

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

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

## Jeremiah 29

When God's people were in exile and lots of false prophets were promising an early end to the exile, Jeremiah spoke the truth to God's people.

Jeremiah essentially told those in exile (from their homeland) that until generations had passed and the people changed their ways - they would have to stay right where God had sent them (in exile) and in the meantime they were to, “Seek the welfare of the city [or neighborhood] where I [God] have sent you into exile . . . for in [the neighborhood's] . . . welfare you will find your welfare.”

So, what does this mean for Esther and the broader church today?

We are reminded that the church is connected to the neighborhood and more broadly the world and that we are called to care about issues affecting people in our neighborhood and beyond.

For too long, the church has focused on congregational vitality which is premised on an internal focus. What this misses, is the connection to the neighborhood and beyond.

In recent years, there's been a realization that if the neighborhood and community are not thriving or vital, then the church is prone to wither and die with the community that's doing the same.

And as this pivot to neighborhood vitality, there's been a dawning awareness that God has been (and continues to be) at work in the neighborhood. So, with this in mind, we're invited over time to discern where God is already at work in the neighborhood and to join in that work that the neighborhood might flourish.

And like Jeremiah reminded us - that when the neighborhood flourishes, God's people and their welfare will flourish as well.

Thanks be to God!

*Pr. Scott*

## November Birthdays

John Skoglund	11/03
Sharon Carlson	11/05
Wyatt Arvidson	11/06
Steve Dobratz	11/06
Amy Stanley	11/07
Tessa Arvidson	11/07
Trent Hagen	11/09
Bob Aldrich	11/10
Kayla Lorine	11/10
Nolan Hart	11/19
Ricky Hart	11/19
Dan Klimek	11/20
Pat Wambeke	11/20
Lacey Carlson	11/21
Allen Nordlund	11/21
Ryan Hart	11/23
Sabrina Aldrich	11/26
Autumn Dobratz	11/29

## December Birthdays

Erica Nelson	12/01
Rodney Peterson	12/04
Casey Aldrich	12/05
Joseph Orsello	12/07
Jim Arvidson	12/10
Arewen Dobratz	12/12
Jacey Hoecker	12/13
Stephanie McPhail	12/13
Bill Wagner	12/16
Lizz Peterson	12/16
Brock Peterson	12/17
Jaci Schlosser	12/20
Conner Schlosser	12/22
Carol Kriedler	12/22
Brian Arvidson	12/24
Amanda Sansness	12/24
Charles Pogose	12/26
Byron Klimek	12/28
Moraina Wagner	12/28
Margaret Wehking	12/28
Rick Guenther	12/30
Summer Dobratz	12/31

## Serving in November

**Altar Care:** Deb Koep  
**Communion Assistant:** Christy Hart  
**Lay reader:** Lana Doll  
**Ushers:** Larry Doll  
**Acolytes:**  
November 6: Arewen Dobratz  
November 13: Colby Schlosser  
November 20: Isaiah Schlosser  
November 27: Emma Arvidson

**Birthday Card Sender:** Linda Arvidson

**Birthday Fellowship:**  
Rick & Bev Arvidson  
Larry & Sharon Carlson  
Jeff & Deb Koep  
Chad & Steph Stueve



## POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for anyone who would like to purchase Poinsettias for our Christmas at Esther. Make checks payable to **Esther WELCA** as they would like one check for the entire Esther Lutheran order.

The prices are as follows:

Pixie	\$ 6.99
Regular 6-8 blooms	\$ 12.99
Large 8-12 blooms	\$ 21.99
Extra Large 16-20 blooms	\$ 33.99

You can have choice of color: Red, Pink, or White.

Orders need to be in by November 27<sup>th</sup>.

A graphic featuring a string of colorful Christmas lights at the top. Below the lights is a green Christmas tree with yellow and red ornaments and a gold star on top. The word "DECORATE" is written in large, bold, red capital letters, with the Christmas tree acting as the letter 'O'. Below "DECORATE" is the word "the Church" in a black, lowercase, serif font.

# DECORATE the Church

**Need all hands-on deck** at Esther after worship on Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> to put the tree up and decorate the church for the Advent/Christmas season. Many hands will make light work!



The Sunday School Christmas program will be held on Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup> during worship. We welcome all the children 3 years old through 6<sup>th</sup> grade to be part of the telling of the Christmas story. Please contact Karin Wagner 320-760-9494 with any questions.



**Community Thanksgiving Dinner** Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at Immanuel Lutheran Church Parkers Prairie. Serving from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. If you plan to attend, please call Gene Moske 320-510-1692 or Immanuel 218-338-2511. There is no charge for the meal.

Thank  
You

Thanks to Dick and Luella Thom for always being willing to generously donate materials and supplies to the church. Their help is appreciated and not overlooked.



The scheduled dates for Vacation Bible School at Esther with Luther Crest will be Sunday June 18<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. We look forward to great week.



## Technology Team Seeking Volunteers

We have now had all new technology items installed and are up and running with our new sound system, camera system for streaming, and display monitors. The tech committee is now looking for volunteers to learn how to run the equipment. The tech volunteers will be on a schedule just like ushers, lay readers and acolytes. We are opening this opportunity to those age 14+, and hope to have 2 volunteers each service. If you are interested in serving your congregation in this way, we are willing to train you. Please contact Jewel Townsend, Mike Lage or Sue Ellwanger for more information.

## NOVEMBER THANK OFFERING

The WELCA invites the entire congregation to participate in our "THANK OFFERING" for November.

We have contacted the Parkers Prairie Food Shelf to see what their needs are for right now. As a result, we want to gather food during the month of November to be given to the food shelf. We are not doing the daily thing like we have done previously.

We are asking each family to bring a box of food items the end of November for our Thank Offering blessing November 27<sup>th</sup> during worship.

The items we are asking for this time are cans of soups ... the meaty or beefy ones like the Progresso soups so they have some substance to them and are good for a meal. Other items would be like Dinty Moore stews, meatballs, or chicken & dumplings, and chili. Cans or packages of meals that just add

water to make a meal. Also ... instant hot cereal meals of all types. Mandarin oranges are a huge hit for the kids. These types of meals work good for the winter months. They prefer **no** macaroni and cheese at this time as they have cases on the shelves.

The Parkers Food Shelf thanks Esther Lutheran for our generous donations. They hate asking for items because they have been blessed by all the items we have donated in the past. They still have some of the personal care items left on the shelf from earlier this year.

Hopefully each family can put together a box of the above items during the month of November. Again, please bring to church November 27<sup>th</sup> to have the food blessed. We will get it to the food shelf right away so they have it for the rest of the winter months.

THANKS EVERYONE!!!

Luella Thom, President of WELCA

## November Confirmation Schedule

**Meal at 6:00 p.m.**

**Class: 6:30 -8:00 p.m.**

**Potluck and Dinner Worship on Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> will end at 7:30 p.m.**

**November 2<sup>nd</sup>** Landon Nistler family

**November 9<sup>th</sup>:** Colby Schlosser family

**November 16<sup>th</sup>:** Peyton Skoglund family

**November 23<sup>rd</sup> NO Confirmation Class.** Please attend a thanksgiving eve worship service with your family

**November 30<sup>th</sup>** Mentor Potluck and dinner worship. All confirmation families provide for the potluck meal.

## WELCA

### NOVEMBER 2022

The October WELCA meeting was held October 9<sup>th</sup>. Our devotions was from Philipians 1:21.

Bev reported we have \$ 1,950.55 in the checking account. There is \$7,375.55 in the savings/memorial fund.

We received a memorial donation from Ruby Westad's funeral. Ruby attended Esther years ago.

The Conference 8 Spring Conference will be held at First Lutheran of Kensington. The date will be April 27, 2023. Mark your calendars.

The Conference 8 Fall Gathering is still scheduled to be held at First Lutheran in Alexandria.

We discussed the "THANK OFFERING" for November. We decided to have our congregation members put together boxes of things such as the hearty soups, instant hot cereal, and cans for fruit, especially the mandarin oranges. We are asking each family to bring a box to be blessed November 27<sup>th</sup>. We will get the donations to the food shelf right away so they have for the upcoming winter months. There is a separate article in the newsletter about this also.

A reminder: you can order/purchase cookies for Christmas from the Hilltop Kitchen or Luther Crest.

The forms have arrived for us to order poinsettias for Christmas. Due date will be November 27<sup>th</sup>.

Next meeting will be Sunday November 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:30. Hope all can attend. One question for this meeting ... should we have a Christmas get together? When?

Luella Thom  
President



## Camp and Spiritual Growth Fund

At our January 2022 Annual Congregational Meeting, Esther voted to start a Camp Fund to help our young members and their families better afford Bible Camp. The Council started the Camp and Spiritual Growth Fund savings account in February and currently, due to generous donors and the Council designating the Pork Chop Feed and Bingo proceeds to the fund, the fund has \$4,995.94 in it. Below is how the Camp and Spiritual Growth Fund works:

1. The child must submit a Camp Fund Scholarship Application (available in the narthex or on our website under "Faith Formation Resources").
2. The family must pay the registration fee to the camp directly to reserve the child's spot for their chosen week.
3. The Camp and Spiritual Growth Fund will supplement 80% of the remaining cost of camp after the registration fee has been paid - camper must take advantage of any "early-bird" discount by signing up during the "early-bird registration" timeframe, or family will need to cover the additional cost. Esther will send the funds directly to the camp.
4. The child is encouraged to request camp funds from the WELCA - WELCA pays directly to the camp.
5. The child is encouraged to request camp funds from the church (line item on budget) - Esther pays directly to the camp.
6. The family pays any remaining cost if necessary.
7. If the money has already been paid to the camp and the child is unable to attend, the family is responsible to reimburse the Camp and Spiritual Growth Fund, unless it is a family emergency.
8. After attending camp, we ask that the camper share their camp experience with the congregation either in person or in written form by way of a note or newsletter submission.

Esther had one youth attend Luther Crest Bible Camp in 2022. Luther Crest Bible Camp Early Bird Registration opens November 1, 2022 and runs through February 14, 2023.

You can find the link to Luther Crest on our website or by going directly to [www.luthercrest.org](http://www.luthercrest.org). We encourage our youth to take this opportunity to help grow their faith in God and make new friends at Luther Crest Bible Camp, or another Bible Camp of their choosing.

THANK YOU to the donors that have started this fund and we welcome others to give to this "seed planting" endeavor. We encourage grandparents and extended family to consider the "gift of camp" this holiday season for the young people in your life.



## **Esther Lutheran Church Camp and Spiritual Growth Fund Application**

Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Applicant's Parents/Guardians:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant's Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Bible Camp where you have registered and paid registration fee:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dates you are attending camp:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Ways in which you participate at Esther Lutheran Church:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Ways in which you would like to participate at Esther Lutheran Church:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What you hope to learn or gain by going to this camp:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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# November 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	<b>2 Confirmation</b>  6 pm Meal (Landon Nistler family) 7:30 pm Class ends 7:30 pm Council	3	4	5
6 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship w/Communion 2 pm St. Williams (Pr. Bovendam)	7	8	<b>9 Confirmation</b>  6 pm Meal (Colby Schlosser family) 8:00 pm Class ends	10	11	12
13 8:30 am WELCA 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship <b>NOISY OFFERING</b> 2 pm St. Williams (Pr. Stout)	14	15	<b>16 Confirmation</b>  6 pm Meal (Peyton Skoglund family) 8:00 pm Class ends	17	18	19
20 9 am Sunday School 9:30 Birthday Fellowship 10 am Worship/Communion 2 pm St. Williams (Pr. Schwarz)	21	22	23  <b>NO Confirmation Class</b> Please attend a Thanksgiving Eve worship service	24 <b>Happy Thanksgiving</b>	25	26
27 9 am Sunday School  10 am Worship  2 pm St. Williams (Pr. Hoecker.)	28	29	<b>30 Confirmation</b>  6 pm Potluck Meal (all confirmation families provide) Mentor and Dinner Church 7:30 pm Class ends	27	28	29