

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

11019 625<sup>th</sup> Ave – Parkers Prairie, MN 56361 218-338-2171

email: [esther@arvig.net](mailto:esther@arvig.net) Website: [www.estherlutheran.com](http://www.estherlutheran.com)

Pastor Jeanette Bidne email: [prjeanettebidne.estherlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:prjeanettebidne.estherlutheran@gmail.com) C: 507-339-1178 H: 218-738-7112



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

*I wrote the following article prior to the passing of Donna Lage, Al Fyhrie, and our conversation about funeral planning on Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>. In light of recent events in the life of our congregation, I still wish to share it with you, giving thanks that even though death is a present reality, so too is our hope and life in the resurrection through Jesus..*

***“Get your motor runnin’  
Head out on the highway  
Looking for adventure  
In whatever comes our way...Born to be wild.”***

Some stories are worth repeating. So I share the lyrics that blasted out over the cemetery outside of Wells, MN. I was in high school and my classmates and I stood at the cemetery at the committal of my friend’s father. As people approached the graveside the heavy metal song blared over the crowd. I froze and wondered, “Who in the world would play such a thing at a time like this?” thinking it was a mistake and someone forgot to turn their radio off.

It wasn’t.

The car radio blasting the tune was that of family who had lost their father, too young, of a heart attack. And there they were, arms around each other, laughing and crying, even singing along to “Born to be Wild”. The song described who their father was and the playing of it was a comfort to them, as I and my fellow classmates watched. The committal service resumed as the song ended and we commended my friend’s dad to his Creator.

I don’t know if we would ever play such a song at a committal here at Esther. But the story comes to mind when I have conversation about end-of-life and making plans. These are tough conversations and yet holy ones.

*How would we like to be remembered?*

*What stories do we need to share now with each other while we can?*

*What questions do I need to answer in order to help my family when something happens to me?*

These conversations are holy. Holy, in the fact that death is not a final end for us but part of the journey which ends in new life, resurrection, and all the muck of this world being wiped away through our Lord Jesus Christ.

*“He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” – Revelation 21:3b-4*

On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, All Saints Day during our worship service we remembered those who have died in the past year, how we become fully saints when we pass from this life into eternal life. Following worship we had a conversation about these tough questions, heard some information from local funeral directors, Barb and Curt Lind, as well as learned about end-of-life and funeral planning. Death is scary, perhaps more scary for those left behind. That’s where these conversations help. Please let the church office know if you would like some of these resources shared during our time together on All Saints Day. These conversations are difficult and yet God is there to say death and fear do not win.

United in Christ,  
*Pastor Jeanette*

## Our Church Calendar

**November 9<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Micah**

Micah 5:2-4;6:6-8

*Second Sunday, Sunday School with Pastor Jeanette*

*Sunday School sings during Worship*

November 16<sup>th</sup> -Thankoffering Worship

**23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Swords into Plowshares**

Micah 5:2-4; 6:6-8

*Noisy offering for Global Barnyard taken during worship*

November 23<sup>rd</sup> - **Christ the King Sunday**

**Jeremiah's Temple Sermon**

Jeremiah 1:4-10; 7:1-10

November 30<sup>th</sup> - **1<sup>st</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> - **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Esther**

Esther 4:1-17

**Join Us!**

**November 30<sup>th</sup>**

**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. What symbolism does the holly berry have? The evergreens of the Advent wreath? Let's learn together!

Worship committee invites people to volunteer to decorate or read.

**Happy Thanksgiving**



**Office Hours**

Fall 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.

## Serving Us In November

**Pastor:** Jeanette Bidne

**Organist:** Marcia Guenther

**Lay Reader:** Nancy Bunde

**Acolytes:** Megan Higgs

**Ushers:** Dave Bunde,  
Rick Guenther

**Communion Assistant:** Al Pederson

**Altar Guild:** Bev Arvidson

**Greeters:** NEED VOLUNTEERS

**Birthday Fellowship:** Rick & Bev  
Arvidson  
Larry & Sharon Carlson  
Jeff & Deb Koep

## In Our Prayers

Myrtle Arvidson

Jayne Arvidson

Jennifer Bidne

Marcella Braun

Ed Tasler

Jordan Norhe

Sister of Pastor Jeanette

Grandmother of

Pastor Jeanette

Father of Jayne Arvidson

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



11/3 John Skoglund  
11/5 Sharon Carlson  
11/6 Steven Dobratz  
11/6 Amy Stanley  
11/6 Wyatt Arvidson  
11/10 Bob Aldrich  
11/11 Hunter Wagner  
11/11 Kathy Carlson  
11/16 Levi Barbee  
11/19 Ricky Hart  
11/19 Nolan Hart  
11/20 Dan Klimek  
11/21 Lacey Carlson  
11/23 Ryan Hart  
11/24 Shari Jerome  
11/26 Sabrina Aldrich  
11/29 Autumn Dobratz



thank you!

### Thanks at Thirty!

Thank you so much for the birthday celebration on the morning of October 12th. Who knew turning 30 years old could be so pleasant?! The cake, cards, candles (lots of them) well wishes, and gifts made for a very fun morning! The green, embroidered stole from the Triennial Gathering this summer is a beautiful gift and I will enjoy having another one to wear during this particular church season. I am blessed to serve here with you and give thanks for all your care and love.

With Joy,  
Pastor Jeanette

## M&Ms: Mission and Ministry Spotlight

### Prayer Shawls

"In the name of the Father, the Creator, the Giver of Life"----and so begins another prayer shawl. The Prayer Shawl Ministry started in Michigan in 2000. Since then it has spread across the nation to churches of almost every denomination. Several years ago Prayer Shawl Ministry was started in Esther Lutheran.

The purpose of this ministry is to comfort those going through a difficult time. The shawl offers the recipient warmth and prayer from Esther Lutheran. To date we have given over 50 shawls.

There are only 3 members now making these shawls. We need more people involved. We have been meeting in the homes on the first Thursday of each month. We are wondering if more people would be interested if we were to meet at the church and to expand our purpose to a "craft" meeting. In addition to making prayer shawls we could work on craft items for the Country Store, banners for the church, or whatever anyone may want to do.

We are open to suggestions. Come join us!  
Gloria Rosenquist, Lorraine Truax and Inez Haase



Our Sunday School will be participating in *Operation Christmas Child*, a global mission of Samaritan's Purse. A small shoebox can have a big impact. A small shoebox can teach a child about the love of God, lead him or her to faith in Christ, inspire pastors and plant new churches. What goes into the box is fun, but what

comes out of it is eternal. Be a part of changing children's lives all over the world in Jesus' Name through the power of a simple gift with Operation Christmas Child. *—taken from Samaritan's Purse web site.*

### Gift suggestions:

- **Toys:** Include items that children will immediately embrace such as dolls, toy cars, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, balls, toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries), etc.
- **School Supplies:** pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons, markers, notebooks, paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.
- **Non-Liquid Hygiene Items:** toothbrushes, bar soap, combs, washcloths, etc.
- **Accessories:** t-shirts, socks, hats, sunglasses, hair clips, jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries), etc.
- **A Personal Note:** You may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. If you include your name and address, the child may be able to write back.

Monetary donations are also encouraged. The cost of each box is \$7.00. Items will be collected until the first part of November.

Here is the web site for Operation Christmas Child to find out more about Op to get more ideas of what is needed in the shoe boxes.

<http://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

Donations for Operation Christmas Child will be collected until November 16<sup>th</sup>.

Questions? Contact Jewel Townsend or Donna Pederson.



### 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!



**Esther Sunday School Christmas Program-**  
*Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.*

### Traveling Christmas Program:

*December 14<sup>th</sup> 9am through Sunday Evening*

After a brief devotion and practice Sunday morning, all are invited to hop on a bus and participate in a traveling Christmas program to area care centers. All ages are welcome and a variety of parts from speaking, to choir members, to sitting with residents are needed. We will begin our time at St. Williams around 10:30 am, and then travel to Knute Nelson in Alex at 1:30 pm and then our final program at 3:30 pm at Bethany in Alex. We will have a supper together at Pizza Ranch to end our evening. Please contact Jewel Townsend, Shelly Hoppe or the church office if you would like to help with this adventure.

**Note: We are in need of white bed sheets and adult bathrobes to create costumes for this event.**





**ESTHER MEMBERS PLEASE READ:**

**October Financial Report**

**Checking: \$157.90**

**Contributions needed based on budget:**

Actual Contributions	\$ 86,507.50
	<u>\$ 69,055.53</u>

**Budget Shortfall: \$ -17,451.97**

Amount needed per month  
to remain on budget: \$8,650.75

Average amount of contributions  
per month for 2014: \$6,905.553

At the beginning of the year we voted to approve  
the 2014 budget and all the ministries it supports.

*We are behind in keeping up with our budget. At  
the time this report was submitted, there were bills  
for the month of October that had not been paid,  
because of this short fall.*

In this time of thanksgiving we ask that you  
prayerfully consider your giving to Esther and give  
as you able to help the variety of ministries  
continue.

Luella Thom  
Esther Church Council

**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.

If you would like to make a donation so that this  
does not come out of our budget please contact the  
church office.



**Community Thanksgiving Eve Service**

Plans are being made for the Community  
Thanksgiving Eve Worship service on Wednesday,  
Nov. 26 at 7 pm at Faith Lutheran Church, Miltna.  
There will be a choir and practice will take place at  
6:15 p.m. that evening to go over a couple of hymns  
that we will sing for that worship service.  
Let us give thanks together!



**Donna R. Lage  
March 25, 1931 – October 27, 2014**

Donna R. Lage, age 83, of Parkers Prairie, died  
Monday, October 27, 2014, at Sanford Health in  
Fargo, North Dakota.  
Funeral Services were at 11:00 am., Friday, October  
31, 2014, at Esther Lutheran with Rev. Jeanette  
Bidne officiating. Music was provided by organist,  
Marcia Guenther. Private family interment was held  
at Parkers Prairie Cemetery on Sunday, November  
1<sup>st</sup>.  
Donna Rae Lage was born March 25, 1931, to  
Rudolph and Florence (Olson) Holten in Parkers

Prairie. She was baptized and confirmed at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Parkers Prairie. She attended Parkers Prairie Public Schools and was part of the graduating class of “49ers.” Following graduation she moved to Minneapolis where she worked and attended nursing classes. She eloped with SSgt LuVoy “Scott” Lage October 29, 1955, in Webster, South Dakota. Following their marriage she lived with her parents in Parkers Prairie until able to join Scott at his station in Lake Charles, Louisiana. They also lived at the Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines and Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota. They returned to farm in rural Parkers Prairie/Eagle Bend area in the early 1970’s following her husband’s retirement from the military. They owned and operated the Parkers Prairie Pool Hall before selling it in 1977. Donna worked as a Physical Therapist Technician at St. Williams Living Center until her retirement in 2005. She was an active member at Esther Lutheran Church and a past president of WELCA. She was a member of the VFW Auxiliary of Eagle Bend and held many offices in the Degree of Honor Protective Association. She enjoyed arts, crafts, knitting, quilting and handwork.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Roger Holten in 1971; sister, Lucille Carlson in 1987; and husband, Scott in 1992.

Donna is survived by her four sons, Mark (Connie) Satre of Cambridge, Dennis Hohn of Minneapolis, Pat Lage and Mike Lage both of Eagle Bend; brother, Ray (Barb) Holten of Phoenix, Arizona; four grandchildren, Mara Bourke, Tim Hohn, Danielle Hohn and Lauren Hohn; great-grandson, Reece Bourke; many nieces and nephews; and her beloved pet, Homer.

**Allen “Al” S. Fyhrie**  
**June 8, 1960 - November 8, 2014**

Allen S. “Al” Fyhrie, age 54, died peacefully, Saturday, November 08, 2014, in the comfort of his home.

Funeral services were at 11:00 am, Thursday, November 13, 2014, at St. William’s Catholic Church in Parkers Prairie with Rev. Jeanette Bidne officiating. Music is provided by organist, Marcia Guenther and vocalist, Karin Wagner. Burial is at Esther Lutheran Cemetery, Eastern Township.

Visitation is 4-8 p.m., Wednesday, at Esther Lutheran Church in Eastern Township and will continue one hour prior to the service at St. William’s Catholic Church in Parkers Prairie.

Allen Steven Fyhrie was born June 8, 1960, to Conrad and Christine (Poltiske) Fyhrie in Fergus Falls. He was baptized into the catholic faith June 26, 1960. Al graduated from Fergus Falls High School in 1978. He attended Alexandria Technical College from August 1978, – until completing Machine Tool & Die Technology in May of 1980. Al began working as a machine operator at Alexandria Extrusion in October of 1978. He was united in marriage to Elaine Lunser July 24, 1981, at Zion United Church of Christ in Long Prairie. Following their marriage they lived in Alexandria and managed Maple Ridge Manor until 1994, at which time they bought their home in rural Parkers Prairie. Al continued working at Alexandria Extrusion for his career as Quality Control Inspector, Program and set-up CNC machining, CNC Machine Programmer, Estimating Supervisor, Direct Sales and has been the Inside Sales Manager since 1998. He was a member of the Trapshooting League in Alexandria and Esther Lutheran Church where he served as treasurer for six years. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, spending time with family and friends, playing jokes and making everyone laugh. Al especially enjoyed any opportunity he had to work with his tractor at home.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Elaine and brother, Lawrence.

Al is survived by his wife of 33 years, Elaine; two daughters, Shauna (fiancé, Josh Nordlund) Fyhrie and Kristy Fyhrie both of Parkers Prairie; sister, Leona (Tom) Arneson of Fergus Falls; brothers, Leonard (Jill) Fyhrie of Fargo, Leroy “Lee” (Angie) Fyhrie of Deerwood and twin, Alden (fiancée, Janice) Fyhrie of Erhardt; sister-in-law, Carol Fyhrie of Underwood; nieces, nephews and a host of friends.

**Blessed be their memory**



## October Meeting Highlights

Checking Account Balance: \$1,510.00

Memorial Fund Balance: \$6,513.00

### Old Business:

- W/ELCA will fill 6 backpacks with leftover school supplies and give to the Parkers Prairie Elementary School. Lorrie Pomeranz is willing to deliver to the school. Thanks Lorrie.
- ☆ W/ELCA will share a 10 ft. booth at Prairie Christmas with the Youth Group on December 6<sup>th</sup>. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex for those willing to work that day.
- The nominating committee of Joan Arvidson and Nancy Bunde haven't been able to find nominees for their positions yet. If you are interested, contact one of them. We hope to vote on W/ELCA officers, alter guild, and the sunshine person at the November meeting which will take place following worship on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

### New Business:

- Esther WELCA voted to host a Christmas Luncheon on December 11th.

Invitations will be sent to Faith, Miliona, Rose City Fee Church and Faith, Eagle Bend. Soup and sandwiches will be served with Christmas goodies after the program. All women are encouraged to help out with this event.

Nancy Bunde, Secretary

### Thank Offering Service

On Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, a Thank Offering service will be held and the offerings that have been collected during the month of October will be received that day. Following worship an 'all ladies' meeting will be held.

## Kitchen Committee Report

Please bring any ideas or comments to the kitchen committee or leave a note in the suggestion box.

There is \$3500.00 in the memorial/ kitchen fund.

Kitchen Committee: Vicky Arvidson, Cindy Skoglund, Linda Arvidson, Terry Sather, Jewel Townsend and Stephanie Stueve.

### Wish List and Suggestions

**The first 4 items have been the top rated items to see completed.**

- Add the counter top to the cabinets by the refrigerator.
- Add pull out drawers or cupboards in the space under the serving counter.
- Add flip up ends to the serving counter/table to make it longer when needed.
- Purchase a double oven.

**Additional items to be discussed as identified by the kitchen committee.**

- Add dividers or drawers to make better use of the open space under the prep counter on south side.
- Add shelves and or pullout drawers to keep paper supplies more organized north side of prep counter.
- One Utility cart has arrived. It is too big to fit under the serving table. Will we want an additional one or two?
- Purchase rubber scrapers. Any other supplies needed?
- Discuss to use paper plates for serving unless a funeral, then regular plates.
- We received a charcoal grill with our cart order. Should we use it for a raffle prize?
- Discussion about an "on demand" hot water heater so we have enough hot water to do dishes at large gatherings. Would a sanitizer be beneficial?
- Add an additional storage cabinet in the kitchen on the back wall for over stock of paper ware or larger items. Will Roasters be kept in storage room to free up room for items used most often?
- Discuss the kitchen flooring.



## Benefit for the Al Fyhrie Family

A benefit for the Al Fyhrie family will be held Saturday November 30<sup>th</sup> 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

Members of Esther Church are putting together a few silent auction items; please contact the church office if you wish to add to our contribution for this benefit.

*Supplemental Funds from Thrivent*

The youth will again be selling calendars again this year. There is a sample calendar and signup sheets on the round table in the narthex. The cost of the calendar is \$6.00.

The Youth will again have a booth at Prairie Christmas on December 6<sup>th</sup>. We will be selling Christmas Cards, Calendars and Crafts. We will need workers that day, please contact Joan Burquest



## **We're Thankful For...**

We're thankful for the basics:  
food, clothing and comfortable shelter;  
the rest is a bountiful bonus.

We're thankful for work, play,  
and the treasured people  
who make these experiences  
richer and more meaningful.

We're most thankful  
for family and friends,  
especially the dear friends  
who are reading this card!  
Happy Thanksgiving!

*By Joanna Fuchs*



*photo courtesy of Jakki Wehking*

On October 26<sup>th</sup>, our 9<sup>th</sup> Grade students affirmed their baptism in the rite of Confirmation.

*9<sup>th</sup> Grade students affirming their baptism include:*  
Nicholas Aldrich, Garret Wehking, Robert Hoppe  
and Tanner Wambeke.