offering this week!
Esther
Esther 4:1-17

Saturday December 13th - 5:30 pm
Sunday School Christmas Program

December 14th – 3rd Sunday of Advent
Traveling Christmas Program Today!
9 am Meet at Esther, practice hop on Harts bus!
*10 am Program at St. Williams Living Center,
Parkers Prairie*
1:30 p.m. Program at Knute Nelson, Alexandria
*3:30 p.m. Program at Bethany Community,
Alexandria*

*Pizza Party at Pizza Ranch in Alexandria to
follow!*

December 21st - 4th Sunday of Advent
Jesus as Immanuel
Matthew 1:18-25

December 24th – Christmas Eve
Birth of Jesus
Luke 2:1-20

December 25th – Christmas Day!
Christ is Born!!

December 28th – First Sunday of Christmas
Magi Visit
Matthew 2:1-12

January 4th – Second Sunday of Christmas
Flight to Egypt
Matthew 2:13-23
Sunday School Resumes Today!

January 11th - First Sunday of Epiphany
Jesus Baptism
Matthew 3:1-17
Sunday School sings during worship today!

Join Us!

November 30th
Hanging of the Greens during Worship.

Are you going to decorate for Christmas? We will begin the Advent Season at Esther with a *Hanging of the Greens Service*, a service that shares the meanings of Advent and Christmas symbols. The evergreens of the Advent wreath? The lights on our tree? Let's learn together!



Advent and Christmas Eve Family Readers

We are looking for families willing to read and help light the candles of our Advent Wreath and help with various parts of the Christmas Eve service. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or contact the church office if you are interested.

Sunday School

Esther Sunday School Christmas Program will be on Saturday, December 13, 5:30 PM.

Our dress rehearsal and party (including a lunch) will be on Saturday, December 13, 9 am to noon. Children should be back at the church at 4:45 pm, to ensure enough time to get everyone in costume for the program.



Traveling Christmas Program

December 14th 9am through Sunday Evening

Would you like to help share God's love and Christmas Spirit?!

Join us for our first ever Traveling Christmas Program. All ages are welcome and a variety of parts from speaking, to choir members, to sitting with residents are needed.

Here is what our day will look like!

9 am Gather at Esther to practice, hand out parts, and have a brief devotion.

NOTE: WE WILL NOT HAVE A REGULAR WORSHIP SERVICE. Instead those not traveling with us are invited to join us at 9:00 for devotions and prayer before we hop on Harts Bus.

10 am Program at St. Williams Living Center of Parkers Prairie

1:30 pm Program at Knute Nelson, Alexandria

3:30 pm Program at Bethany Community Chapel
Pizza Party to follow at Pizza Ranch of Alexandria.

We encourage all to participate, share with others if they would like to attend one of the programs, and enjoy this opportunity to be Church together on the road!



The Christmas Season can be tough. A Blue Christmas, Longest Night Service is scheduled for Dec 20th 5 pm at Shepherd of the Valley in Clarissa. All are welcome to come, reflect and

hear a message of hope in this quiet service.
Those experiencing any type of loss are especially welcome.



Christmas Eve Services

Everyone is invited to celebrate the birth of Christ with the members of Esther on Christmas Eve. Two services will be held that evening, at 4 pm and 10:30 pm. O come, let us adore Him!

Serving Us In December

Pastor: Jeanette Bidne
Organist: Marcia Guenther
Lay Reader: Luella Thom & Lorrie Pomeranz
Acolytes: Susan Hart
 Joey Hoppe
Ushers: Scott Hart
 Rodney Peterson
Communion Assistant: Georgia Hart
Altar Guild: Donna Pederson
Greeters: NEED VOLUNTEERS
Birthday Fellowship: Brian & Vicki Arvidson
 Rodney Peterson
 Delmar & Margaret Wehking

In Our Prayers

Myrtle Arvidson

Jayne Arvidson
 Jerry Anderson
 Jeremy Arvidson
 Jennifer Bidne Sister of Pastor Jeanette
 Marcella Braun Grandmother of
 Pastor Jeanette
 Ed Tasler Father of Jayne Arvidson
 Jordan Norhe Friend of the Mike Townsend family
 Family of Reinhold Streich- Father & Grandfather of Marge & Erica Nelson
 Family of Rod Piepho- Friend of our congregation
 Family of Donna Lage
 Family of Al Fyhrie

O Lord, hear our prayers...



12/1 Erica Nelson
 12/4 Rodney Peterson
 12/5 Casey Aldrich
 12/6 Alivia Arvidson
 12/7 Logan Pease
 12/10 James Arvidson
 12/10 Rick Guenther
 12/12 Arewen Dobratz
 12/13 Brett Grinager
 12/13 Steph Velde
 12/16 Bill Wagner
 12/16 Lizz Peterson
 12/16 Alvia Arvidson
 12/17 Brock Peterson
 12/20 Jaci Schlosser
 12/22 Conner Sather
 12/22 Carol Kreidler
 12/24 Brian Arvidson
 12/28 Byron Klimek
 12/28 Margaret Wehking
 12/30 Rick Guenther
 12/31 Summer Dobratz

incorrect on your statement please contact Dave Bunde.

M&Ms: Mission and Ministry Spotlight



Oink! Oink! Oink!

Little Piggy Banks have made their appearance at Esther. Assembled by our Sunday School Students all monies collected in these banks will go towards God's Global Barnyard. There are more of these piggy banks at Esther if you haven't had a chance to pick one up. All ages are welcome to join in working to end hunger in our world. To learn more go to: <https://community.elca.org/GoodGifts-Animals>

News from the Council

Watching your step- To prevent falls with winter weather coming, members who wish to, are welcome to drive their vehicle to the front door to Esther. Several members of council, greeters or ushers are happy to drive your car back to the parking lot so that do not have to walk the entire length of the sidewalk. We will also get your vehicle for you after services.

Financial Statement: End of the year financial statements for giving will be coming. Should you have a question or notice something

Annual Meeting- The annual meeting for Esther Lutheran church has been scheduled for Sunday, January 18th, with a back up date of Sunday, January 25th. The meeting will begin after worship and lunch. Please start working on your reports and get them, in written form, preferably by email, in a timely fashion to the church office.

Office Hours

Winter Office Hours for Pastor Jeanette include:
Tuesdays and Thursdays 10a.m.-12 pm
Wednesday afternoons
Due to pastoral needs and meetings, if you wish to make sure Pastor Jeanette is in the office, please give her a call at 507-339-1178, zip her an email or set up a time with her.

Pastor Jeanette will be celebrating Christmas with her family from December 25th returning January 2nd. Please contact our secretary Sue Ellwanger about office items or any pastoral emergencies. She will have the contact information for pastoral coverage.

Bulletin and Newsletter Announcements

In order to help our newsletter and bulletin announcements be as accurate as possible, we encourage information be written out or emailed to the church office, so there is no confusion in printing. Thank you for your help.



Donate towards New Christmas Candles!

Esther has purchased non-drip candleholders and new candles for our Christmas Eve services. These will help little or shaky hands be able to use real candles on Christmas Eve. The cost was about \$135.00 for the candles and reusable holders. Please let the church office know if you would like to

donate towards this so that it does not have to come out of our budget. Thanks for helping light shine!



All ladies of the congregation are invited to a Christmas Luncheon and Program on Thursday, December 11th at noon. Join us for a soup & sandwich lunch and fellowship with the ladies of Faith, Eagle Bend, Faith, Miltona and Rose City Free Church.



Benefit for the Al Fyhrie Family

A benefit for the Al Fyhrie family will be held Saturday November 30th from 4pm -7 pm at the Broadway Ballroom in Alexandria.

Join us for light appetizers, a silent and live auction.

All event proceeds will help cover Al's medical costs.

Questions? Contact Jeff Dewanz at 320-766-11 or Tammie Lanners at 320-762-7663

Donations can be sent to Bremer Bank attn: Allen Fyhrie Benefit Account 720 Broadway Alexandria, MN 56308

Supplemental Funds from Thrivent



Highlights from the November W/ELCA Meeting

Checking Account Balance: \$1,345.00 , \$200.00 of which is designated for quilting supplies.

Memorial Fund Balance: \$7,000.00

- ☆ **Officers elected:** Secretary - Nancy Bunde, Treasurer - Joan Arvidson, Altar Care-Deb Koep
- ☆ Esther ladies are invited to Faith, Eagle Bend for a Christmas Gathering Wednesday December 10th. RSVP to Margaret Wehking by December 3rd.
- ☆ **W/ELCA and our youth** will have a booth at Prairie Christmas to sell cook books and calendars, Christmas cards and crafts.
- ☆ **Over \$350.00** was collected at the thank Offering Service on November 16th!

New Business:

- ☆ The suggested charge for WELCA to serve a funeral of \$1.00 per person

will be for both a member or or non-member funeral.

- ☆ We will give a quilt for the upcoming Fyhrie family benefit.
- ☆ We voted to give the Parkers Prairie Food Shelf \$100 in January.
- ☆ The kitchen committee gave a report. Many items were discussed at length. Current budget for work/items in the kitchen is \$5,000.

☆ **The following decisions for the kitchen were made:**

- ☆ Voted to purchase a double oven for about \$1,600.
- ☆ We voted to purchase a counter top for the south cabinet run.
- ☆ The committee received permission to continue to work on items within the \$5,000 budget. If you have a concern with this permission, you should join the kitchen committee.

We thanked the kitchen committee for their work. They will report back when they have some more information, we may have quick meetings after church for some input as needed.



Have empty printer cartridges?

Esther is collecting empty printer cartridges to apply to our account at Office Max. Each cartridge is worth \$2 and can help purchase office supplies. We will be collecting cartridges in a box in our narthex. Please recycle your cartridges instead of throwing them away! Thanks!