

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

11019 625th Ave – Parkers Prairie, MN 56361 218-338-2171

email: esther@arvig.net Website: www.estherlutheran.com

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



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

*“Be present at our table Lord.
Be here and everywhere adored.
These mercies bless and grant that we,
may strengthened for thy service be.
Amen.”*

Were you singing by the time you hit the last line? I couldn't even type it without singing it in my head. Another school year begins. Another Sunday School year begins. Another confirmation year begins. Another journey through the Bible begins. This year the Sunday School, Confirmation Class, and our worship will all travel through the Bible. Looking at huge stories, New and Old Testament, where God has claimed and walked with God's people through the themes of the Gospel of Mark. Some stories we've heard, some are perhaps less familiar. We do this to train to be disciples, as the prayer above puts it “may strengthened for thy service be.”

Do you feel strong? There are times when we don't. Perhaps when we sit at the doctor's office. When we are plowing through one more chore before calling it a night. A look at a calendar may even make us tired. God wishes for us to be strong. Not only in body as much as we can, but in faith and in spirit. This, is why we travel through the Bible again and again. This is why we gather for worship. This is why we pray. That we and others may be strengthened for God's service, to do God's Work with our hands.

I invite you this month and in the coming months to name three ways that you wish to strengthen your life as a Christian and then *be bold*. Perhaps you will name, actually say aloud to family and friends when you see a “God-thing” happen. Maybe you will commit yourself to praying for those who rub-you-the-wrong way. Maybe it's taking a moment and re-reading the scripture you heard on Sunday

morning and letting it sink in at your kitchen table. These simple things can strengthen us and help us focus on what lasts, the love and forgiveness of God, given to us through Jesus... for us to pass around. Have good courage and know that God's work is and can be done with your hands, with your life.

May you grow in faith at our table, here and everywhere!

United in Christ,

Pastor Jeanette

Our Church Calendar

August 30th

Looking Ahead

Psalm Reading: Psalm 118: 1-14-21-26

Gospel Reading: Mark 1

September 6th

Focus: What is a Lectionary?

Readings: Psalm 78:1-7

Focus: What is a Lectionary? Deuteronomy 11:18-21

September 13th

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Liturgical Color: Green

Readings: Mark 1:16-20

Focus: Garden of Eden: Genesis 2:4b-25

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

Lunch and Service Project at Luther Crest following worship!

September 20th

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Noisy offering today!

Readings: Mark 10:27

Focus: Isaac Born to Sarah: Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7

September 27th

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Mark 14:32-36

Focus: Jacob wrestles God: Genesis 32:22-30



October 4th

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Readings: Mark 12:28-31

Focus: Moses and God's Name: Exodus 1:8-14; 3:1-15

In Our Prayers

Myrtle Arvidson
 Jayne Arvidson
 Kristy Fyhrie
 Dick & Luella Thom
 Dave Haase
 Jennifer Bidne Sister of Pastor Jeanette
 Marcella Braun Grandmother of
 Pastor Jeanette
 Wendy Kuhnau Coworker of Jewel
 Townsend
 R.C. Christensen Friend of the youth
 Robert Dobratz Father of Steve Dobratz
 Jan Gilbertson Sister of Jim Arvidson
 Elmyra Jerome Sister in law of Luella Thom
 Family and friends of James Higgs, Louisa Carlson,
 Julie Steidl, Donovan Hart, Judy Hemmerlin.

Audrey Arvidson Sept. 2
 Kathryn Burquest Sept. 3
 David Haase Sept. 6
 Christy Hart Sept. 9
 Russell Higgs Sept. 14
 Brady Arvidson Sept. 15
 Brooklyn McPhail Sept. 15
 Averie Dobratz Sept. 17
 Orran Hart Sept. 18
 Sawyer Ratajesak Sept. 19
 Jeremy Arvidson Sept. 20
 Vanessa Lenzen Sept. 21
 Carrie Price Sept. 23
 Colby Schlosser Sept. 24
 Leann Aldrich Sept. 26
 Michael Arvidson Sept. 26
 Lorraine Truax Sept. 26
 Alicia Kruse Sept. 29
 Benjamin Arvidson Sept. 30

O Lord, hear our prayers...



Church Staff

Pastor Jeanette Bidne
 Organist Marcia Guenther
 Custodian Lorrie Pomeranz
 Secretary Sue Ellwanger

Office Hours

Office Hours for Pastor Jeanette include:
 Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 am-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 September

Pastor: Jeanette Bidne
Organist: Marcia Guenther
Lay Reader: Nancy Bunde
Acolytes Megan Higgs,
 Megan Townsend
Ushers: Russel Higgs
Communion Asst. Jerry Anderson
Altar Guild: Deb Koep
Greeters: Dave & Nancy Bunde
 Birthday Fellowship: Wilbur & Colleen Burquest
 Tom Burquest family
 Mark Wehking family

Confirmation Informational Meeting for all 7th-9th graders and their parents.

September 9th at 6:00 p.m.

Supper is a potluck, please bring something to share. We will be looking over the schedule and expectations for the year. Ninth graders seeking to be confirmed and their parents will do Confirmation Day planning.

Confirmation begins with our information meeting. Following confirmation classes will be from 6:00-8:00 p.m. each Wednesday following school calendars. Letters with more information will be sent soon!

Learn about the Holy Land!

September 20th 1:30 p.m.

Try traditional foods of the Holy Land and hear about Pastor Jeanette's recent trip. Feel free to invite others. Presentation to begin around 1:30p.m. with treats and discussion to follow. A few pics from the Holy Land....



Christmas Church in Bethlehem

Services are held using English and Arabic.



From St. Anne's church in Jerusalem.

Statue of Anne, the mother of Mary, teaching Mary to pray.

Mary, would as many Jewish mothers did, raise her son in the Jewish faith.

M&Ms: Mission and Ministry Spotlight

**Help us reach our Luther Crest Prepare the Way
Goal of \$1500 for this year!**

We have raised over \$400 thus far! These funds will help build 5 new duplex cabins buildings, creating 10 new cabins. With current plans, construction will begin at the end of September. Luther Crest continues to look for those who will *prepare the way* for campers to learn about the love of God for years to come. Monetary donations or those interested in helping with construction are needed.

Ways to donate:

- Pledge cards are available at Esther
- Checks can be made out to Esther with Luther Crest noted in the memo line.
- Checks can be sent to:
Luther Crest Prepare the Way Campaign
8231 County Road 11
Alexandria, MN 56308

If sending directly to Luther Crest, please note Esther Lutheran Church in memo line for it to count towards our church goal.

To help with construction contact Troy Olson at troyo@luthercrest.org or 320-846-2431



Join us on September 13th for a service project day at Luther Crest. Following worship at Esther we will meet over at Luther Crest for lunch, join in a few work projects (cleaning, planting, yardwork, possibly painting) finishing up by 4:00p.m. Please wear work clothes and sturdy shoes.

Fall Dinner

Fall Dinner- September 20th 11a.m.-1p.m. hosted by Balsamlund Lutheran Church at the Hewitt Community Center. Meatballs, potatoes and "all the good stuff!"

Baked goods and craft sale with free music by the Slew Foot. Freewill offering will be taken.

Well, *SUMMER* is almost over. It has been a very busy summer for Dick and me with all the activities with the kids and grandchildren and our health problems. (Thanks for all your thoughts and prayers for us).

It appears by the church checkbook that everyone has been as busy as us. We have been transferring monies regularly from savings into the checkbook to make sure we have enough to meet our requirements.

We did have 3 Sundays that we did not have church at Esther, *July 12th* for the Worship by the Water, *July 19th* at Faith in Miliona, and *August 9th* for the Parkers Prairie Fall Festival. It is great to participate in these functions so Esther's name gets known throughout the community that we are alive and well. Now we need the checkbook to reflect that we are alive and well.

We had asked a month ago – that everyone do a “Catchup offering” for the time or times you were not able to attend church. Have you had a chance to do this yet? If not, we would ask that you please take a Sunday or a few Sundays if need be to help us catch up to our budget requirements.

Sunday School will be begin again on September 13th – we will be able to get back into the regular groove for church attendance *And hopefully our offerings as well.*

Thanks to all of you that helped with all the activities that we had in July and August. From July 12 through August 9th – we had the outdoor worship service, pork chop dinner, bingo at Miliona, community worship at Faith in Miliona, ice cream social and all the preparations for it, bingo at Parkers Prairie for two days, church at Parkers Prairie, and the float in the parade. Wow – Esther has really been working in the mission field!!

Looking forward to seeing everyone as we come back from the summer activities.

Luella Thom



Our Entry in the Parkers Prairie Fall Festival Parade. Thank you to John Skoglund for the use of the trailer and truck!



Kad doing a great job calling Bingo!



Danny doing a great job calling Bingo!

Women of the **ELCA** 

August WELCA news

Esther WELCA's annual Ice Cream Social was once again a great success! Thanks to all how helped out!! We made approx. \$1,581 at the Ice Cream Social The Country Store made \$127 and the grill raffle made \$92!!

If anyone would like to attend the NW MN SWO Convention in Moorhead as a visitor on Saturday, Sept. 12th please contact Margaret Wehking by Sept. 1st.

The Cluster 9 Fall Gathering will be held at Calvary Lutheran Church in Perham on Tuesday, Sept. 29th. The theme is “Stitched Together to Serve the Lord”. Cost to attend will be \$10. Registration for this event is needed by Friday, Sept. 18th to Margaret Wehking.

Our next meeting will be September 10th at 1:30pm with Gloria Rosenquist serving

<p>September 2015</p>	<p>1 7:00 p.m. Church Council</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 1 p.m. Prayer Shawl and Creative Arts At Gloria Rosenquist's</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6 10 am Worship W/Communion</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 Confirmation Begins! 6 p.m. Potluck Supper</p>	<p>10 1:30 pm WELCA meeting</p>	<p>11 SWO Convention- Moorhead</p>	<p>12 SWO Convention Moorhead</p>
<p>13 9 am Sunday School 9:30 am Birthday Fellowship 10 am Worship God's Work, Our Hands</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 Confirmation 6 p.m. Supper 6:30 Class</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship W/Communion Noisy Offering 11-1 pm Dinner at Balsamlund 1:30 Holy Land Presentation</p>	<p>21 Pastor at Fair Hills</p>	<p>22 Pastor at Fair Hills</p>	<p>23 Confirmation 6 p.m. Supper 6:30 Class</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship</p>	<p>28 Pastor at Fair Hills</p>	<p>29 Cluster 9 Gathering Calvary, Perham</p>	<p>30 Confirmation 6 p.m. Supper 6:30 Class</p>	<p>September 2015</p>		