

“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.

WE WILL and.... we are!

Last month, I wrote about how we are called to support, pray and care for one another as the family of God. From the looks of this newsletter, what was on the agenda for council, and church calendar it looks like we are in the midst of doing just that through many endeavors!

Through church activities, PV for Phebe, Walk for Water, the Harvest Pack Event at Miltona, the Chili Feed Fundraiser and the list could go on.

I don't know about you, but I receive several letters in the mail each week asking for donations to one cause or another. The needs of this world seem endless. Then there is that difficult question. Can I give given what I have? Is there always a choice to be made? Or is the answer always 'yes'? Let me explain. What I mean is that we can support and give through a variety of ways. Through prayer, through becoming informed and sharing another's story, through giving of our time and talents as well as through monetary means. Does each giving opportunity give us a chance to give, even if it is giving a thought to a cause?

Giving isn't always a check in the mail, but our checkbooks do show what we care about and put our energy towards. We each have particular causes to which we feel so strongly we will send a check, but do we take time to allow the multitude of giving opportunities change us?

With November, Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas we enter what is called a season of giving. I can see the ways we at Esther have committed ourselves to Making Christ Known this fall. This newsletter alone contains many opportunities for us to give. Those opportunities also give us a chance to be changed through giving.

To be more aware of our world, the causes that connect to our own stories, and the stories we wish to write in the future.

What do you wish for our world, our community in the future? Is someone giving you an opportunity to write that story by sharing gifts of prayer, information, talents, time, and treasure?

Do we give to giving opportunities or do giving opportunities give to us? A chance to reflect on what is important to us and what story we want to help write.

In the next few months you will, no doubt, get mail. I invite you to, at the very least, give it a thought.

United in Christ,
Pastor Jeanette

Our Church Calendar

October 25th

Reformation Sunday/Confirmation Sunday

Readings: Psalm 150

Focus: David Anointed as King, 2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5

November 1st

All Saints Sunday

Readings: Mark 10:42-45

Focus: The Kingdom Divided, 1 Kings 12:1-17

November 8th

WELCA Thankoffering Service

Please bring your offering from the PV for Phebe Calendars to worship

All WELCA meeting after worship.

2nd Sunday with Pastor Jeanette during Sunday School

Sunday School Sings in Worship

Reading: Mark 9:2-4

Focus: Elijah at Mount Carmel, 1 Kings 18:20-39

November 15th

25th Sunday after Pentecost

Noisy offering today!

Reading: Mark 10:13-14

Focus: Hosea 11:1-9

November 22nd

Christ the King Sunday

Liturgical Color: White

Reading: Mark 12:1-3

Focus: Isaiah's Vineyard Song 5:1-7; 11:1-5

November 25th

Thanksgiving Eve Community Service at Esther

All are welcome to join us at this service!

Reading

Joel 2:21-27

Psalms 126

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Matthew 6:25-33

November 29th

1st Sunday of Advent

Liturgical Color: Blue

Hanging of the Greens Service

Come learn about the symbols of Advent and Christmas through songs and readings!

December 6th

2nd Sunday of Advent

Reading: Mark 1:1-4

Focus: Isaiah of the Exile, Isaiah 40:1-11

December 12th

Sunday School Christmas Program at 5:30p.m.

December 13th

Traveling Christmas Program: All Ages

Welcome to Participate!

In Our Prayers

Myrtle Arvidson

Kristy Fyhrie

Dave Haase

Jennifer Bidne

Marcella Braun

Wendy Kuhnau

R.C. Christensen

Robert Dobratz

Jan Gilbertson

Elmyra Jerome

Derek Sudbeck

Thomas Collum

Carla Bettin

Family and friends of Jayne Arvidson, James Higgs,

Louisa Carlson, Linda Pederson-sister of Al Pederson

Sister of Pastor Jeanette

Grandmother of

Pastor Jeanette

Coworker of Jewel

Townsend

Friend of the youth

Father of Steve Dobratz

Sister of Jim Arvidson

Sister in law of Luella Thom

Grandson of Al & Donna

Pederson

Great-Grandson of Gary &

Bev Kreidler

friend of congregation

O Lord, hear our prayers...

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.

Church Staff

Pastor Jeanette Bidne

Organist Marcia Guenther

Custodian Lorrie Pomeranz

Secretary Sue Ellwanger



John Skoglund	11/03
Sharon Carlson	11/05
Wyatt Arvidson	11/06
Steven Dobraz	11/06
Tessa Arvidson	11/07
Bob Aldrich	11/10
Kayla Lorine	11/10
Hunter McQuiston	11/11
Kathy Carlson	11/15
Levi Barbee	11/16
Nolan Hart	11/19
Ricky Hart	11/19
Dan Klimek	11/20
Pat Wambeke	11/20
Lacey Carlson	11/21
Sabriana Aldrich	11/26
Autumn Dobratz	11/29

Serving Us In November

Pastor:	Jeanette Bidne
Organist:	Marcia Guenther
Lay Reader:	Georgia Hart
Acolytes	Kieda Wagner Kad Wehking
Ushers:	Delmar Wehking, Dave Bunde
Communion Asst.	Georgia Hart
Altar Guild:	Donna Pederson
Greeters:	Georgia Hart
Birthday Fellowship:	Rick & Bev Arvidson Larry & Sharon Carlson Jeff & Deb Koep



THANK YOU

A big THANK YOU to Gloria Rosenquist for 2 lovely banners. We are so grateful that she uses her talent all throughout our church to beatify it.

Thank you to Joan Burquest and Colleen Burquest for the beautiful stoles for our confirmands!

M&Ms: Mission and Ministry Spotlight



Each year, half of our Sunday School’s noisy offering goes towards a cause chosen by Esther Lutheran’s Sunday School. This year the students have chosen to put half of their noisy offering towards the ELCA: *Walk for Water Initiative*. Why is this important?

“Clean water is one of the most powerful ways to create change in the world. When a community gains access to clean water, close to home ... **everything changes**.

- Women don’t spend hours gathering water.
- They are healthier than ever.
- They can work and farm.
- Earn money and grow food.
- Send their children to school.
- Support the local economy.

And then teach neighbors how to do the same.

“With clean water, I don’t feel sick anymore. I don’t have to wait in line and can go home and continue with other activities. I go to the market...and sell our family’s crops.”

- DIKO Marie, age 15, Central African Republic

Find out more at: <http://elca.org/walk4water> and keep those loose coins for our noisy offerings!



Luther Crest- Prepare the Way Campaign

Update

Esther Lutheran Church has committed to participate in the Prepare the Way Campaign to support Luther Crest into the future. Our commitment is \$1500/yr for three years beginning in summer 2015. Thus far we have turned in \$300.00 towards our first year commitment.

Please consider supporting Luther Crest in these ways

- Praying for this ministry!
- Contributing to Esther and including Luther Crest in the memo line

Contributing to: Luther Crest Prepare the Way Campaign 8281 Co Rd 11 NE Alexandria, MN 56308

Please include Esther Lutheran in the memo line so the camp can track our contributions. From youth gatherings to Day Camps to hosting events Luther Crest has been a blessing, let us share our support to this great ministry!



Beginning Balance	\$ 747.49
Deposits	\$ 6,928.33
Disbursements	\$ 7,354.37
Ending Balance 9/30/2015	\$ 321.45
Contributions needed based on budget	\$ 77,584.50
Actual Contributions	\$ 71,569.35
Budget Shortfall	(\$ 6,015.15)

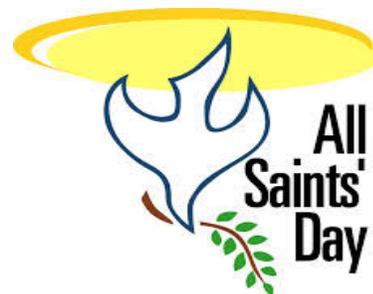
Highlights of the Month:

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

- Purchased additional materials for a growing confirmation class.
- Provided Bible timelines and Sparks Bibles for those learning about God's Word.
- Supplied 350 meals for the hungry through a congregational donation to the Harvest Pack Event at Faith in Miltona.
- And much more!



Our 9th Grade students affirming their baptism in the rite of Confirmation on Sunday, October 25th were:
Abigail Burquest
Susan Hart
Katlyn Velde



You are invited to share names of family or friends, including non-members, who have passed away in the last year. Please contact the church office with the name and their date of birth and death if possible, so they can be listed in the bulletin and remembered on All Saints Sunday, Nov. 1st

**Esther WELCA October Meeting
October 8, 2015**

Treasurer's Report: Checking balance: \$1,968
Memorial Fund balance: \$6,415

Old Business:

- * Members are encouraged to collect money to be donated to the effort to get solar power to Phebe Hospital in Liberia. Our donations will be collected during our church service on November 8th.
- * Esther WELCA is hosting a Christmas Party on December 3rd. Our theme is *Christmas Around The World*. If you might have any items that we could use as decorations please let President Margaret Wehking know.

New Business:

- * We will be providing the evening meal to the employees of the Red Cross Blood Bank during their collection at First Lutheran in Parkers Prairie on October 28. Circle 3 will be in charge.
- * Esther is hosting the Community Thanksgiving Eve service on Wednesday, November 25th. Circle 1 will be in charge of the refreshments after the service.

The next WELCA meeting is November 8th after our church service. We are going to review a few updates to our WELCA guidelines and a few other items. All the women of the church are encouraged to attend!!



Community Thanksgiving Eve Service

Plans are being made for the Community Thanksgiving Eve Worship service on Wednesday, Nov. 25 at 7 pm at Esther Lutheran Church. Let us give thanks together! No confirmation class that evening. Instead, students are asked to attend Thanksgiving Eve services if possible



**Esther Sunday School Christmas Program-
Saturday, December 12th.**



Traveling Christmas Progra

December 13th 9am through Sunday Evening

Would you like to help share God's love and Christmas Spirit?!

Join us for our second Traveling Christmas Program. All ages are welcome and a variety of parts from speaking, to choir members, to sitting with residents are needed.



November 29th

Hanging of the Greens during Worship.

Are you going to decorate for Christmas? We will begin the Advent Season at Esther with a *Hanging of the Greens Service*, a service that shares the meanings of Advent and Christmas symbols. The evergreens of the Advent wreath? The lights on our tree? Let's learn together! If you and your family are interested in helping decorate our church during the service, please sign up on the sheet on the round table in the narthex.

All Ladies WELCA Meeting

Nov. 8th WELCA meeting following Phebe Hospital ingathering service.

Tentative agenda:

- Reminder of Esther WELCA Guidelines
- Election of President. and vice president
- Ideas for kitchen



Youth Update

During the Domestic Abuse Awareness Luncheon on October 14th, Alexandria Mayor Sara Carlson presented the Mayor's Peace Awards to Clara and Chuck Pogose.

Clara, a domestic violence survivor, was the speaker at the 2013 Taking Steps Against Domestic Violence Walk in Alexandria. She broke free from being in an abusive relationship for 30 years and later married Chuck Pogose.

Help top off the aluminum can trailer! Bring your aluminum cans for recycling to the trailer in the parking lot! We would like a full load before it is taken for recycling this fall!

We will be having our Annual Chili Feed to support Abdurahmen on Nov. 1st immediately following church – Freewill offering

Hayride and Campfire

Sunday, November 1st at 3p.m. at the Tom & Joan Burquest home. Please meet at 3 p.m. Any questions, call or text Joan.

From the President

Happy Fall! We have had a rather nice fall. When everyone says fall is their favorite time of the year, I always question WHY? Because it seems to be the shortest season of the year as it seems it is more wintery

than fall. God has blessed us with a very nice *fall* this year.

Esther Church is thriving as we go forward into November. I want to try each month to keep everyone up to date on the financial status of our church. Giving has improved as Sunday School and Confirmation has gotten back into our schedules. It brings all of us back to church regularly, thus helping the offerings. We are still behind a little but if everyone can continue to increase as you have done for the past couple months, we will make it through the end of the year.. **THANK YOU FOR “ALL” YOUR RESPONSE TO THE NEED.**

At our last Council meeting we had some Mission Interpreters visit us. The Synod does not have enough staff to visit all of the congregations, so volunteers from some of the sister congregations are going out into the network of congregations and visiting. They presented several items that can be done to help make the congregation healthy and serve our community as well as our congregation. We discussed their list and what we have been doing at Esther. They were going to report back to the Synod “*Esther is doing great*” and is making itself known in the community.

I would like to remind everyone also to help with the pledge that we have made for Luther Crest. This is a very large endeavor they are trying to do for our young people to have some better facilities to stay in during their camping experience. They had hoped to begin building this year, but have not had enough actual cash in hand to start the process. Please help make this a reality for all our young people that attend Luther Crest.

As you seen from another part of the newsletter, Clara and Chuck Pogose were the recipients of the Mayor’s Peace Award recently given out at the Domestic Violence Luncheon. When the Mayor awarded Clara and Chuck the award, she reflected they have made Esther aware of Domestic Violence. In 2014 there were 23 deaths in Minnesota from domestic violence. It seems the news has been riddled with domestic violence issues and deaths. Last week we were already at 24 deaths in Minnesota for 2015. Would ask we all keep our eyes open and be ready to help anyone we think might be suffering from domestic violence. We do not want it to turn into a tragic situation if we can help out now before it escalates.

God’s Blessings to ALL

Luella Thom

President of Esther Congregation



November 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9 a.m Sunday School	2	3	4 Confirmation	5 1 p.m Prayer Shawl and Creative Arts	6	7
8 10 a.m. Worship w/Communion	9	10 7 p.m. Church Council	11 6 p.m. Supper Steele family	12 Confirmation	13	14
15 9 a.m. 2 nd Sunday School w/Pastor Jeanette	16	17	18 6 p.m. Supper Wagner family	19 Confirmation	20	21
22 9 a.m. Sunday School	23	24	25 Confirmation	26 6 p.m. Supper Hoppe family	27	28
29 10 a.m. Worship	30	December 1	7 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve worship service	25 Confirmation	December 2	December 3
9 a.m. Sunday School			6 p.m. Supper Higgs family			
10 a.m. Worship						