

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

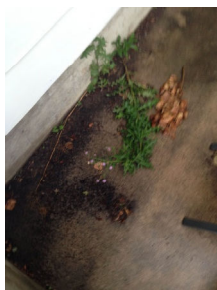
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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



There is a picture on my phone's camera of a thistle weed. Why you wonder? They seem to be everywhere, this weed we try to control. But this isn't any ordinary thistle weed in a field waiting for someone to dig it out or spray it. This thistle lives between the cement of my patio and the foundation of the parsonage where Dan and I live. Why did I take a picture of it? Because it lives! It lives after being weed wacked and left to die. Most of the stem was cut except for a less than ½ an inch. Now it lives. It's blooming even. Going to seed to make more thistles! A testament to amazing resilience in the face of death and destruction! Although slight, it was connected with its source of life the ground, through a small sliver of a stem. And thus this thistle lives!

How has your summer been? Has it been lush with rest and joy? Blooming brightly? Or is it a bit more like that thistle? Hanging on? Fighting? Yet living?

We don't have to look far to see what starves our lives from blooming. Stress, overwork, illness, uncertainty, misunderstanding, hurt, feelings of inadequacy, loss... the list goes on and on. But we too have a source where our roots run deep. This summer we are taking many opportunities to be

community, Esther Church out and about. The outdoor service. Worshipping with First Evangelical Lutheran in Parkers. Bingo. A float in the parade. And who can forget the ice cream social? God calls us together, not just to have fun, but so that we can remind one another who is the source of all life, all thing good, all things that last. To remind one another of who can offer help, strength, and comfort when our connections seem so thin.

Although that thistle has made me think, it's not long for this world (We need to trim around the house again). But even if the illustration is short lived, what this earthly thing points to is not. Being the Church is pointing to Jesus is all that we do. May we be community for each other each and every day, pointing to Jesus, the one gives life, because we all have times where we're just hanging on.

United in Christ,

Pastor Jeanette

Pastor Jeanette will be taking family time and vacation July 31st - August 7th. Pastor Carol Olson and Pastor Kathryn Rothman are available in case of pastoral needs and emergencies. All other matters can be directed to the church office. Contact information for Pastor Carol: (218)770-9241 and for Pastor Rothman: (320)-760-6439.

Our Church Calendar

July 26th

Camp Themed Worship at Esther

Jody Johnson, Guest Speaker from Luther Crest
sharing about the 'Prepare the Way' Campaign

The Creeds: What do we believe? (Part 2)

Readings: Acts 15:1-21; 1 Corinthians 1:10-25

Gospel Reading: John 3:1-21

August 2nd

PV for Phebe: Service of Light

A service focused on light supporting the NW MN

Synodical Women's project to support Phebe

Hospital

Readings: Genesis 1

Psalm 8

Ephesians 2:4-10

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:14-17

August 9th

Fall Festival Worship at First Lutheran in

Parkers Prairie

9:00a.m.

Readings: 1 Kings 19:4-8

Psalm 34:1-8

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Gospel Reading: John 6:35, 41-51

August 16th

The Creeds: What do we believe? (Part 3)

Noisy Offering Today!

Bible Study after Worship

Readings: Proverbs 1:1-9; 1 Peter 3:8-17

Gospel Reading: John 14:15-27

August 23rd

The Creeds: What do we believe? (Part 4)

Readings: 1 Timothy 3:14--4:11

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Gospel Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

August 30th

Looking Ahead

Gospel Reading: Mark 1

September 6th

What is a Lectionary?

Note: Sunday School begins September 13th at 9:00a.m.

In Our Prayers

Myrtle Arvidson

Jayne Arvidson

Kristy Fyhrie

Dick Thom

Dave Haase

Jennifer Bidne

Marcella Braun

Wendy Kuhnau

R.C. Christensen

Donavan Hart

Robert Dobratz

Jan Gilbertson

Judy Hemmerlin

Julie Steidl

Family and friends of Al Fyhrie, James Higgs, Louisa Carlson, Walter Heiser and Donna Lage.

Sister of Pastor Jeanette

Grandmother of

Pastor Jeanette

Coworker of Jewel

Townsend

Friend of the youth

Brother of Ernie Hart

Father of Steve Dobratz

Sister of Jim Arvidson

Friend of the Congregation

Friend of Jayne Arvidson

O Lord, hear our prayers...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Jo Marie Moller 08/03

David Bunde 08/04

Danialle Rupert 08/04

Terry Sather 08/05

Eugene Arvidson 08/06

Evan Lenzen 08/07

Landen Nistler 08/08

Brianna Skoglund 08/10

Samara Price 08/12

Nathan Arvidson 08/13 |

Todd Wunderlich 08/14

Eliza Krueger 08/16

Beverly Arvidson 08/18

Colleen Burquest 08/20

Matthew Arvidson 08/21

Donna Pederson 08/22

Elmer Beireis 08/28

Jacob Bunde 08/29

Cora Schlosser 08/29

Serving Us In August

Pastor: Jeanette Bidne
Organist: Marcia Guenther
Lay Reader: Margaret Wehking
Acolytes NEED VOLUNTEERS
Ushers: NEED VOLUNTEERS
Communion Asst. Jewel Townsend
Altar Guild: Donna Pederson
Greeters: Margaret Wehking
Birthday Fellowship: Al & Donna Pederson
Mike Townsend family
Marge Nelson

FALL FESTIVAL WORSHIP 9:00 a.m.!

First Evangelical Lutheran Church (FELC) of Parkers Prairie and Esther Lutheran Church are hosting a Fall Festival Community Worship Service at FELC 9:00 a.m. August 9th, the weekend of Fall Festival. Come into town, join us for worship and coffee hour and then watch/participate in the parade!



Parade Float-

Esther is going to have an entry in the Parkers Fall Festival Parade. John Skoglund has offered to purchase candy and provide a pick-up and possibly a trailer. This is a great opportunity to pass out our info cards. Any ages interested in riding or walking the parade please sign up or let the office. This will be the first time Esther has had an entry in the parade. Let's show the community who we are!!! Remember to wear your blue T-Shirts if you have one!

Bingo...Bingo...Let's Play Bingo

As a congregation, we voted to run bingo during Fall Festival. Please sign up to help on either Saturday or Sunday or both days! When asked to help, please say yes! Contact Jewel Townsend to sign up or with any questions!

August Bible Study-

Offered after worship August 16th

Where are we going this year? What is the narrative lectionary?

For this coming school year, the Worship and Christian Education Committees have decided to once again use the narrative lectionary. The Gospel of Mark, the focus of the youth gathering in Detroit is the Gospel used for 2015-2016. Come enjoy treats and conversation and see why we will travel thought the Bible beginning to end once again and what will be different from last year's journey.

Thank You!

Many thanks to all who participated and assisted in our *Worship by the Water* Service at Rodney Peterson's. A special thank you to Rodney Peterson for hosting us again this year. In the service we gave thanks for our baptism, heard a dramatic reading from "The Day the Crayons Quit" by Drew Daywalt, a responsive reading from Genesis 1. A great potluck followed and the weather held throughout. Thanks to all who made this day possible!



June 2015 Report

Beginning Balance	\$53126
Deposits	\$8,032.00
Disbursements	\$8,046.04
Ending Balance 6/3015	\$517.22

Contributions needed based on budget

	\$ 57,723.00
Actual Contributions	\$ 54,814.02
Ahead of Budget	\$3,091.02

***Holy Land Presentation
tentatively scheduled for September 20th
following worship.***

Pastor Jeanette is hoping to share about her travels to the Holy Land. Join her to see pictures, items, and even taste recipes from the Holy Land. Come learn about holy sites and the people who call the Holy Land home.



Thank You...Thank You!

We (Anna, Kathryn, Sarah, Jared, Garrett and Tanner along with chaperones Joan and Adam) are back from our life changing trip to the Youth Gathering that was held in Detroit. Words cannot express the gratitude to you, the members of Esther, for the generous support you provide us. Please stop and ask us about the trip!



A group shot on our Service Project Day. The heat index was 100 degrees that day.

New Arrivals!!

Carl Mitchell Moyle was born Wednesday, July 1st to Michelle Moyle. Happy grandparents include Chuck & Clara Pogose. Carl was 8 lbs. 2ozs and 21" long. Many blessings as he grows!

Nora Kay Stanley was born Saturday, July 18th to Amy (Koep) & Rob Stanley. Nora was 2 lbs. 5 oz. and 13 ½" long. Happy grandparents include Jeff & Deb Koep. Many blessings as she grows!



**WELCA meeting highlights
July 9, 2015**

Treasurer's report: Checking balance: \$822.97
Memorial fund: \$6,308

WELCA paid \$2,670 for the work in our kitchen cabinets. They work great!!

Old Business: * Ice Cream Social is July 26.
Thanks to all Circles for doing their parts!!
*Still looking for a delegate to our NW MN SWO convention in Moorhead on Sept 11 & 12

New Business: * We voted to send a Silent Auction basket to the NW MN SWO convention. See info elsewhere in the newsletter,
* Gloria Rosenquist is planning to participate in the Luther Crest Quilt Extravaganza for Esther Church!! Thanks Gloria
* It was decided to hold the August WELCA meeting on July 30 as most of the executive board will be gone on Aug 13

**Silent Basket Fundraiser
NW MN SWO Convention**

Esther WELCA is sponsoring a "Death by Chocolate" basket for the Sept 11 & 12 NW MN SWO Convention. Please bring chocolate items to the church by Sept 1st!! Ideas would be: hot chocolate mixes, chocolate covered items, chocolate bars or candies or any chocolate theme item. Nancy Bunde will be collecting them and creating our basket. All funds raised go to individuals who attend the 2017 Triennial convention in Minneapolis.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 10 a.m. Worship Congregational meeting to follow	3	4	5	6 Creative Arts and Prayer Shawl	7	8 Bingo at Parkers Prairie Fall Festival
9 9 am Worship at 1st Lutheran Parkers Prairie *Float in Parade **Bingo in the Park	10	11	12 6 p.m. Christian Ed Meeting	13	14	15
16 10 a.m. Worship W/Communion	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 10 a.m. Worship W/Communion Bible Study following worship	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 10 a.m. Worship	30					August 2015