

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

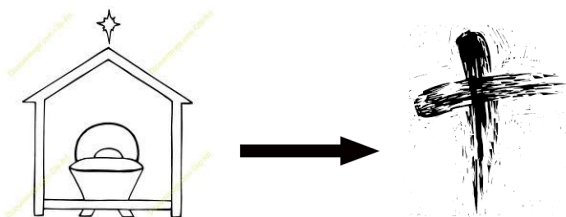
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**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



I just took down our Christmas tree this weekend and now I am writing about Lent. As always, time flies. Lent is a special time in the Church year as is the season of Advent and Christmas but the vibe each season gives are notably different. For me, I sense Lent to be a reflective time. A chance to check in on the ways that help me connect with God. Recently, an area youth director posed the question “*What is on your spiritual bucket list?*” We hear ‘bucket list’ and may think of vacations to far off places or some sort of fitness goal. But her question was about a spiritual bucket list. What would you like to improve about your relationship to God? Or improve study or knowledge of things religious, spiritual or somehow God related? What would you do? What would you strive to learn? What habits would you like to pick up?

Prayer? Bible Study? More awareness of what one says? Learn more about where your family sees God? Know more about other faiths? Know why we say that same line over and over in worship? Our lists will all be different but they will give us a glimpse into the yearning of a very important part of ourselves as human beings.

I invite you in this time of Lent to take a minute, maybe even two, if you like, and write a spiritual bucket list. Share it with someone you know and then tackle one thing, work on one item from that list in this time of Lent. Who knows where it may

lead you? Or perhaps it may not lead you anywhere but things may look different anyway.

*“Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase.” – Martin Luther King, Jr*

Blessings on your journey, God is with you!

United in Christ,

*Pastor Jeanette*

## **Our Church Calendar**

**January 25<sup>th</sup> - Third Sunday after Epiphany**  
***Beatitudes***

Matthew 5:1-20

**February 1<sup>st</sup> - Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**  
***Treasure in Heaven***

Matthew 6:7-21

*Join us for Valentine’s Day card making during Sunday School!*

**February 8<sup>th</sup> – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**  
***Feeding the 5,000***

Matthew 14:13-33

*Bring your Global Barnyard piggies to church today!*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, Sunday School with Pastor Jeanette Bible Study after worship today!*

**February 15<sup>th</sup> - Transfiguration Sunday**  
***Bearing the Cross***

Matthew 16:24-17:8

**February 18<sup>th</sup> - Ash Wednesday**  
***Who is the Greatest?***

Matthew 18:1-

**February 22<sup>nd</sup> - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent**

**Forgiveness**

Matthew 18:15-35

Habitat for Humanity Sunday

Noisy Offering today!

**February 25<sup>th</sup> –Mid-Week Lenten Service**

**Soup and Sandwich 6:00**

**Holden Evening Prayer 7:00**

**Crossroads Dialogues begin!**

“Getting Clean”

**March 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent**

**Laborers in the Vineyard**

Matthew 20:1-16

**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 will also be 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. If you would like to volunteer to help lead Holden Evening Prayer or participate in the dialogues please contact Pastor Jeanette.

**February Bible Study-**  
**The Church Year**

**Where did this thing called Lent come from?**

**Offered after worship, February 8<sup>th</sup>.**

Why do we eat more fish on Fridays during Lent? Why do the Alleluias disappear from our liturgy during Lent? Do the church seasons matter? Come learn about the church seasons and more about the season of Lent in Christian history.

**In Our Prayers**

Myrtle Arvidson  
Jayne Arvidson  
Jennifer Bidne  
Marcella Braun

Sister of Pastor Jeanette  
Grandmother of  
Pastor Jeanette

Ed Tasler  
Jordan Norhe

Father of Jayne Arvidson  
Friend of the Mike Townsend family

Emily Madison

Granddaughter of

Dick & Luella Thom

Sylvia Kuenzel

Mother of Sue Ellwanger

Family of Rod Piepho- Friend of our congregation

Family of Al Fyhrie

O Lord, hear our prayers...



- 2/2 Kaylyn C. Arvidson
- 2/4 Lois Rosenquist
- 2/5 Dustin Pomeranz
- 2/5 Sarah Pomeranz
- 2/6 Michael Grinager
- 2/6 Peyton Skoglund
- 2/7 Wally Skoglund
- 2/11 Jeffrey Hendershot
- 2/11 Sherri Rupert
- 2/15 Corey Arvidson
- 2/16 John Sanvik
- 2/21 Mike Townsend
- 2/22 Cody Rupert
- 2/24 Lisa Arvidson
- 2/27 David Arvidson
- 2/28 Tom Burquest
- 2/28 Gloria Rosenquist

**Office Hours**

Winter 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 February

**Pastor:** Jeanette Bidne  
**Organist:** Marcia Guenther  
**Lay Reader:** Terri Grinager  
**Acolytes:** Kad & Garret Wehking  
**Ushers:** Jeremy Arvidson  
Mark Wehking  
**Communion Assistant:** Linda Arvidson  
**Altar Guild:** Donna Pederson  
**Greeters:** **NEED VOLUNTEERS**  
**Birthday Fellowship:** Steve Dobratz family  
Elaine Fyhrie  
Lorrie Pomeranz

**New address-** Gladys Sanvik has moved to a new area of Bethany homes as of February. **Her new address is:** Mrs. Gladys Sanvik Winona Shores 1010 Lark St. Apt. 304 Alexandria, MN 56308



## **Oink! Oink! Oink!**

CALLING ALL GLOBAL BARNYARD PIGGY BANKS! *We will gather all our little piggies to take to market during worship on February 8<sup>th</sup>!* If you would like to help fill a piggy with loose change there is still time, extra pigs can be picked up at Esther (or just bring loose change that day!). All ages are welcome to join in working to end hunger in our world. To learn more go to: <https://community.elca.org/GoodGifts-Animals>

## **M&M: Mission and Ministry**

### **Spotlight:**

*Habitat for Humanity*  
**Building Homes, Building Hope**

—  
Esther Lutheran's Building with Habitat for Humanity This Year!!

Did you know that our congregation is packed full of builders? It's true. We are **all** builders of God's Kingdom – each and every day, in everything we do.

One of the fun ways we bring God's love to others is through our mission work. One of these ministries is our support of Habitat for Humanity. Our congregation has been involved in many ways – whether it is our prayer support, volunteers on the construction site, providing food and hospitality for the workers, or our financial gifts – we are helping to change the lives of families who are in need of a safe, affordable place to call home.

We are making plans for this year's build season, and *have invited Habitat for Humanity to visit with us during and after worship on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>*. A Habitat representative will be joining us to share with us how our efforts are helping to build more than just a home for these families and invite members to think of ways they might like to be involved this year.

Esther will be choosing one or two days to come together to work in building a home for a family in need. There will be a variety of ways you can help out as we support this ministry. We will also be including Thrivent Builds giving envelopes in the bulletin for a special offering in support of this work. Our gifts of time and dollars go further because of Thrivent's support through the Thrivent Builds program.

Also, if you are aware of a family in need of a home, or someone who owns their home, but may need help with a repair, you may want to consider inviting them to join you on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to learn more. Applications will be on hand, and the Habitat representative will be able to help them start the process.

We are excited to be working alongside these families as they look to change their lives. We hope you will join others from the congregation in getting involved as we build a home and build stronger relationships with each other!

## Highlights from Esther's Annual Meeting

- Devotions by Pastor Jeanette.
- Pastor Jeanette presented her report orally and with a slide show year in review.
- Auditors reported all books were in order.
- Written and oral reports were heard.
- Nancy Bunde will be our delegate to Luther Crest Annual Meeting.
- Cindy Skoglund & Sue Ellwanger volunteered to be delegates to the Synod Assembly.
- We will again partner with Faith, Miliona in the pork chop supper. Jerry & Yvonne Anderson will be the chairs from Esther.
- Lenten Soup suppers at 6 pm. Midweek Lenten worship service at 7 pm. Donna Pederson will chair the suppers.
- We will again do bingo during Fall Festival in Parkers Prairie. Jewel Townsend & Vicki Arvidson will chair.
- Approved the 2015 budget.
- Presented a card thanking the Hart's for providing the transportation for our 1<sup>st</sup> very successful Traveling Christmas program.
- Will have Luther Crest staff lead VBS again this summer. VBS is scheduled for Sunday June 21<sup>st</sup> - Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Participants of the NW MN Hunger ride stopping at Esther on June 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Will do the traveling Christmas program again in December.
- Looking to promote Esther through signage.
- Possibly having a float in the Parkers Prairie parade.
- Thanked Steve Dobratz & Steph Stueve for the 6 years of service on the church council.
- Relected Al Pederson and elected Jerry Anderson & Elaine Fyhrie to the church council.
- Thanked Elmer Beireis for his many years on the cemetery board.
- Elected Jerry Anderson to the cemetery board.
- THANKYOU, members for all the ways that you help everything happen at Esther.

## UPCOMING ALL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

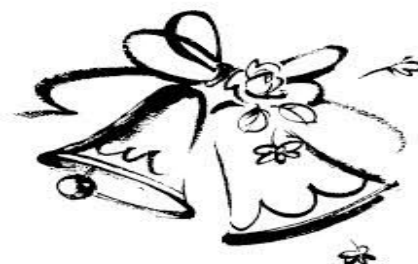
*If you have signed up for a committee  
We thank you!*

Committee meetings this year will involve all committees and also for anyone else who is interested in a particular topic.

Upcoming topics include:

- **Parkers Fall Festival:** Participate in the parade?
- **Signage for Esther:** How do we let people know who we are and what we do?
- **Feeling New:** What can we get to know one another better?

Watch your newsletter, email, and bulletins for meeting times.



Congratulations to Michael and Becky Arvidson, who were married on December 13, 2014 in Jamaica. Congratulations and God's richest blessing on this couple as they begin life together as a married couple.

### **New Members:**

We are currently preparing for New Membership classes. If you are not officially a member and would also like to formalize your membership please contact the church office. We will be having three sessions about discipleship, church membership, and learn about Esther in the near future. Current members are asked to participate in the classes as well so we can continue to get to know one another. More information coming soon!

### **Confirmation Students**

No formal classes will be held during Lent. In lieu of class, students are expected to attend mid week Lenten services.



**Esther W/ELCA January Minutes  
January 14, 2015**

**Treasurer's Report:**

- **2014 Thank Offering:** \$369.74 Biggest ever! Thank you for filling your cans!
- **\$1000 gift** towards the \$1,768.99 cost of the double oven.
- **Checking :** \$1,394.17
- **Memorial Fund:** \$6,945.00

**Old Business:**

- A \$100 donation will be made to the Parkers Prairie Food Shelf
- The double oven has been delivered, a cabinet is being made
- 71 cookbooks were sold in 2014

**New Business:**

- Esther W/ELCA will be hosting World Day of Prayer on March 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm. We will invite Rose city free church, Faith in Miliona and 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran of Parkers Prairie. A light lunch will be provided by the ladies who are able to attend.
- We will again be selling Herberger's Coupon Books. W/ELCA kitchen fund receives 100% of the sales from these books.
- W/ELCA circles were redrawn. These circles will be in place for the next 5 years. A new circle list is found elsewhere in this newsletter.
- The 2015-16 program was planned.

**PAPER SHOWER**

We are gathering items that are regularly used at Esther through the Lenten season. We thank you for generosity! Please pick an item or two and help us stock up for the activities at Esther! Thank you!!

**Paper products:**

Toilet paper  
Kleenex (preferably short boxes)  
Paper towels (white bounty type) not the super size rolls

3 oz. disposable cups  
Garbage bags, large black ones and 13 gallon and 8 gallon size

**Cleaning:**

Bathroom cleaner, spray not the foaming kind  
"The Works" toilet bowl cleaner  
Bleach  
Swiffer refills  
Air Wick freshmatic refills. (automatic)  
Glade air fresheners  
Disinfectant wipes  
Furniture polish  
Mr. Clean magic eraser pads

**Kitchen:**

Variety size paper plates  
napkins  
Cold drink disposable cups (all sizes)  
Ziploc bags  
Dawn dish soap

**Miscellaneous:**

Storage tubs, medium and large for storage room

**Office Supplies:**

Reams of 8 ½ x 11 white copy paper  
Reams of 8 ½ x 11 colored copy paper, both pastel and neon  
Scotch tape  
Postage stamps  
Scissors (they seem to get legs and disappear!)  
9 volt batteries  
Double A batteries

### CIRCLE 1

Elaine Fyhrie, Ch.. 218-338-5733

Megan Arvidson 320-491-0407  
Vicky Arvidson 218-640-0277  
Elnora Beireis 218-338-2163  
Mary Durling 218-338-3822  
Sue Ellwanger 218-738-5143  
Terri Grinager 218-943-1780  
Inez Haase 218-738-2421  
Jennifer Higgs 218-371-0834  
Carol Kreidler 320-304-3047  
Laurie Ratajesak 320-460-0549  
Terry Sather 218-943-2258  
Bea Skoglund 218-338-2173  
Stephanie Stueve 320-815-6397  
Gloria Rosenquist 218-943-1042  
Jakki Wehking 218-338-5179  
Margaret Weking 218-338-2161

### CIRCLE 2

Cindy Skoglund, Ch.. 320-760-4435

Yvonne Anderson 218-738-4609  
Amanda Arvidson 218-808-3617  
Bev Arvidson 218-338-9568  
Joan Arvidson 218-738-2033  
Linda Arvidson 218-338-5051  
Colleen Burquest 218-943-2233  
Joan Burquest 218-943-2232  
Marcia Guenther 218-267-5779  
Nancy Hendershot 320-760-9241  
Deb Koep 218-943-2825  
Marjorie Nelson 218-943-4517  
Carrie Price 218-943-1652  
Amy Stanley 320-766-6906  
Luella Thom 320-852-7314  
Stephanie Velde 320-852-7440

### CIRCLE 3

Sharon Carlson, Ch. 218-338-5097

LeeAnn Aldrich 320-815-4238  
Jayne Arvidson 218-338-2152  
Nicole Arvidson 218-639-7880  
Nancy Bunde 218-338-6609  
Lana Doll 218-738-2504  
Christy Hart 218-738-5557  
Georgia Hart 218-943-2522  
Bev Kreidler 218-738-6392

Donna Pederson 218-738-4615  
Lorrie Pomeranz 320-808-6548  
Jaci Schlosser 218-371-9987  
Angie Steele 218-943-1606  
Jewel Townsend 218-943-5059  
Karin Wagner 218-924-4175  
Lisa Wunderlich 218-943-2468

### HONORARY MEMBERS

Mrytle Arvidson, Lucille Skoglund, Louisa Carlson, Lorraine Truax, Lois Rosenquist-Henningsgaard, Gladys Sanvik, Elsie Heiser, Irene Peterson, Audrey Arvidson, Elnora Beireis

All family members are welcome and encouraged to help at any event when a WELCA circle serves.

1	9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship w/Holy Communion 2 pm Worship at St. Williams	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 am 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday School 10 am Worship <b>Sunday School</b> <b>Kids sing</b> Bible study following worship	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	9 am Sunday School 9:30 Birthday Fellowship 10 w/Worship w/Holy Communion <b>Noisy Offering</b>	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	9 am Sunday School 10 Worship Habitat for Humanity Sunday	23	24	25	6	27	28
				<b>CONFIRMATION</b> 6 pm Supper Hart family, hosts 6:30 Class	1 pm Prayer Shaw/Craft Day		<b>Bring your piggies for Global Barnyard to church tomorrow!</b>
				<b>CONFIRMATION</b> 6 pm Supper Velde family hosts 6:30 Class	9am sewing 1:30 pm WELCA meeting		
				<b>Ash Wednesday</b> 7 pm Worship w/Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes			
				<b>Midweek Lenten</b> 6pm Supper 7 pm Midweek Worship Service	9 am All Day Sewing		

## FEBRUARY 2015