

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

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

*O God, our beginning and our end, you provide us a time to fast and a time to feast, a time to embark and a time to return home. Give us companions for our journey as we navigate toward you. May it be so: Amen.”*

Those are the words of Gail Ramshaw in her Lenten devotional *40 Days and 40 Nights*. I just read the above prayer this morning and was struck by the phrase “Give us companions for our journey...” . The word *companion* means “to break bread with” since *com* means “together” or “with” and *pan* comes from *panis* a French word for bread. We break bread a lot at Esther. In communion around the table, through crackers and cheese on Birthday Sunday and, of course this time of year, during Lenten Soup Suppers. Through meals we share conversation, what food we have and even share our time and space. For me, I enjoy eating with people rather than on my own. There is something special about it and it marks that something happened. We simply do not say “we got together and talked”, instead we say “we had a cup of coffee” or “we did lunch”. It is a marker that an event occurred. Imagine a birthday party without food? Slightly awkward... I wonder if those around us, our *companions* also mark our journey? Perhaps they keep us in check on a rough day. Or bestow kind words when the world feels harsh. Jesus broke bread with his disciples. In communion Jesus breaks bread with us. And I feel, we are called to break bread with one another in a variety of ways. To be *companions* for each other through this journey of Lent. We, as people, can be reminders that we are marked by Jesus, loved by Jesus and fed by Jesus. Blessed be your journey of Lent as we learn with each other just how much God loves us!

United in Christ,  
*Pastor Jeanette*

## ***Our Church Calendar***

**March 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**Second Sunday in Lent**  
***Laborers in the Vineyard***  
***Matthew 20:1-16***

**March 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Mid-Week Service**  
Soup Supper at 6:00p.m., Worship at 7:00p.m.  
*Taking Care of Business*  
Scripture Reading: *Philippians 4:4-9*

**March 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**Third Sunday in Lent**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday School with Pastor Jeanette  
Sunday Scholl sings during worship  
Bible Study following worship  
***Wedding Banquet***  
***Matthew 22:1-14***

**March 11<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday Mid-Week Service** Soup  
Supper at 6:00p.m., Worship at 7:00p.m.  
*What Kind of God*  
Scripture Reading:  
*Luke 13:1-5 and Luke 3:3-6*

**March 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
*Noisy Offering Today in Worship!*  
***Bridesmaids***  
***Matthew 25:1-13***  
***Psalms 43:1-5***

**March 18<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday Mid-Week Service**  
Soup Supper at 6:00p.m., Worship at 7:00p.m.  
*Please Come Home*  
Scripture Reading: *Luke 15:11-32*

## Serving Us In March

**March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

New Membership Classes following worship

*Last Judgment*

*Matthew 25:31-46*

*Psalms 98:1-9*

New Membership Classes following worship

**March 25<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Mid-Week Service Soup**

Supper at 6:00p.m., Worship at 7:00p.m.

*Children, teach your parents*

Scripture Reading: *Acts 2:14-18*

**March 29<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday**

Welcoming of New Member/s in Worship

*Triumphal Entry, Cleansing of the Temple*

*Matthew 21:1-13*

*Psalms 118:15-29*

*New Membership Class following worship*

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

**Maundy Thursday**

*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

Psalm 118:19-29

**HE IS RISEN!**

### **Lenten Services** ***Holden Evening Prayer*** ***Time at the Cafe***

This year we return to Holden Evening Prayer as part of our mid-week services. We are also using a Lenten dialogue series entitled *Crossroads* written by Graydon Royce. The dialogues are set in a small café and are conversations between two people about daily life. Please join us for Lenten Soup Suppers and a chance to hear and see where God is active even at a little diner!

**Pastor:** Jeanette Bidne

**Organist:** Marcia Guenther

**Lay Reader:** Lorrie Pomeranz

**Acolytes:** Megan & Danny Townsend

**Ushers:** Eugene Arvidson  
Nolan Hart

**Communion Assistant:** Lorrie Pomeranz

**Altar Guild:** Deb Koep

**Greeters:** Delmar Wehking

**Birthday Fellowship:** Dave Bunde family  
Wally & Bea Skoglund  
Mark Wehking family

## In Our Prayers

Myrtle Arvidson

Jayne Arvidson

Erica Nelson

Kristy Fyhrie

Pat Wambeke

Yvonne Anderson

Lana Doll

Jennifer Bidne

Marcella Braun

Ed Tasler

Jordan Norhe

Emily Madison

Wes Hoyhtya

R.C. Christensen

Donavan Hart

Sylvia Kuenzel

Family of Rod Piepho- Friend of our congregation

Family of Al Fyhrie

Sister of Pastor Jeanette

Grandmother of

Pastor Jeanette

Father of Jayne Arvidson

Friend of the Mike Townsend family

Granddaughter of

Dick & Luella Thom

Friend of the Thom'

Friend of the youth

brother of Ernie Hart

Mother of Sue Ellwanger



Kristina	Kreidler	03/01
Jean	Barbee	03/02
Emma	Timm	03/03
Evalynn	Grinager	03/05
Isabella	Barbee	03/08
Amanda	Dobratz	03/08
Brody	Lenzen	03/08
Marcia	Guenther	03/10
Sue	Carlson	03/11
Emma	Arvidson	03/12
Harvey	Peterson	03/12
Kilee	Arvidson	03/13
Kieda	Wagner	03/14
Michael	Wunderlich	03/15
Kiley	Peterson	03/16
Eric	Pomerenke	03/16
Ty	Lenzen	03/18
Jacob	Grabow	03/24
Nancy	Bunde	03/25
Anya	Wagner	03/28
Kenneth	Robinson	03/30
Garret	Wehking	03/31

## Oink! Oink! Oink



Thank you to the Esther Sunday School and to all the members of Esther who helped our drive for Global Barnyard to be a success! Between monies gathered from piggies and noisy offerings *we raised \$490.96 for ELCA Global Barnyard!* To learn more go to: <https://community.elca.org/GoodGifts-Animals>



### Treasurers' Report:

#### January 2015 Report

Beginning Balance	\$2,603.88
Deposits	\$6,454.00
Disbursements	<u>\$7,515.60</u>
Ending Balance 1/31/15	\$1,542.28

#### Contributions needed based on budget

	\$8,620.50
Actual Contributions	<u>\$5,886.00</u>
<b>Budget Shortfall</b>	<b>(\$2,734.50)</b>

**First Communion Classes-**  
Classes will be held at 5:30p.m. March 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> for 5<sup>th</sup> graders or anyone else interested in learning about the gift of Holy Communion. First Communicants will be recognized during our Maundy Thursday Service. Students will gather for an additional fourth class (TBD) to bake bread for Maundy Thursday. Here at Esther we hold classes for instruction about communion, however, there is no certain age or instruction required to receive this gift, please let the office know if you would like to join in learning about this sacrament.



## Esther February WELCA Meeting Feb 12, 2015

### *New Member Classes*

New member classes will be held March 22<sup>nd</sup> and March 29<sup>th</sup> following worship. *All members of Esther are invited to attend and join in conversation about where we came from and how we ended up here at Esther. We will learn about the early Church, what membership entails, and what opportunities there are to serve at Esther. Please help us welcome those who are new among us!*

## Still Giving Thanks

*The following thank you was received via letter to Esther regarding our Traveling Christmas Program.*

“Thank you for the program you presented at Bethany Home on Sunday. It brought back memories of programs when I was a kid. Especially nice, all ages were involved. It was well presented and it is the meaning of Christmas. We hope you remember to present other programs in here.”

– Joan, resident of Bethany Homes.

## All Committee Meeting

An all committee meeting discussing signage at Esther will be held over mid-week Lenten Supper this month. Please watch your announcements as to which week we will meet. Please join in the conversation about posters, signs, and maybe a presence in the Fall Festival Parade in Parkers Prairie.



**Providing for our mid-week suppers.** There is a signup sheet on the table in the narthex to provide either soup or sandwiches. If you have any questions, contact Donna Pederson.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Checking balance \$1,003  
Memorial Fund: \$6,875

Bills had not yet been received for the new oven cabinet and plumber.

Sold \$54 in Herberger's coupon books so far.

Approved payment to 2 youth who attended the Jr High Youth Gathering at Arrowwood in November.

8 quilts were donated to Salvation Army in Henning.

Esther WELCA is hosting World Day of Prayer on March 6th at 1:30pm



### 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.

# News from the Council

**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 this summer, 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

## Lock-in

Lock-in is planned for March 22<sup>nd</sup>, details to be coming soon, watch for a text or email soon!

## **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!



**Daylight saving** time begins March 7<sup>th</sup>. Remember to turn your clocks ahead 1 hour.

Esther Lutheran church council met on Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at 7:30 pm.

**Members present;** Luella Thom, Pastor Jeanette Bidne, Elaine Fyhrie, Jerry Anderson, Mark Wehking, Jeremy Arvidson, Al Pederson and Lorrie Pomeranz.

**Members Absent;** Jayne Arvidson and John Skoglund

The council members joined the confirmation class for devotions.

- A. Approved the treasurer's report as printed
- B. Committee Signup sheets were passed around.
- C. Discussed the Luther Crest Capital Campaign.
  - a. It was felt the congregation would want more information
- D. Approved carrying forward any unused Continuing Education money for Pastor Jeanette
- E. Approved the membership in the Alexandria Area Ministrium Association
- F. Approved moving the Annual meeting to the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in January, with a back update of 2 weeks later.
- G. Dennis Rosenquist and the property committee are looking into the stained glass window project.
- H. A date needs to be set for the all committee meeting.
- I. The next meeting will be Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup> at Luella Thom's. A retreat will take place at this event. Spouses will be invited to join the council members for supper

The meeting closed with prayer.

Lorrie Pomeranz, Secretary



### March Bible Study-

#### *A Bad Rap- The Non-Heros of the Bible*

Offered after worship, March 8<sup>th</sup>.

When we think of people in the Bible, we often think of the heroes. But there are some who don't have so great a reputation, Thomas, Judas, Nicodemus, the woman at the well. Are they really examples of what not to do? Or are they just like us? Come learn a bit more about those some may call the non-heroes of the Bible! No knowledge necessary, come join us for 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!

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

### Esther Vacation Bible School:

Tentatively: June 21st -June 25th

A ministry of Esther with Luther Crest Day Camp!



### HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

#### March 29<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday

Worship at 10:00 am

*Triumphal Entry, Cleansing of the Temple*

Matthew 21:1-13

Psalms 118:15-29

#### April 2<sup>nd</sup> Maundy Thursday

Worship at 7:00 pm

*Words of Institution*

*Celebration of First Communion*

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26:17-30

Psalms 116:1-15

#### April 3<sup>rd</sup> Good Friday

Worship at 7:00 pm.

**Tenebrae Service**

**A Service of readings and diminishing light**

#### April 5<sup>th</sup> Resurrection of Our Lord

Sunrise Service at 7:00 am

Second Service at 10:00 am

*Easter*

Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:1-10

Psalms 118:19-29

<b>1</b> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship w/Holy Communion	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 5:30 pm 1 <sup>st</sup> Communion Class 6 pm Soup supper 7 pm Worship	<b>5</b> 1 pm Prayer Shaw//Craft Day	<b>6</b> 1:30 pm World Day of Prayer	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9 am 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday School 10 am Worship <b>Sunday School</b> <b>Kids sing</b> 11 am Bible Study 2 pm Conference 9	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 5:30 pm 1 <sup>st</sup> Communion Class 6 pm Soup supper 7 pm Worship	<b>12</b> 9am sewing 1:30 pm WELCA meeting	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9 am Sunday School 9:30 am Birthday Fellowship 10 am Worship w/Holy Communion <b>Noisy Offering</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 5:30 pm 1 <sup>st</sup> Communion Class 6 pm Soup supper 7 pm Worship	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship 11 am New Member Class	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>Midweek Lenten</b> Service 6pm Supper 7 pm Midweek Worship Service	<b>26</b> 9 am All Day Sewing	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship 11 am new member Class	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		<b>April 2</b> <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 7 pm Worship w/ Communion	<b>April 3</b> <b>Good Friday</b> 7 pm Worship	