

**“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.

## **HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!**

Now you may feel these words come a little soon, depending on when you read your newsletter. But notice that our acclamation for Easter Sunday is not in the past tense. Indeed our God has gone to the cross, died and is risen! We, as God's people, continue to experience this. We as humans know death as Jesus did, but as people of God we also know resurrection, new life and new beginnings that come with being people of God.

I hope your Lenten journey has helped you grow as a disciple this year. We repeat this journey of the Church seasons to continue to remember and grow us in faith. Just like coming to worship, Sunday after Sunday, we need to hear the Good News again and again. Some things are worth repeating.

I write this month that I have been offered an opportunity to take a trip... again. At the end of February, I was contacted by the churchwide office of the Women of the ELCA and asked if I was interested in an upcoming trip to the Holy Land for young adults. I was interested, but noted that like any travel, I needed to take into account cost. The next contact I received stated that I have been awarded a scholarship through Katie's Fund (a fund named for Martin Luther's wife) for registration and airfare to travel to the Holy Land from June 4<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> this summer!

An amazing continuing education opportunity to travel to the Holy Land for the second time! I could not find it in myself to say "no". In April we celebrate Easter, a holiday, a Holy Day of the Church, which we have celebrated before. Yet, we continue to do so because we are people who need hope, need new starts, new life over and over.

My trip to the Holy Land will be about new starts. The trip is connected to the *Peace Not Walls Initiative*, an ELCA initiative to promote dignity, full respect for human rights for those of various faith and backgrounds, healing and reconciliation. Part of my scholarship is to share and write about my experience. Even as we do things we have done before, may we all learn something new about the God who is Risen and loves us!

To learn more, visit: <http://elca.org/peacenotwalls>

**HE IS RISEN HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!**  
United in Christ,  
*Pastor Jeanette*

**Note:** Pastor Jeanette will be taking Sabbath/Vacation following Easter from April 6th-11th. Pastor John Riggle will be on call during that time for any pastoral needs.

## **Our Church Calendar**

### **HOLY WEEK:**

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Maundy Thursday**

**Celebration of First Communion**

***Words of Institution***

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26:17-30

Psalm 116:1-15

**April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Good Friday**

***Crucifixion***

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:27-66

**April 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Resurrection of Our Lord**

*Easter*

Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:1-10

Psalms 118:19-29

**HE IS RISEN!**

**April 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Holy Humor Sunday/Second Sunday of Easter**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, Sunday School with Pastor Jeanette**

**Sunday School sings in worship!**

*The Great Commission*

Matthew: 28:16-20

Church council meets following worship

**April 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Third Sunday of Easter**

**Noisy Offering during worship!**

*Peter's Vision*

Scripture Reading Acts 10:1-17,34-35

**April 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

*Paul's Mission*

Scripture Reading: Acts 13:1-3;14:8-18

*Bible Study following worship!*

Treats and Talents 6:30 p.m.

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

*Gospel as Salvation*

Scripture Reading: Romans 1:1-17

**In Our Prayers**

Myrtle Arvidson

Jayne Arvidson

Erica Nelson

Kristy Fyhrie

Yuvonne Anderson

Louisa Carlson

Angie Steele

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

Emily Madison

Granddaughter of

Dick & Luella Thom

R.C. Christensen

Friend of the youth

Donavan Hart brother of Ernie Hart

Family of Al Fyhrie



**Serving Us In April**

**Pastor:** Jeanette Bidne

**Organist:** Marcia Guenther

**Lay Reader:** Sue Ellwanger

**Acolytes:** Megan Higgs, Kad Wehking

**Ushers:** Russ Higgs

**Communion Assistant:** Sue Ellwanger

**Altar Guild:** Bev Arvidson

**Greeters:** Lorrie Pomeranz

**Birthday Fellowship:** Jerry & Yuvonne Anderson

Ernie & Georgia Hart

John Hoppe family



Nicole Arvidson 04/01

Samantha Hoppe 04/03

Joshua Hendershot 04/04

Chad Stueve 04/04

Shelly Hoppe 04/05

Easton Arvidson 04/06

Jeff Koep 04/07

Gerald Anderson 04/09

Ernie Hart 04/09

Matthew Burquest 04/10

Georgia Hart 04/10

Joseph Hoppe 04/14

Deb Sanvik 04/14

Megan Higgs 04/15

John Hoppe 04/16

Walter Heiser 04/18

Laurie Ratajesak 04/19

Jared Higgs	04/20
Sheryl Thoennes	04/21
Megan Townsend	04/21
Larry Carlson	04/22
Wade Grinager	04/22
Morley Carlson	04/23
Elijah Denny	04/25
Jeff Mc Phail	04/25
Mark Wehking	04/26
Myrtle Arvidson	04/28
Erin Krueger	04/28
Mark Kreidler	04/30



**Celebration of First Communion:**

Two students have participated in instruction about Holy Communion. On Maundy Thursday, Daniel Townsend and Emma Timm will celebrate their first communion at Esther. In the ELCA any baptized member may participate in communion, here at Esther we have a practice of offering instruction for 5<sup>th</sup> graders and all those who wish to learn about this gift and celebrate their first communion with them.

*Please join us on Maundy Thursday to learn about and share this great gift, Holy Communion, together!*



**Treasurers' Report:**

**February 2015 Report**

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	\$1,542.28
<b>Deposits</b>	\$9,296.25
<b>Disbursements</b>	<u>\$11,856.00</u>
<b>Ending Balance 1/31/15</b>	(- \$1,017.47)

Due to generous contributions during the first week of March, we are currently in the black.

<b>Contributions needed based on budget</b>	\$17,241.00
<b>Actual Contributions</b>	\$11,7380.25
<b>Budget Shortfall</b>	<b>(-\$5,502.75)</b>

**Highlights of the month:**

In addition to providing for worship, the office, tithes and the building your general offerings...

- Helped provide Holy Communion Instruction for our 5th graders...
- Brought Holy Communion to five folks unable to make it to worship...
- Provided baptism instruction materials for two families as they prepare for baptism...

And much, much more....

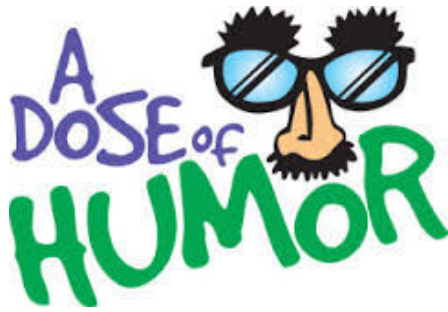
Thank you for giving to the ministries of Esther!



Amelia Jayne, daughter of Tyler and Lisa Arvidson and Karsyn Marie, daughter of Michael and Kayla Lorine became members of Esther through baptism on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Amelia's sponsors are Corey Arvidson, Heidi Larson, Jacob and Kayla Doll. Karsyn's sponsors are Mary Jo Lorine and Brock Iverson.

God's richest blessings on Amelia and Karsyn and their families as they grow in faith

Have a joke to share? Now you can! (if it is church appropriate, of course).



The Sunday after Easter has come to be known in the Church as Holy Humor Sunday.

Please place a joke in the joke box in the narthex and let Pastor Jeanette know if you would like to help tell joke, be in a skit, or help plan Holy Humor Sunday!



**April Bible Study-**  
*Resurrection Stories*

*Each Gospel tells the Good News....differently...*

**Offered after worship, April 26th**

Each of the four Gospels tells of the empty tomb... But Jesus did not appear at the empty tomb in the Gospel of Mark... but he does in the Gospel of John... Confusing? Perhaps. Come learn and discuss the different perspectives of each of the accounts of the empty tomb and learn about a few more resurrection stories along the way... No prior knowledge necessary, come enjoy treats and conversation!

**Upcoming Ministry Opportunities:**



**Habitat Build Days:**

**May 12th** (Variety of skills needed plus assisting with lunch)

**June 23rd** (indoor work)  
*Building hope for families!*



**NW MN Synod Hunger Bike Ride stops at Esther!**  
**June 21, 2015**

Thankful for a full plate? Come learn how to help others!



**Esther Vacation Bible School:**

Tentatively: June 21st -June 25<sup>th</sup> A ministry of Esther with Luther Crest Day Camp!



**Outdoor Community Worship Service at Balsamlund Lutheran of Aldrich, August 23rd 2015**



*Confirmation Retreat: April 19th following worship.*

Confirmation students will have a confirmation retreat to catch up on classes and watch a film or two for conversation. Parents and mentors are invited to join them if they wish, but it is not required. Students, please check your schedules to ensure you are able to attend as well as discuss options as to where we wish to end our retreat and have our evening meal.



### Youth Stock Sales

The youth members that are going to the ELCA National Youth Convention in Detroit have begun to sell stock **Stock shares can be purchased for \$5.00 each.**

Individuals can buy as many shares of stock as they would like to and they can designate whether the stock purchase would go to an individual or the group or a combination of the two.

#### **A share of Stock entitles you to:**

Pray for the student and group going to New Orleans- for the group's safety on the trip, to deepen our faith & spiritual desires, to meet new friends, strengthen relationships of those with us, and to gain a new appreciation for others.

During the trip you will hear from the group, whether it is an e-mail, letter or postcard, or a phone call.

You will have exclusive access to our facebook page, which will be updated daily.

**Stockholders Presentation-** after the trip you will be invited to come enjoy treats hosted by the gathering participants as well as a presentation about the trip.

Stock can be purchase at any time from any of the six youth members going to New Orleans, they will also be available to purchase after church on Sundays.

### Garage Sale

The youth are beginning to plan for our annual garage sale, which will be held on May 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> with an alternate date of May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Please keep us in mind as you begin your spring cleaning. We are looking for any gently used items you may have to put on the sale. We will be glad to pick up your items at any time and store them until the sale. If you need something picked up or have any questions please contact Joan Burquest at 943-2232 or cell # 218-640-7827



### Talent and Treats Night Silent Auction

**Sunday April 26 6:30 p.m.**

Come join us for a fun evening as the youth of our congregation showcase their talents along with serving of various appetizers and beverages. There will also be a silent auction with interesting items. All funds raised will be to help cover the expenses of our youth that will be attending the national youth Gathering in Detroit this summer.



### Esther WELCA March Meeting March 12, 2015

No Treasurer's Report this month due to illness

#### **Old Business:**

\* The World Day of Prayer event had a small turnout. Only 4 guests and 8 Esther WELCA members were able to attend.

\* Esther WELCA received our billing statement for this year's payment of \$200 towards Luther Crest's capital campaign. We have pledged \$600 to Luther Crest's capital campaign over 3 years. This is our 2nd payment.

#### **New Business:**

\* NW MN SWO Convention is Sept. 11 & 12, 2015 in Moorhead, MN. We have received forms to nominate members for the Mary Magdalene Award and NW MN SWO officers. If you would like to nominate a woman who shares the Good News through word and deed at Esther, please contact Margaret Wehking. Nominations need to be received by July 1.

\* **Esther WELCA** will host bingo at St. Williams Nursing Home on April 24th. Circle 1 will be in charge of purchasing ice cream and angel food cakes this year. At this event we will celebrate Mrytle Arvidson's 99th birthday and voted to present her with a small plant as a gift.

### **Cluster 9 Spring Gathering**

Our spring gathering will be held at Faith, Miltona on Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Geneva Paulson, will be speaking on rescuing their son, Randy, from a cult. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the day concludes with lunch. Please contact Margaret Wehking if you would like to attend.

### **Welcome New Members**

On Palm Sunday we received new members to our Esther family. We welcome Rob Stanley (husband of Amy Koep Stanley), Michael, Kayla and Sydney Lorine. Please introduce yourself to them.



### **Change of Address**

Please make the following change of address to your directories:

Audrey Arvidson  
413 E Soo Street  
Parkers Prairie, MN 56361

Mary Durling  
305 N. Clayborn Ave.  
Willow Square Apt. 5  
Parkers Prairie, MN 56361

Both telephones numbers remain the same.

### **Notice of Congregational Meeting**

Notice is being given of a congregational meeting to be held following worship on Sunday, April 12. The purpose of the meeting will to revisit hosting bingo at Tornado Days in Miltona.

*Background: We have received correspondence from 'Team Miltona' wanting us to host bingo. They were given the reasons why we chose not to run bingo. They*


*have responded of having a specific time for us to run bingo, starting at 3 p.m. until 8 p.m. We have checked with the bingo chairs and they are willing to run bingo.*



The Easter Gardens our Sunday School kids planted.  
He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!



Our new members (left to right) Rob Stanley, Sydney, Michael, Kayla and Karsyn Lorine.

<p><b>April 2015</b></p>		<p><b>He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!</b></p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>1 pm Prayer Shawl/Craft Day <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 7 pm Worship w/ Communion</p>	<p>3</p> <p><b>Good Friday</b> 7 pm Worship</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5 7 am Sunrise Service w/Communion 8 am -9:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast 10 a.m. Worship w/Communion</p>	<p>6 Pastor on Vacation</p>	<p>7 Pastor on Vacation</p>	<p>8 Pastor on Vacation</p>	<p>9 9am sewing 1:30 pm WELCA meeting Pastor on Vacation</p>	<p>10 Pastor on Vacation</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 Holy Humor Sunday 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship Church Council</p>	<p>13 Pastor on Vacation</p>	<p>14 Pastor on Vacation</p>	<p>15 Confirmation Supper 6 p.m. Burquest family Class 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 9 am Sunday School 9:30 am Birthday Fellowship 10 am Worship w/Holy Communion <b>Noisy Offering</b></p>	<p>20 Pastor on Vacation</p>	<p>21 Pastor on Vacation</p>	<p>22 Confirmation Supper 6 p.m. Townsend family Class 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>23 9 am All Day Sewing</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Treats and Talents 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>27 Pastor on Vacation</p>	<p>28 Pastor on Vacation</p>	<p>29 Confirmation Supper 6p.m. Hart family Class 6:30 p.m.</p>			