



ESTHER LUTHERAN NEWSLETTER

January 2023

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

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A Common Question

Some of you may know that for the past year or so, I've been meeting with a group of mostly psychiatrists and a few clergy to learn about Bowen Family Systems Theory. A question I often get is, "What is Bowen Family Systems Theory?" And on several occasions, I've tried to answer this question, but I have not done such a great job. I suspect it's been hard for me to answer because I haven't taken the time to think through the question sufficiently to answer it in a way that makes sense to others who are not studying this theory of relationships.

So, this is my attempt to try to answer the question in an indirect way. I once saw a video that showed a two or three year old girl in the backseat of her father's car. The father is in the driver's seat while videoing his daughter in the backseat on the passenger's side of the car. She's in the process of trying to buckle herself into her car seat as her father keeps asking if she needs help. The dialogue picks up from there

(https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=worry+about+yourself, accessed January 2, 2023):

Daughter: "Worry about yourself . . . worry about yourself"

Dad: "Can I help?"

Daughter: "No. No help [needed]."

Dad: "You want me to help?"

Daughter: "No Thank you [pause] No thank you."

Dad: "What do you want me to do?"

Daughter: "Worry about yourself . . . worry about yourself . . . YOU DRIVE . . .

WORRY ABOUT YOURSELF . . . YOU DRIVE . . . GO!"

From a Bowen Family Systems perspective, the father was being more helpful than his daughter needed (or wanted) when it came to getting buckled into her car seat. She, in effect, declined his initial offer to help, but when he continued the second time, she reiterated that she had it covered and responded politely with, "no - thank you." Finally, his third offer received a stronger reply to worry about himself and drive."

This little example reflects how this little girl was able to stay focused on her goal (to get buckled in) amid the pressure to accept help (or said another way - to follow someone else's agenda).

I believe Jesus responded to Peter in a similar way that this little girl responded to her father. You see Jesus had just made it clear that he would submit to suffering at the hands of the religious leaders which would lead to his death then resurrection when Peter protested and said, "Impossible, Master!" (Matthew 16:21ff, MSG). That's when Jesus (like the little girl) refused someone else's agenda with these words, "Peter, get out of my way . . . You have no idea how God works." (ibid.).

In short, when one is clear on their goals then, pressure from others to follow a different agenda can be resisted in order to stay on track. And as followers of Christ, if we're listening to the risen Christ and discerning God already at work, then joining that work becomes one's focus that can avoid distractions from that life-giving/sustaining purpose.

Pr. Scott

O Lord, hear our prayers...

In Our Prayers

Joan Arvidson
Colleen Burquest
Kristy Fyhrie
Mike Heiser
Bill Wagner
Cindy Skoglund
Trent Hagen
Marcia Guenther
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
Family and Friends of Wilbur Burquest

Serving in January



Pastor: Scott Hoecker
Organists: Marcia Guenther, Brad Lambrecht,
Ivy Christensen
Altar Care: Linda Arvidson
Communion Assistants:
Megan Townsend & Jacey Hoecker
Lay readers: 1/1 & 1/8 - Megan Townsend
1/15 – Youth service
1/22 & 1/29 – NEED VOLUNTEERS
Ushers: Brady Arvidson & Jeremy Arvidson
Acolytes:
1/8 – NEED VOLUNTEERS
1/15 – Youth service
1/22 – Colby Schlosser
1/29 – NEED VOLUNTEERS
Birthday Card Sender: Jewel Townsend
Birthday Sunday Servers (January 15):
Thom, Lorine, Pomeranz & Doll families

We are in need of January and February Layreaders, Acolytes and Communion Assistants. If you are willing to cover a week, please let Jewel in the church office know.



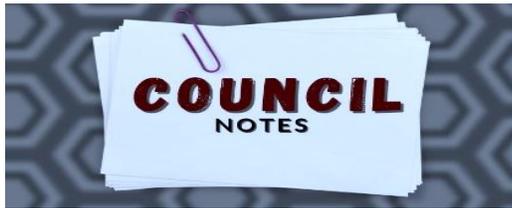
January Birthdays

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

February Birthdays

2/02 Clara Pogose
2/04 Lois Rosenquist
2/05 Dustin Pomeranz
2/05 Sarah Pomeranz
2/06 Michael Grinager
2/06 Peyton Skoglund
2/08 Tom Burquest
2/11 Sherri Rupert
2/12 Karsyn Lorine
2/20 Michael Lorine
2/21 Mike Townsend
2/22 Cody Rupert
2/23 Amelia Arvidson
2/24 Lisa Arvidson
2/27 David Arvidson
2/28 Gloria Rosenquist

Annual Report Deadline is January 18. Please drop off in the church office, or email secretary@estherlutheran.net



- **Annual Meeting will be held on January 22, 2023** (back up date of January 29) following worship. Zoom will be offered for those who cannot attend in person, at approximately 10:45/immediately following worship. The Youth Group will be serving lunch following the Annual Meeting.
- **Thank you to Brady Arvidson** for serving on council for the past 6 years. Brady is looking for a member to replace him on the council. Please contact him if you are interested in filling this position.
- **Thank you to Karin Wagner** for continuing to lead our Sunday School program for the past 7+ years. We greatly appreciate all that you do to keep the Sunday School and VBS programs fun and rewarding for our children here at Esther!
- **Pastor Scott will be away January 10-21.** His planned emergency contact is now not available, so he has calls in to other people and we will update the website and announcements with his new replacement ASAP.

Financial Update as of Dec. 31, 2022

Financial Contributions

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| Actual | 100,827.24 |
| Budgeted | 123,240.00 |
| Shortfall | -22,412.76 |

THANK YOU to everyone who has helped serve as an acolyte, lay reader, usher, communion assistant, altar care, birthday fellowship, birthday card sender or tech team this past year. Your time, talent and dedication is greatly appreciated by all of us here at Esther. We welcome you to sign up for the coming year to serve your congregation in one of these many ways. **Sign-up sheet is on the narthex table.**

Save the Date:

Esther VBS will be June 18-22, 2023. Luther Crest Bible Camp counselors will be coming to lead our VBS children with their excitement for God's word!

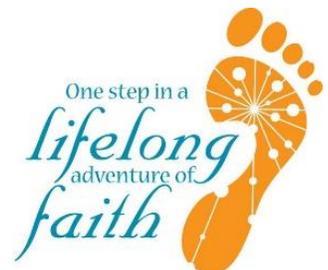


**Luther Crest Bible Camp
Early-Bird Registration now open
through February 15!
Sign-up your camper at
www.luthercrest.org**

Camp and Spiritual Growth Fund

The Camp and Spiritual Growth Fund 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.

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.



January Serving Schedule

January 4: Wyatt Asleson family
January 11: NO Confirmation
January 18: NO Confirmation
January 25: McKinnely Bosl family
February 1: Mentor Potluck and Dinner Church

**WELCA Christmas Get-Together,
Wednesday, January 11, 6:30 pm** – All women of the church are invited to attend and bring a friend! Bring an appetizer to share and a \$10 gift to exchange. We can't wait to celebrate with you!



ESTHER WELCA REPORT

The WELCA met Sunday, December 11th at 8:30 AM. We were only 4 But we had a meeting anyway.

We have \$ 2,296.00 in our checking account and \$ 7,375.55 in our savings/memorial fund. We have to pay for the poinsettias yet for 2022; but had not received the invoice for them. There are some expenses from Wilbur's funeral that will be paid as well.

We decided to have a WELCA Christmas Party, Wednesday, January 11th @ 6:30. We are doing a potluck of appetizers. Luella will furnish the beverages. Hoping many of you ladies can attend... since on a Wednesday evening. (Note: I was in error on date I gave to Jewel for the Christmas Party. January 18th will be back up date if the 11th does not work out for weather, etc.)

Bring a \$ 10 gift.

We delivered several bags of food items to the Parkers Prairie Food Shelf as well as \$180 cash.

We had a busy time at the end of the year serving funerals: Audrey Arvidson, Caleb Rokes, and Wilbur Burquest. We had some of our new members help out. It was great to work with and get to know them better.

To finish up our donations for 2022, we voted to give \$200 each to the Parkers Prairie Backpack Program and our own Esther Lutheran Sunday School.

QUILTING... Jacey Hoecker has volunteered to be a leader for us. She will plan to start up in February of 2023. Watch for the dates... and get any fabric you have to church please.

Deb Koep was up for reelection to the Altar Guild and she graciously said she would continue serving on that committee. THANK YOU DEB!!

We will NOT HAVE A REGULAR MEETING THE SECOND SUNDAY OF JANUARY... we will have a short update meeting at the beginning of our Christmas Party on January 11th.

Thanks to everyone who attends the WELCA meetings. Many churches no longer have WELCA groups. We at Esther hope to continue... and get more involved. If anyone has any suggestions that would increase our attendance, please let us know. We are all ears!!

Luella Thom, WELCA President

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who helped make the Advent and Christmas season beautiful at Esther!

- Everyone who helped decorate the church on November 27, and to Marcia and Linda for spending many hours organizing the decorations beforehand so it was easier for the rest of us to decorate.
- Sunday School children, teachers and helpers that put on a wonderful program on December 11!
- The team that put together the treat bags for our Sunday School children.
- All of the members of the Esther Band that played on December 18. What a great group effort to bless all of us with your beautiful music!
- The families that provided the Birthday Fellowship Sunday FEAST and other surprise treats throughout the season.
- The WELCA and others that provided all of the lovely poinsettias that added extra color and beauty to our sanctuary.
- Anna Hagen for playing her violin on Christmas Eve.
- Pastor Scott, our organists, ushers, lay readers, communion assistants, acolytes, altar care and tech team for all of the extra touches that you provide each service for our members and friends of Esther that are both worshipping with us in-person and online.

Thank you to each of you for your dedication to Esther Lutheran, our members, and friends!

January 2023

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|-----------|-----------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 Confirmation 6 pm Meal (Wyatt Asleson family) 7:30 pm Class ends 7 pm Council | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship (Noisy Offering) 11 am Coffee Fellowship 2 pm St. Williams | 9 | 10 | 11 NO Confirmation 6:30 pm WELCA Christmas Get-together | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 9 am Sunday School 9:15 Birthday Fellowship 10 am Worship Youth led 2 pm St. Williams | 16 | 17 | 18 NO Confirmation | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship w/Communion 10:45 Annual Meeting 11:30 Lunch served by Youth 2 pm St. Williams | 23 | 24 | 25 Confirmation 6 pm Meal (McKinnely Bosl family) 6:30-8 pm Class | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship 11 am Coffee Fellowship 2 pm St. Williams | 30 | 31 | Feb 1 Confirmation 6 pm Mentor Potluck & Dinner Worship Ends at 7:30 pm 7:30 pm Council | 2 | 3 | 4 |

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