



ESTHER LUTHERAN NEWSLETTER

December 2022

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

11019 625th Ave – Parkers Prairie, MN 56361 • 218-338-2171

email: secretary@estherlutheran.net Website: www.estherlutheran.com

Pastor Scott Hoecker

email: prscott@estherlutheran.net Cell: (218) 355-0187



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Worship

Have you ever stopped to think about worship? For instance, when we gather - presumably we gather to know Christ which is the opening line of Esther's mission statement.

And then there's the familiar pattern each Sunday: 1) where God's Spirit gathers God's people (Gathering), 2) followed by God speaking to God's people (Word), 3) then, feeding them at the Lord's Table (Lord's Supper) with Christ's presence, 4) before being sent by God (Sending) to share God's love as the body of Christ with a world in need.

And as the people of God one of the very first things we do in worship is confess that we've missed the mark (or sinned) - which relates to examining oneself as St. Paul exhorts us to do like he exhorted the Corinthians, "Examine yourselves, and only then eat of the bread and drink of the cup" (11:28).

There was a time in the Christian church when divine grace was limited (prior to the sixth century) and public repentance for missing the mark was allowed only once in a lifetime.

Then, over the next two centuries, repentance was re-imagined as something that could be repeated again and again through Celtic Christian influence (of private confession) that spread through the Christian church. (Sundberg, *Worship as Repentance*, 56ff)

So, repentance and forgiveness allowed for repeated "mulligans" or "do-overs" in keeping with Jesus' response to Peter's question of how often should I forgive - not just seven times but seventy-seven times. (ibid.).

Jesus also told this parable, "to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: 'Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector was standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I [Jesus] tell you, this . . . [person] went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.'" (Luke 18:9-14). (ibid.).

The good news is that while we often miss the mark, God's Spirit gathers God's people each Sunday where we have the opportunity to not only confess that we are sinners in need of mercy, but hear that God in Christ came to save not the righteous but sinners!

Pr. Scott

O Lord, hear our prayers...

In Our Prayers

Joan Arvidson
Colleen & Wilbur Burquest
Kristy Fyhrie
Mike Heiser
Bill Wagner
Cindy Skoglund
Trent Hagen
Gloria Rosenquist
Ernie & Georgia Hart
Wes Hoyhtya – friend of Thoms
Bruce Miller -father of Karin Wagner
Cindy Rachuy - sister of Dawn Kreidler
Doug Tvedt – brother of Joan Burquest
Jim Hosmer – brother-in-law of Andersons
Family and Friends of Audrey Arvidson
Family and Friends of Caleb Rokes

Serving in December



Pastor: Scott Hoecker
Organists: Marcia Guenther & Brad Lambrecht
Altar Care: Linda Arvidson
Communion Assistant: Mark Wehking
Lay reader: Scott Hart
Ushers: Rick Guenther, Trent Hagen, Rodney Peterson

Acolytes:

December 4: Evalynn Grinager
December 11: Taya Arvidson
December 18: Peyton Skoglund
December 24: Colby Schlosser & Isaiah Schlosser

Birthday Card Sender: Linda Arvidson

Birthday Sunday Servers (December 18):

Brian & Vicky Arvidson
Rodney Peterson
Delmar & Margaret Wehking



Angel Tree tags for local children are available on the narthex table. Please bring gifts and monetary donations to church by Dec. 11.

Checks can be made out to Parkers Prairie Angel Tree.



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

January Birthdays

1/01 Shauna Nordlund
1/01 Bea Skoglund
1/08 Inez Haase
1/08 Elliott Arvidson
1/10 Nicholas Aldrich
1/12 Marge Nelson
1/12 Megan Blomgren
1/15 Cindy Skoglund
1/16 Elaine Fyhrie
1/18 Spencer Pomeranz
1/20 Joey Orsello
1/21 Laney Grinager
1/24 Clayton Skoglund
1/26 Stephanie Stueve
1/30 Dick Thom
1/30 Delmar Wehking



Join us as our youngest members share the story of the birth of Jesus! The Sunday School Christmas

Program will be held on Sun, Dec. 11th during worship. Contact Karin Wagner 320-760-9494 with any questions.



Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion will be at 7 p.m. on Saturday, December 24th. We invite you to come and worship with us as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child!



Thank you to those who have shared the beautiful poinsettias to help decorate our sanctuary:

In Memory of Desia & Martin Thom .. given by Luella & Dick Thom

In Memory of Art & Lenora Madison .. given by Luella & Dick Thom

In Memory of Leo & Mary Murray.. given by Jim & Linda Arvidson

In Memory of Elvin & Doris Arvidson .. given by Jim & Linda Arvidson

In Memory of Irene & Harvey Peterson .. given by Rodney Peterson



- The MN Dept of Health water report came back safe from contaminants.
- Insurance for the church has been secured through Church Mutual.
- Annual Meeting will be held on January 22, 2023 (back up date of January 29) following worship. Zoom/Facetime will be offered for those who cannot attend in person.
- There have been offerings of \$640 designated to the Playground Fund (deposited into Building/Repair Savings).
- **Thank you to Rodney Peterson** and the Farm Boys for fixing all of the pews!
- **Thank you to Sue Ellwanger** for the years she has served as office secretary and also for all of the extra ways she serves here at Esther – WELCA, Worship Committee, stepping in to lead worship, to name a few. We appreciate all that you do for us Sue and may God bless you in your new job and know that we look forward to continue to share in fellowship and serving along side of you here at Esther.



Financial Update as of Nov. 30, 2022

Financial Contributions

Actual	94,862.24
Budgeted	112,970.00
Shortfall	-18,107.76



Luther Crest Bible Camp
Early-Bird Registration now open!
Sign-up your camper at
www.luthercrest.org

Camp and Spiritual Growth Fund

The Camp and Spiritual Growth Fund that has been established at Esther, to help pay for camp for our youth. Scholarship applications can be found on Esther's website www.estherlutheran.com under the "Faith Formation Resources" tab.



ESTHER WELCA REPORT

The WELCA met on Sunday, November 13th. We had 7 ladies present and Jewel did devotions from the Women of the ELCA's BOLD Café, "Walking with Jesus and Stepping on Toes", written by our former pastor the Rev. Dr. Jeanette Bidne.

We have \$ 7,375.55 in savings. There is \$1,950.55 in the checking account and there will still be expenses to be paid from Audrey's funeral that we served 76 people for. We also served the funeral for Caleb Rokes in November with about 90 people served.

We donated a quilt to Kristy Fyhrie. We wanted her to know that we are continually praying for her.

We did a "Thank Offering" in November. We collected many hearty soups, chili, individual cereals, and fruits; as well as cash donations. **THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED.**

The Christmas Party has been postponed to January 11th or 18th. Everyone is so busy, thought we needed to postpone it. Hopefully, more will be able to attend. Year-end donations were voted on: \$100 to Hilltop Kitchens and \$100 to the Parkers Prairie Ambulance.

We again offered the poinsettias to decorate the church. They will be delivered Dec 13, 14, or 15th .
Next meeting December 11th at 8:30.

Luella Thom
President



Youth Fundraiser
The Esther Youth are again selling calendars this year. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex - to be guaranteed a calendar please pre-order.



The MEMORY TREE in the Narthex of the church was started by request in 2021, and a beautiful tradition we will continue. If you have someone you want to remember or honor on the tree with an ornament, please put their name on it and hang it on the tree. If you have a picture that you need help turning into an ornament, please contact Jewel in the church office.

Confirmation Class
meets on Wednesday evenings. We will be having a meal at 6 pm, followed by class from 6:30 - 8 pm. On the first Wednesday of the month class ends at 7:30 p.m.



December and January Serving Schedule

- December 7: Elora Wagner family
- December 14: Isabell Steidl family
- December 21: NO Confirmation
- December 28: NO Confirmation
- January 4: Wyatt Asleson family
- January 11: NO Confirmation
- January 18: NO Confirmation
- January 25: McKinnely Bosl family

December 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 8:30 am Sunday School 10 am Worship 2 pm St. Williams (Pr. Lee)	5	6	7 Confirmation 6 pm Meal (Elora Wagner family) 7:30 pm Class ends 7:30 pm Council	8	9	10
11 8:30 am WELCA 8:30 am Sunday School 10 am Sunday School Christmas Program 2 pm St. Williams (Pr. Brown)	12	13 Worship committee 6 pm	14 Confirmation 6 pm Meal (Isabell Steidl family) 6:30-8 pm Class	15	16	17
18 9 am Sunday School 9:15 Birthday Fellowship 10 am Worship w/ Communion 2 pm St. Williams (Pr. Bovendam)	19	20	21 NO Confirmation	22	23	24 Christmas Eve worship 7 pm
25 CHRISTMAS DAY NO Worship	26	27	28 NO Confirmation	29	30	31

Esther Lutheran Church
11019 625th Ave.
Parkers Prairie, MN 56361

“Knowing Christ-Making Christ Known through Faith, Hope and Love”