

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

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

On June 4th, I will find myself in another country. As I shared in previous newsletters, I have been given an amazing continuing education opportunity. Through Katie's Fund of the Women of the ELCA, I have received a scholarship to travel to the Holy Land for ten days. To travel takes us out of our comfort zones, makes us realize what is essential, and for me, often, brings about gratitude for home no matter how enjoyable a trip has been.

This summer, perhaps you are traveling as well. Do you have plans in place? Plans in the works? Are you doing something familiar? Or something new? I think of our first communion classes earlier this year when we discussed the last supper of Jesus with his disciples.

The disciples believed they had gathered to celebrate the Jewish Passover meal. In the Gospel of Matthew, the disciples and Jesus *did* share a meal together, but things were different. Jesus spoke new words, saying “Take, eat this is my body.” And “Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” These were new unfamiliar words and yet the words of Jesus created one of the most significant and sustaining parts of the Church, The Lord's Supper. In the Gospel of John, these words are not mentioned and instead Jesus *washes the disciples feet*, definitely a new and astonishing act in the midst of what was a familiar celebration.

Each of us will venture into new territory or new experiences this summer. Will we be open to what they will mean for us? Will we learn more about the familiar from them?

Wherever we go, whatever we do, Jesus Christ is with us and will lead us. And perhaps, open us up to experience God anew wherever we may be and even, if we've never done it that way before!

United in Christ,
Pastor Jeanette

Our Church Calendar

Summer begins with a sermon series focused on the Psalms. The Psalms encompass all the emotions God has given us. Together let's learn about what these psalms express and how we can use them in our faith journey!

May 31st
1st Sunday after Pentecost
Introduction to the Psalms
Scripture Reading: Psalm 1

June 7th
2nd Sunday after Pentecost
Praise Psalms
Scripture Reading: Psalm 113

June 14th
3rd Sunday after Pentecost
Lament Psalms
Scripture Reading: Psalm 69:1-16

June 21st
Psalms of Trust
Scripture Reading: Psalm 27:1-6
Noisy Offering in Worship Today!
Hunger Riders Arrive and VBS Begins Today!

June 28th

Psalms of Thanksgiving

Scripture Reading: Psalm 40:1-10

July 5th

Praise Psalms

Scripture Reading: Psalm 146

In Our Prayers

Myrtle Arvidson

Jayne Arvidson

Kristy Fyhrie

Dick Thom

Jennifer Bidne Sister of Pastor Jeanette

Marcella Braun Grandmother of
Pastor Jeanette

Jordan Norhe Friend of the Mike Townsend family

R.C. Christensen Friend of the youth

Donavan Hart brother of Ernie Hart

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

Lord, hear our prayers...

Serving Us In June

Pastor: Jeanette Bidne
Organist: Marcia Guenther
Lay Reader: Luella Thom
Acolytes NEED VOLUNTEERS
Ushers: Pat and Tanner Wambeke
Communion Asst. Luella Thom
Altar Guild: Deb Koep
Greeters: Inez Haase
Birthday Fellowship: Jim & Linda Arvidson
Rick Guenther family
Dave Arvidson family

Send your written prayers to the Holy Land!

Pastor Jeanette will be gone for continuing education in the Holy Land June 4th-14th.

She will be visiting the Western Wall in Jerusalem (also known as the Wailing Wall) and will carry and place prayers there from anyone wishing to write prayers. The cracks and crevices of the old wall of the Temple are filled with written prayers of those from Judaism, Islam, and Christianity.

During that time there will be emergency pastoral coverage by Pastor Carol Olson (218) 770 -9241 from June 3rd, a day prior to the trip, through the 9th of June and Pastor Melissa of Faithful Shepherd Parish of Eagle Bend and Clarissa (320) 533-0379 June 9th-14th. Please direct all non-urgent matters to Esther secretary, Sue Ellwanger and the church office. Pastor Jeanette plans to blog her experience on the web, to follow her journey go to:

<https://jbidne.wordpress.com>

There will also be a map of the Holy Land posted near the offices. Feel free to stop in and see where she is traveling in June!



Allen Pederson 06/01
Amber Guenther 06/02
Darwin Hart 06/02
Kilen Klimek 06/03
Adam Grabow 06/04
Rebecca Chow 06/06
Kayla Thoennes 06/08
Rachel Denny 06/09
Wilbur Burquest 06/12
Devin Steele 06/15
Ann Skoglund 06/16
Dominic Hart 06/23
Scott Hart 06/23
Irene Peterson 06/25

Robert Stanley 06/28

Haile Lenzen 06/29

Bode Wagner 06/30



April 2015 Report

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$49.14 |
| Deposits | \$ 8,493.96 |
| Disbursements | \$8,492.25 |
| Ending Balance 4/30/15 | \$50.85 |
| Contributions needed based on budget | |
| | \$ 32,847.38 |
| Actual Contributions | \$ 34,482.00 |
| Budget Shortfall | (\$1,634.62) |

Highlights of the Month:

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

- Brought communion to those unable to make it to Esther.
- Provided materials for confirmation students and local congregations to learn about Christian denominations. Thank you to all who participated in our ecumenical panel with over 40 people and 5 parishes in attendance!
- Sent two delegates to the Synod Assembly in Moorhead, MN to learn about sharing our faith.
- Provided a space to tie blankets for seniors, plan VBS and upcoming special services....

And much, much more....

Thank you for giving to the ministries of Esther!



June Bible Study- Offered June 28th following worship

“Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through Music.”

– Martin Luther

Curious what scripture inspired your favorite hymns? Learn more about the hymns we love and what brought them into existence. Come enjoy snacks, listen to some music, learn and share about these special hymns!



On May 3rd during worship, we asked God for blessing and publically thanked Elmer and Elnora Beireis for the gift of land to Esther. This gift will be noted on a plaque near our confirmation photos.



Esther WELCA May Meeting

May 14, 2015

Treasurer's Report: Checking: \$824.97.00

Memorial Fund: \$7,975.00

- Thank you received from the Parkers Prairie Food Shelf for the donation

Old Business

- Thrivent members are able to apply and receive (2) \$250.00 gift cards each calendar to go towards a worthwhile project. Please

see your Thrivent representative to get more information on this program.

New Business

- Circle 2 will be hosting the potluck reception for the 3 graduating seniors on May 24th.
- WELCA will be serving a memorial Open House at Faith Eagle Bend on June 20th.
- **June meeting will be held on Sunday June 7th following worship. Many items will be discussed. All ladies are encouraged to attend this meeting.**
- Received a request from the six youth that will attend the National Youth Gathering this summer in Detroit. \$260.00 was given to this group.

Notice to Esther Congregation Members:

We are no longer taking backpacks. Currently, we have no projects to give them to.

From our Quilters:

We appreciate your donations of materials, but if you would like to donate fabric, please donate COTTON fabric only!!

June Meeting Items to be discussed

- ☆ Ice Cream Social and Country Store.
- ☆ Clarifying serving responsibilities for serving funerals and guidelines for the circles.
- ☆ Standing motion on youth camperships.
- ☆ Delegate needed for the NW MN SWO convention Sept. 11th -12th in Moorhead.
- ☆ Nominee for Mary Magdalene award.
- ☆ Kitchen Committee report-if needed.



Youth Stock Sales

The youth members that are going to the ELCA National Youth Convention in Detroit are selling 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 Detroit- 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 purchased 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.

Our youth attending the national gathering:

Sarah Bunde
Anna Guenther
Kathryn Burquest
Garrett Wehking
Tanner Wambeke

Jared Higgs

Chaperones:

Joan Burquest
Russ Higgs

Change of Address

Please make the following change of address to your directories:

Tyler & Lisa Arvidson: 26 Wildcat Circle #7632
Star Valley Ranch WY. 83127

Gary & Bev Kreidler: 33994 171st Ave. Clarissa,
MN 564410 (218) 756-6392

Mark & Carol Kreidler: (320) 304-4047

Lucille Skoglund: St Williams Living Center 212
Soo St. Box 30 Parkers Prairie, MN 56361



Habitat Build Days:

June 17th (indoor work)

Building hope for families!



YOU ARE INVITED:

Please join us for our Vacation Bible School kickoff and Hunger Ride evening at Esther! Supper will begin at 5:00 p.m. There will be food, music and Vacation Bible School for young people and food, music and conversation about hunger in our state from the Northwest Minnesota Synod Hunger Ride Bike Riders. A note from the riders:

"We especially hope that folks from all around the synod will join in this pilgrimage of listening and transformation through paying attention to God by paying attention to hunger."

Please join us for an evening of sharing, learning and fun as several riders share about their experiences regarding hunger and what we can do to help!

"Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me

food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." – Matthew 25:25-26

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS will be held on Sunday June 21st through Thursday June 25th. VBS will begin with supper each evening at 5 pm. and will end at 8 pm. Luther Crest Bible Camp staff members will again be leading VBS. All children 3 years to finishing 5th grade this spring are invited and encouraged to attend. There is a health form that needs to be filled out for each child in attendance. Youth entering 7th grade and older are invited to be junior leaders! On Thursday evening, we will enjoy a potluck supper and a closing program.

In Remembrance:

Several persons in our community have joined the saints above in the last month....

Walter Heiser

Walter Heiser, age 87, died Sunday, May 10, 2015, at his home, surrounded by his family at Windmill Ponds in Alexandria.

Funeral services were held at 6 p.m., Thursday, May 14, 2015, at Esther Lutheran Church, Eastern Township with Rev. Jeanette Bidne officiating. Music was provided by organist, Marcia Guenther. Burial was at the church cemetery.

Walter was born April 18, 1928, to John and Margaretha (Weller) Heiser on the family farm south of Artas, Campbell County, South Dakota, where he was raised. Walter was a life-long dairy and crop farmer. He was united in marriage to Elsie Gimbel August 15, 1948, at Herreid, South Dakota. Following their marriage, they lived on the Heiser family farm where he worked with his father. He moved his family of four; Elsie, Cindy and baby Mike to Courtland, California in 1953, where he

worked for Johnson Farms. They returned to Artas in 1955, when he bought the farm from his parents. In October of 1966, Walter purchased a farm in Eastern Township, rural Parkers Prairie, near Esther Lutheran Church. He farmed for 30 years. In 1996, he and Elsie moved to their home in Miltona before selling their farm in the winter of 1997. Walter moved to Windmill Ponds in January of 2014, where he lived until his death.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Elsie; son, Michael Heiser of Parkers Prairie; six daughters, Cindy Skoglund of Alexandria, Wanda Sanvik of Brooklyn Center, Sheila Heiser of Alexandria, Holly (Steve) Lenarz of Monticello, Melody (Bill) Thoennes of Alexandria, and Jewel (Michael) Townsend of Miltona; 11 grandchildren: Brad (Angela) Sanvik, Crystal (Darin) Hoepner, Eric (Amanda) Lenarz, Angie (Maurice) Johnson, Chris (Tara) Skoglund, Travis Heiser, LaTorea Thoennes, Brent Thoennes, Courtney Thoennes (Jacob Smith), Megan Townsend and Daniel Townsend; seven great-grandchildren: Trey and Trevin Hoepner, Alex Peterson, Elliana Johnson, Morgan and Baby Lenarz (arriving in June), and Kali Skoglund; five sisters; Martha Wiedmeier, Irene Knapp, Elsie (Merle) Mettler all of Rapid City, South Dakota, Mathilda Schaffer of Herreid, South Dakota and Ella Bader of Appleton,; numerous sisters-in-law; brothers-in-law; nieces and nephews.

Preceded in death by his infant son; parents, John and Margaretha Heiser; in-laws, Ludwig and Christina Gimbel; brother, Arthur Heiser; sisters, Ottilia Horst, Edna Schaeffer, Alma Heinrich, Amanda Mayer, Hilda Stadel, Anna Bitz, and Katheryn Mettler; and numerous brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law. When asked about his family, Walter would reply with this riddle, I had 12 sisters, all were married one time, but I had 24 brothers-in-law.

Pallbearers are his grandsons: Brad Sanvik, Eric Lenarz, Chris Skoglund, Travis Heiser, Brent Thoennes, and Daniel Townsend. Honorary

Pallbearers are his granddaughters: Crystal Hoepner, Angie Johnson, LaTorea Thoennes, Courtney Thoennes, and Megan Townsend.

Louisa Ida Carlson

Louisa I. Carlson, age 94, of Eagle Bend, died Sunday, May 3, 2015, at Knute Nelson Memorial Home in Alexandria.

Funeral Services were held 11 a.m., Tuesday, May 5, 2015, at Esther Lutheran Church in Eastern Township with Rev. Jeanette Bidne officiating. Music is provided by organist, Marcia Guenther and vocalist, Dedra Zwieg. Burial is at the church cemetery.

Louisa Ida Carlson was born January 27, 1921, to Charles and Clara (Bertrum) Fisher in Campbell, Minnesota. She was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Faith and attended Vining Country School through the eighth grade. Following her education her family moved to Sebeka. Louisa went to work for Don Danielson of Eagle Bend where she met her future husband, Albin Carlson. They were united in marriage February 4, 1955, in her family home in Sebeka. Following their marriage they made their home in Eagle Bend where she was blessed with one daughter, Clara. Louisa was a homemaker for over 57 years and enjoyed gardening, taking care of her chickens and cattle, embroidering and quilting. She loved to bake with her grandchildren and enjoyed watching them grow. She was a member of Esther Lutheran Church. In her younger years, Louisa loved going to the threshing show at Rose City, Dalton and Albany with her brother Charles and his wife, and playing bingo with her sister, Dorothy. She volunteered at fair share in Dalton for two years. Louisa loved to listen to "Wheeler Dealer" every Wednesday at 10 a.m., on the radio and would stand and listen to her favorite song "On the Wings of a Snow White Dove," when it was played. Louisa moved to Knute Nelson in May of 2012, where she made many friends, appreciated the staff and enjoyed playing bingo every Thursday. It brought her great pleasure when Clara would bring KFC chicken and pizza from Pizza Hut on her visits.

She was preceded in death by her parents; loving husband, Albin in 1987; great-grandson, Mitchell (Moyle) Casperson in 2003; grandson, Carl Moyle in 2006; son-in-law, Larry Moyle in 2008; and two brothers Charles Fisher and Lester Fisher.

Louisa is survived by her daughter, Clara (Charles) Moyle Pogose of Eagle Bend; three brothers, Robert (Ruth) Fisher of Wadena, Albert (Margaret) Fisher of Reno, Nevada, Ferdinand (Dottie) Fisher of Arizona City, Arizona; four sisters, Lucil Jessen of Hutchinson, Alma Robinson of Waverly, Dorothy Pachan of Eagle Bend and Clara Duietsman of Worthington; uncle, Fred Bertrum of North Carolina; two grandchildren, Michelle Moyle of Alexandria and Byron Moyle of the Twin Cities; four great-grandchildren, Zachary, Nauticla, Gavin, Zoey; and a fifth great-grandchild due in July; along with a host of friends and relatives. She will be dearly missed.

Pallbearers are Byron Moyle, Larry Carlson, Everett Robinson, Delmer Wehking, Carl Wehking and Chris Salcido.

James Higgs

James Higgs, 77, of Bertha, passed away on April 20, 2015 at the St. Cloud Hospital. Funeral services for Jim were held on Friday, April 24, 2015, 10:30 a.m., at Esther Lutheran Church in Parkers Prairie with Pastor Jeanette Bidne officiating. Burial will be held at Esther Lutheran Cemetery, Parkers Prairie.

Jim was born December 22, 1937, in Wykeham Township, Todd County, to George & Lydia (Covel) Higgs. He graduated from Bertha High School in 1957 and in October of 1957 joined the Army National Guard. He was honorably discharged in 1962. On August 18, 1962, Jim married Betty Okerlund at the United Methodist Church in Clarissa.

Jim farmed in rural Bertha; his favorite tractor was the 400 International. He built his own barn and sheds and was able to fix anything. He enjoyed traveling by car, going to tractor shows and loved

farming. He especially enjoyed spending time with his children and grandchildren.

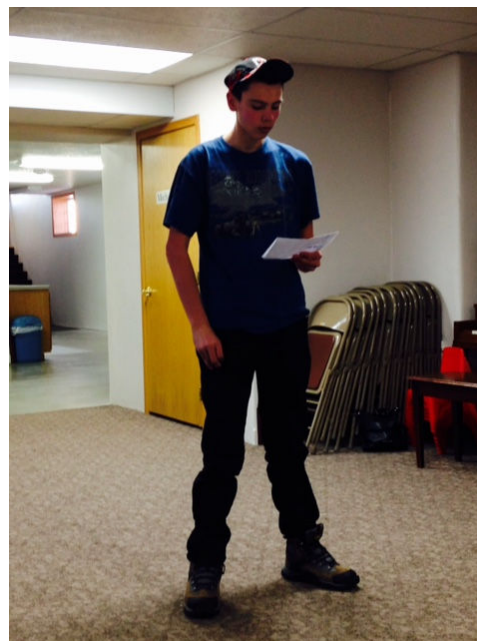
Jim is survived by his wife Betty of Bertha; children: Deneen (Curt) Gregerson of Browerville and Russ (Jennifer) Higgs of Parkers Prairie; sister Lorraine Higgs of Fergus Falls; grandchildren: Megan, Jared, Jeffrey and Michael.

Jim is preceded in death by his parents and Sister Georgetta Becker

A Few Photos from 'Talents and Treats'



Kathryn Burquest, Sarah Bunde, Anna Guenther



Jerad Higgs



Garret Wehking



Tanner Wambeke