

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

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

Creed. Quite a funny word. It comes from the Latin word, *credo* meaning I believe. Belief is more than just a mental assent to something. If you believe vegetables are good for one's body, then you probably eat vegetables on a regular basis. If you believe everyone should have the opportunity to live in a nice home then perhaps you would be more likely to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity. If you truly believe that more sleep will help you the next morning, you will put the phone or book down and go to bed before the sun rises.

Belief is connected to action. It is not merely words that one agrees to with a nod. We believe that God sent God's Son Jesus into the world to give us life. Now here's the tricky part, if we believe that how does that impact our actions? How does that move our limbs, affect our word choices, change the way we look at everything else? In July, we begin a study of scripture that helped bring the Creeds, our statements of faith, into being. These Creeds took hundreds of years to develop and many people died in the fights and struggles that brought them to be. Each word is carefully chosen. May that also be true for our words and actions as we show by what we do, what we truly believe.

United in Christ,

Pastor Jeanette

Pastor Jeanette will be away for vacation and time with family July 2nd-4th and July 31st- August 7th.

Our Church Calendar

July 5th

Praise Psalms

Scripture Reading: Psalm 146

July 12th

Worship by the Water

Worship held at Rodney Peterson's Home

The Creeds: What do we believe? (Part 1)

Readings: Genesis 1:1-5, 1:26--2:4a

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-16; 1 John 1:1-5

July 19th

Miltona Tornado Days Community Worship

Worship will be held at Faith Lutheran in Miltona

July 26th

Camp Themed Worship at Esther

Jody Johnson, Guest Speaker from Luther Crest

sharing about the Prepare the Way Campaign

The Creeds: What do we believe? (Part 2)

Readings: Acts 15:1-21; 1 Corinthians 1:10-25

Gospel Reading: John 3:1-21

August 2nd

The Creeds: What do we believe? (Part 3)

Readings: Proverbs 1:1-9; 1 Peter 3:8-17

Gospel Reading: John 14:15-27

August 9th

Fall Festival Worship at First Lutheran in Parkers

August 16th

The Creeds: What do we believe? (Part 4)

Readings: 1 Timothy 3:14--4:11, Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Gospel Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

In Our Prayers

Myrtle Arvidson
Jayne Arvidson
Kristy Fyhrie
Dick Thom
Dave Haase
Jennifer Bidne Sister of Pastor Jeanette
Marcella Braun Grandmother of
 Pastor Jeanette
Jordan Norhe Friend of the Mike Townsend family
R.C. Christensen Friend of the youth
Donavan Hart Brother of Ernie Hart
Robert Dobratz Father of Steve Dobratz
Jan Gilbertson Sister of Jim Arvidson
Family and friends of Al Fyhrie, James Higgs, Louisa
Carlson, Walter Heiser and Donna Lage.

© Lord, hear our prayers...

Serving Us In July

Pastor: Jeanette Bidne
Organist: Marcia Guenther
Lay Reader: Jewel Townsend
Acolytes Megan & Danny Townsend
Ushers: Al Pederson, Jerry Anderson
Communion Asst. Jewel Townsend
Altar Guild: Bev Arvidson
Greeters: Donna Pederson
Birthday Fellowship: Eugene & Jayne Arvidson
 Sue Ellwanger
 Gary & Bev Kreidler

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone for your prayers of safe travel and well wishes as I ventured to the Holy Land in June and returned safely. The trip was a nourishing experience through the holy places we visited and the people we met. I had the opportunity to visit people in their homes, eat with them and hear about the struggles of living in the Holy Land. I had the opportunity to meet Israeli

Jews, Palestinian Muslims, and Palestinian Christians.

Much of the conflict in the Holy Land surrounds a lack of resources and land. We learned of many of the human rights violations occurring in what we know as the Holy Land. I hope to share about my trip in the future, until then, if you would like to read about my journey you can go to www.holyland2015.wordpress.com

Thank you for your support in this journey and to all those who assisted in worship while I was away.

Peace,

Pastor Jeanette



07/01 Isaac Grabow
07/02 Sue Ellwanger
07/05 Stan Sanvik
07/07 Amy Jewell
07/09 Rick Arvidson
07/13 Abby Buquest
07/13 Deb Koep
07/14 Angie Steele
07/14 Sarah Bunde
07/16 Gary Kreidler
07/18 Becky Arvidson
07/18 Katlyn Velde
07/19 Jayne Arvidson
07/20 Vicky Arvidson
07/21 Cole Steele
07/21 Jon Velde
07/25 Linda Arvidson
07/25 Kad Wehking
07/27 JoAnna Krueger
07/28 Barb Liedahl
07/30 Lorrie Pomeranz
07/31 Mike Lage





May 2015 Report

Beginning Balance	\$50.85
Deposits	\$8,585.00
Disbursements	\$8,104.59
Ending Balance 4/3015	\$531.26

Contributions needed based on budget

\$ 43,102.50

Actual Contributions \$ 49,582.02

Ahead of Budget \$6,479.52

Highlights of the Month:

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

- Provided pre-marriage resources for couples preparing for marriage
- Provided grief materials for those who have lost loved ones (these are available in the church office for anyone who would like to use them or share them)
- Provided a space for those from the NW MN Hunger Table/Bike Ride to share about hunger in our country
- Made our space ready to go for Vacation Bible School!

And much, much more....

Thank you for giving to the ministries of Esther!



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 Detroit- 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.

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 purchased at any time from any of the six youth members going to Detroit, they will also be available to purchase after church on Sundays.

Our youth attending the national gathering:

Sarah Bunde

Anna Guenther

Kathryn Burquest

Garrett Wehking

Tanner Wambeke

Jared Higgs

Chaperones:

Joan Burquest

Russ Higgs





Esther WELCA May Meeting

June 7, 2015

. Discussed the Ice Cream Social coming up on July 26th.

- Circle 1 makes ice cream.
- Circle 2 will work.
- Circle 3 will advertise.
- We will have a Country Store, but no raffle this year. Circle 3 will be in charge of the Country Store. We will have a drawing for the grill that was given to us.

Charges for funerals will remain the same as before.

We discussed making available \$40.00 per youth wishing to go to camp, or a youth gathering. We had limited the applications for this to be done in advance of the event. We will make exceptions to this to allow applications for up to 2 months after in cases of short notice.

We need a delegate for the Women's WELCA convention in Moorhead Sept 11 and 12th. There is an August deadline.

Report by the Kitchen Committee: The counter top is complete, shelving has been done. We need a cabinet to store the big roasters, etc., to get these out of the storage area.

REMINDER

The WELCA will give the youth of Esther \$40 each (not to exceed 1/3 of the cost of event) for camp or youth related Christian events per child annually. This is to be applied for prior to or no later than 2 months following event.



Change to Upcoming Events:

Due to scheduling conflicts and concern about distance council voted to not participate in

Balsamlund's outdoor service, to which we were invited. We will be publishing some of their upcoming events in order to continue to support them as brothers and sisters in Christ.

August 9th - Join us for a joint worship service at 9 am at First Lutheran in Parkers Prairie and then be in town for the festivities of Parkers Prairie Fall Festival! Since so many participate in the festival, worship committee and council decided to try hosting worship in Parkers this year so that more can attend.

There will be no Bible Study in July. Our next Bible Study will be after worship on August 15th.

Bingo, Bingo Let's Play Bingo!

Esther will again be running bingo at Tornado Days in Miltona on July 18th. There is a signup sheet looking for volunteers to help for the day. All ages are welcome and encouraged to help! We will be running bingo from 3 p.m. until 8 p.m.



Pork Chop Dinner Fundraiser with Faith Lutheran will be held on Friday, July 17th. Lots of help is needed to make this a success. There is a signup sheet on the round table in the narthex.

Esther will be joining a community worship service on Sunday July 19th in Miltona. It will be held at Faith Lutheran at 9:30 a.m. **There will be no worship at Esther that day.** There will also be a community choir. They will practice before worship that morning. All are welcome.



Upcoming Event: Camp Sunday at Esther July 26th.

Guest speaker Jody Johnson will share about Luther Crest's capital campaign. There will be camp songs from VBS and a camp atmosphere! VBS students and helpers feel free to wear your tie-dye T-Shirts this Sunday!



God's Everlasting Love

VBS took place on June 21st-25th led by Luther Crest Camp Counselors. The theme was "God's Everlasting Love" with Bible stories that shared how God's love is everlasting for those in the Bible and for us. The theme verse included Jeremiah 31:3b *"I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you."*

Students ate supper and sang songs, including "Psalm 150", a favorite. They played games, had Bible Dive, worship and craft time each day. A decorated pail with a seat top made for Father's Day, as well as clothes pin crosses, tie-dye T-shirts, crayon drip crosses and shrinky-dink stained glass windows kept leaders and students creating during craft time.

We were thankful to share this experience with Faith in Miltona and all who joined us for VBS and are especially thankful to all who made this great week possible!



2015 VBS Kids and Counsellors



Bible Dive



Esther Lutheran Church Women

Annual Ice Cream Social

Sunday, July 26th

Serving from 2 pm – 7 pm

Country Store

Hymn Sing at 3 pm

Featuring

Sandwiches, Pies and Homemade Ice Cream

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 7 pm Church Council	2	3	4 Happy Independence Day!
5 10 am Worship w/Communion	6	7	8 1:30 pm WELCA Meeting Nancy Bunde Host	9	10	11
12 10 am Worship by the Water at Rodney Peterson's Potluck to follow	13	14	15	16	17 4:30 -7:30 pm Pork Chop Dinner at Faith, Miliona Joint Fundraiser	18 3pm -8 pm Bingo in Miliona
19 9:30 am Community Worship Service at Faith Miliona NO Worship Service at Esther!	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Camp Sunday 10 am Worship w/Holy Communion Ice Cream Social 2 pm-7 pm	27	28	29	30	31	July 2015