

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

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

## Thoughts on our Lenten Journey

**Thus says the LORD:**

**Stand at the crossroads, and look,  
and ask for the ancient paths, where the  
good way lies;  
and walk in it,  
and find rest for your souls.  
But they said, We will not walk in it.”**

Jeremiah 6:16

Jesus said to his disciples:

**“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is  
wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction,  
and there are many who take it. For the gate is  
narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and  
there are few who find it.”**

Matthew 7:13-14

This morning I listened with one ear to a discussion on MPR concerning “Happiness.” It was a call-in show. “Are you happy?” What does it mean for you to be happy?” When did you first realize you were happy?” OR “Are you not happy? What causes you to not be happy?” “What would it take for you to be happy?” So it went. And since “the pursuit of happiness” is one of our precious rights, this seemed like a worthwhile discuss to have.

Jesus tells us that happiness or blessedness or contentment or however you would phrase it is not a quality of our psyche that we can possess. Happiness is not a matter of willing ourselves to think positive thoughts or willing to concentrate on what a person finds positive in every situation.

Happiness is not the goal of the Christian. To be a servant of Christ every day in every situation is the Christian’s goal. Servanthood is the path, the path Jesus took. Jesus did not seek to be served but to serve. Jesus didn’t seek to receive the things of life from others but to spend himself in healing the sick, lifting up the lame, raising the dead, and telling of the rule of a loving and merciful God. Jesus gave his life on the cross to be our forgiveness, our life, our salvation.

We face a choice every minute of every hour of every day. Will we spend our lives serving our own wants, seeking “happiness.” Or will we take the way Jesus took, spending ourselves for others, trusting God to use us for the good of all. When we choose to walk in the way of Jesus, we will not always be “happy,” but we will be forever blessed.

**Pastor Tom Kolden**



### **Pastor Tom’s Office Hours**

Wednesdays: 2:00 p.m. -6:00 p.m.

Thursday and Friday- Member visits

## Our Prayers

Myrtle Arvidson  
Kristy Fyhrie  
Wally Skoglund  
Dave Haase  
Mike Heiser  
Mary Durling  
Irene Peterson  
Lorraine Truax  
Robert Dobratz          Father of Steve Dobratz  
Eileen Suchy -aunt of Mandy Arvidson &  
Michael Lorine  
Shelly Bartella – cousin of Mandy Arvidson &  
Michael Lorine  
Brinley Arvidson-daughter of Matthew & Nicole  
Arvidson, granddaughter of Rick & Bev Arvidson  
Kristen Zemke –daughter of Dennis & Gloria  
Rosenquist.  
Dale Woolhouse -uncle of Dawn Kreidler  
Nash Vik -son of Deanna (Kreidler) Vik  
Family and friends of Harvey Peterson, Kathy  
Carlson, Bev Kreidler, Jerry Wagner–father and  
grandpa of the Bill Wagner family, Steve Velde -  
father and grandpa of Sara and John Skoglund  
family, Tanya Sanvik -wife and mom of Tim  
Sanvik family -friend of many at Esther.

## Serving Us In March

**Pastor:** Tom Kolden  
**Organist:** Marcia Guenther  
**Lay Reader:** Lorrie Pomeranz  
**Acolytes** Andrew Sansness,  
Kylie Velde  
**Ushers:** Jerry Anderson  
Tom Burquest  
**Communion Asst.** Lorrie Pomeranz  
**Altar Guild:** Donna Pederson  
**Greeters:** Lorrie Pomeranz  
**Birthday Fellowship:** Dave & Nancy Bunde  
Wally & Bea Skoglund  
Cindy Skoglund



03/01 Thea Arvidson  
03/01 Kristina Kreidler  
03/02 Jean Barbee  
03/03 Emma Timm  
03/05 Evalynn Grinager  
03/08 Amanda Dobratz  
03/08 Brody Lenzen  
03/10 Marcia Guenther  
03/12 Emma Arvidson  
03/14 Judy Thoennes  
03/14 Kieda Wagner  
03/15 Michael Wunderlich  
03/16 Kiley Peterson  
03/18 Ty Lenzen  
03/25 Nancy Bunde  
03/28 Anya Wagner  
03/30 Ken Robinson  
03/30 Garret Wehking



## January 2017

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	\$4,917.73
<b>Deposits</b>	\$30,305.25
<b>Disbursements</b>	\$5,629.23
<b>Ending Balance 01/31/2017</b>	\$25,593.75

<b>Contributions needed based on budget</b>	\$9,401.92
<b>Actual Contributions</b>	\$29,635.00
<b>Budget Shortfall</b>	\$20,233.08

## From the Council



Dear Fellow Members:

February flew by in a flash, quicker with less days; but hopefully that helps with getting through our winter.

March is the start of another busy season for Esther as we are started down the Lenten journey towards Easter. We will again be doing soup and sandwich before our services. The Lenten services will be a series of skits. If you are willing/able to help out with that, there is a signup sheet in the Narthex.

The Task Team has begun meeting to start the process of completing the necessary paperwork to submit to the Synod for a pastor. They will be contacting/sending out questionnaires for EACH MEMBER'S WISHES/NEEDS... PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU SPEAK UP AND COMPLETE THE NECESSARY PAPERWORK SO ALL VOICES ARE HEARD. We ask you to think outside the box as well. We need to think beyond today's need for a pastor. If you have small kids, what might be helpful for them as they become teenagers? If you have teenagers, what would be of value for them as they get married and start having their families? Looking back, what do you wish we would have had as your kids were in grade school, high school, and going away to college? Ideas for keeping everyone connected to a church? Ideas for sparking all of our members to become very active members at Esther??? How can we reach out to the surrounding community (not just a few miles - but 10 -20 mile radius or more) to fill our church to the rafters with our existing members and new members? What if we added so many members in the next 3-5 years, we had to add on to the church.... Again???

We welcome your input and ideas as it will make putting together the information for the Synod much easier rather than guessing what the congregation may want.

**GOD BLESS EVERYONE AS WE JOURNEY THROUGH LENT IN MARCH.**

LUELLA

### **Esther WELCA February Meeting February 9, 2017**

Treasurer's Report was the same as last meeting as there was no activity with transition of treasurers

Approximate: Checking \$1,628.00  
Memorial/Savings: \$4,071.00

We recognized Joan Arvidson for serving for her many years at WELCA treasurer - Thanks Joan.

We will be hosting bingo at St. Williams Nursing Home in Parkers Prairie on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm.

Registration is still available for the Triennial WELCA National Gathering this July in Minneapolis. Contact Margaret Wehking for details.

Senior Recognition Sunday is in the beginning stages of being planned for our 4 high school seniors.

Next meeting will be March 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm



#### **First Communion Classes-**

*Classes are tentatively scheduled at 5:30 p.m. March 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<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 class 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.*



Pictured above from left to right:

Gladys Sanvik, Myrtle Arvidson, Audrey Arvidson, Lucille Skoglund, Irene Peterson, Elnora Beireis

**Thank you** to the Esther Sunday School for the lovely Valentine cards. Also, to the ladies of Esther for making beautiful placements for our tables which made a joyful decoration in our dining room on Valentine's Day.

Irene Peterson and Gladys Sanvik recently moved to St. Williams Living Center in Parkers Prairie.

Happy Easter to all!!!  
The Esther Chicks



Harvey R. Peterson, age 85, of Parkers Prairie, died Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at Douglas County Hospital in Alexandria.

Harvey Raymond Peterson was born on March 12, 1931 to Edward and Viva (Counsel) Peterson in Alexandria. He was baptized on March 25, 1931 at the parsonage in Alexandria and confirmed on September 16, 1945 at Esther Lutheran Church. Harvey attended Joy School in Eastern Township and graduated from eighth grade in 1945. He was also active in the rural and church youth groups and a member of the Eastern Stars 4H, serving as

a leader. Following his education, he worked on the family farm until he enlisted in the United States Army in 1954. He was stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; Fort Knox, Kentucky; Fort Benning, Georgia; and Fort McNair, Washington D.C. Harvey was united in marriage to Irene Skoglund on May 16, 1954 at the First Lutheran Church in Parkers Prairie. Together they lived in Washington D.C., where he guarded President Eisenhower and worked for the Honor Guard at Arlington National Cemetery placing flags on the 87,000 soldier's graves. Also during active duty, they were blessed with their first-born son, Rodney. Following his honorable discharge from the Pentagon on New Year's Eve 1955, Harvey and Irene moved back to take over the family farm following his father's death. There they had their second son, David and daughter, Marcia. He continued to farm until his retirement. They made their home on Lake Irene near Miltona where Harvey lived until his death. He was a lifetime member of Esther Lutheran Church and the Parkers Prairie American Legion Post #219. Harvey was active on the Rose City Creamery board, Esther Lutheran Church board, the Otter Tail County ASCS board, and served as a salesman for Jacques Seed Corn. Harvey enjoyed fishing, hunting, traveling, talking politics, driving around, and coffee at the Cozy Cup Café. He especially enjoyed spending time with his granddaughters. Harvey enjoyed learning to use a cellphone and called his granddaughters often.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Edward and Viva; son, David Allen Peterson; and infant sister, Dorothy.

Harvey is survived by Irene his wife of 62 years; son, Rodney Peterson of Parkers Prairie; daughter, Marcia (Rick) Guenther of Parkers Prairie; two granddaughters, Amber Guenther (special friend, Ryan Ness) and Anna Guenther (fiancé, Trent Hagen) both of Parkers Prairie; sister, Darlene Feiereisen of Roseberg, Oregon; host daughter, Maria Nebeling of Bingen, Germany; and many other relatives.

Pallbearers are Bruce Anderson, Gary Anderson, Dave Penrose, Doug Schmidt, Doug Skoglund, and Clayton Skoglund.

Honorary pallbearers are Amber Guenther, Ryan Ness, Anna Guenther, Trent Hagen, Rick Guenther, Lawrence Doble, Larry Sather, and Maria Nebeling.

