

May 2012

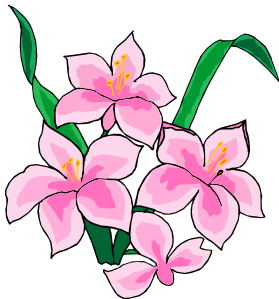


THE MESSENGER

Newsletter for the Fisher-Bygland Lutheran Parish

THIS MONTH

- May 5, 2012 - Adopt a Highway clean up day
- May 6, 2012 - Confirmation at Fisher Lutheran
- May 12, 2012 - Bygland Rummage and Vendor Sale
- May 13, 2012 - Baccalaureate for Fisher graduates
- May 14, 2012 - Bridal Shower for Jenny Thorson at Bygland



Fisher Bygland Lutheran Parish
 P.O. Box 127 Fisher, MN 56723
 Church Office: 218-891-4632
 Pastor Karen Young Trenne
 Cell: 701-610-3543

Editor: Bonnie Knutson
 218-281-6426
 sbknutson@ymail.com

E-Team Coordinator and
 Keeper of the Calendar: Becky
 Conati 218-773-8211
 tbconati@invisimax.com

Acts in Easter

During the season of Easter, our first readings come from the book of Acts instead of readings from the Old Testament. The book of Acts focuses on two primary points. First, the spread of the Good News of Jesus' resurrection from Jerusalem to all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth; and second, God's inclusion of Jews and Gentiles in the new kingdom. There are many wonderful characters in the book of Acts: Peter, Paul, Matthias, Rhoda, Eutychus, and Lydia to name a few. But the primary character in Acts is God's Holy Spirit, a Spirit that refuses to be contained by the expectations of the human characters. Acts was written by the same author as the Gospel of Luke. Luke's gospel tells the account of Jesus' birth, ministry, death, and resurrection, ending with the Ascension of Jesus into heaven. Acts picks up right where Luke leaves off with Jesus' Ascension and the giving of the Holy Spirit to empower his disciples to share the Good News in all the earth. In Acts, the church is born and referred to as the Way.

I would like to encourage all of you to take the time during this busy spring season to read the book of Acts. I guarantee there are stories in this book that you will not recognize from Sunday School or worship. Some of it is just plain weird. But throughout the book, the Holy Spirit is at work, increasing the faith of believers and strengthening them to witness so others can come to faith in Jesus. All of the sermons during this Easter season until Pentecost Sunday, May 27, will be based on the readings from Acts. It is my hope that as we read and study Acts together, that you will have a new encounter with the Holy Spirit, be strengthened in your faith, and empowered to be a witness for Jesus Christ to non-believers.

In Christ, Pastor Karen



"You may give without loving, but you cannot love without giving".

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

(taken from "God's Little Devotional Book for Moms")



In And Around The Community...

- ✓ **Saturday, May 12, 2012, 9:30 AM - Women's Pregnancy Center Walk for Life in Grand Forks.** You can make a difference by walking...it's easy! You don't have to collect any money as the WPC collects it all! It's only a 2 mile walk and everyone can participate. You don't have to be present to participate and you can walk on your own. Prizes awarded to top walkers! For more information call 701-746-8866 or go to www.gfwpc.org.
- ✓ **June 7, 8, & 9, 2012 - Altru's Hospice Camp Good Mourning.** Camp Good Mourning is a children and teens grief camp for ages 6-18 years, who have experienced the death of a family member or a loved one. Last year a few changes were made, including the location and an additional day of camp. Also introduced was a "caregiver/parent" component. This year's camp will be at the Park River Bible Camp, Park River, ND. There is a \$25 registration fee for campers; however, if there is a situation where this may be a hardship for the family, the registration can be waived. There is also a need for camp counselors and facilitators: pre-teen (10-12 years) and teen (13+ years). Male counselors are always needed. Training sessions will be held prior to camp. For more information contact Sue Mairs, LSW, at 701-780-5258 or email her at smairs@altru.org.

Feed My Starving Children



Local organizers of this program are asking area Christians about their interest in this program in 2012. Anyone can participate but they are asking for feedback from area leaders as to the local interest level. This may be a great opportunity for our youth to take on a new, hands-on service project. Contact Holly Wavra with questions, or email Jodie (jstorhaug@gra.midco.net) or Bruce Storhaug at (bruce.opticare@midconetwork.com). Last year Holly organized this with Bygland and it was a huge success!

Big Steps for our Young People



Fisher Lutheran will celebrate with four youngsters as they confirm their faith on Sunday, May 6, 2012 at 11:00 AM: Beau Byklum, Madison Dangerfield, Austin Knutson, and Eric Ness. There will be an open-house reception in the fellowship hall, prior to the service, starting at 10:15 AM. All are welcome!

Fisher Lutheran will also celebrate high school graduation at a baccalaureate service on Sunday, May 13, 2012, at 9:00 AM.

~Madison Grove (daughter of Tyler and Rhea Grove) plans to attend Lake Superior College in Duluth, MN, for nursing.

~James Bruggeman (son of Todd and Deann Bruggeman), plans to attend the University of Minnesota - Crookston.

~Andrew Roach (son of Julie Roach) is undecided at this time.

Let's hold these young people in our prayers as they make big steps in their faith and growth. Congratulations!

Messenger Items



Each month there is a scramble of sorts to collect announcements, updates, calendar items, and other important information that goes into the Messenger and monthly calendar. With hopes of making it easier to remember, the new "due by" date will be the **20th of each month**. This should provide adequate time to compile, format, copy, fold and label the paper version so it gets out before the first of the month. If you have your items ahead of time, please send them in right away. As for the electronic version, your computer will need to be able to open a PDF via several different reader options available. Otherwise, check out the church website's, as the calendar and Messenger are posted there as well.



Calling All Volunteers!

On Saturday, May 5, 2012 at 11:00 AM, all Fisher-Bygland parishioners and friends are invited to come and join in on some volunteer community service fun with the Adopt a Highway program. Adopt a Highway is a Minnesota Department of Transportation public service program designed to enable citizens to make a personal contribution to a cleaner environment by picking up litter along state highways. Our personal assignments are the segments to the North and to the South of the church, along MN State Highway 220. Make sure to wear appropriate clothing such as jeans, work boots, gloves, and long sleeved shirts. Dress for the weather, as we never know what kind of day we are going to have. If you are a new volunteer, please plan on arriving a few minutes early, so you can view the required safety presentation. Safety vests, bug spray, and sun screen will be provided. All are welcome to participate.

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. ~Ephesians 2:10

Bygland News

May 13 - Family Fellowship Potluck after the worship service

Council Minutes



The Bygland Congregational Council met on April 11, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. Members present were Alan Halvorson, Pastor Karen, Kathy Flaas, Randy Moe, Jamie Brundin, Karen Ebertowski, Pam Robertson, Patty Pecka and Marsha Ketring. Those absent were Roger Krostue, Scott Wurden and Chad Thorson.

Vice President Alan Halvorson called the meeting to order, and Pastor Karen led us in devotions, beginning with the reading of a letter from the Bishop, Reverend Mark S. Hanson, and concluding with a passage called "The Resurrection-Living in Hope".

A few items were added to the meeting agenda and it was then approved. The secretary's report was read and an motion was made for approval by Pam and seconded by Karen. The treasurer's report was read, with copies of journal entries from January through April provided for review by the council members. Randy reported that after the Easter offering, expenses and receipts are comparable to one year ago. A total of \$873 has been received from designated Thrivent Choice Dollars so far in 2012. On a motion by Jamie, seconded by Patty, the treasurer's report was approved.

Pastor Karen provided a printed summary of her current activities within our parish and the region. Corrected dates were provided for needed pulpit supply during upcoming absences for her Doctorate of Ministry Studies (June 10, 17 & 24) and the ELCA National Youth Gathering (July 15 & 22). The Gideons offering was well-received and was a sizable amount from the parish this year. Pastor Karen announced that Steve Flaas has agreed to represent our conference at Concordia College's Corporate Assembly on April 27. She then read a report describing details of the Synod's embezzlement investigation of Robert Larson, with amounts so far uncovered of approximately \$750,000, occurring over a period of 7 years. Discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS

The new sound system has been installed and used for the services of Holy Week. The sound quality and volume levels of the new system were discussed and it was stated that trial runs required some adjustments. When the system was initially checked after installation, a switch was inadvertently left on with the sound projecting to the exterior of the church. Therefore, the performance was poor during the first service, until this problem is corrected. Jamie reset the controls to the original standard, which should not need to be adjusted according to HB Sound & Light. Positioning of the headset microphone was determined to be most effective directly in front of Pastor's mouth. During initial testing, and in variation from the initial estimate, the sound system committee arranged for the substitution of an additional wireless handheld microphone in place of the two wired microphones originally ordered, which was determined to better meet our needs. Council members expressed concern over the unresolved issue of a revised system for ringing a bell chime. Jamie stated that the new sound system is capable of taking input from a source such as a computer. It is not certain how the organ could be used for this purpose. It was recommended that the entire bill not be paid until satisfaction is achieved. The basement/lounge speaker system had also not been repaired as expected. Steve Flaas took care of rewiring and correcting those problems. Their separate volume controls are functional and should be adjusted as needed.

The parsonage has been rented again for \$800/month plus utilities. The remaining bill from the previous renter, owed to Cenex for fuel oil, has been turned over to the management company in order to pursue repayment.

The church's floor buffers which have been examined by Well Concrete were determined to be in working order and purchase has been approved. The determined amount and payment will be forthcoming.

Pam Robertson determined that it would cost \$150 for her to become professionally re certified for "Serve Safe", and that the new state requirement for food service in churches should be addressed. Holly Wavra provided information to the council members regarding "Serve Safe" training that she noticed in a local newspaper. Pam called to inquire about this training option, meant specifically for churches. Cost-free

~continued on next page

BLC Council Minutes continued...

training materials were ordered by Pam. She would like to hold a joint training session for members of both Fisher and Bygland. Following completion of this brief training, a 3-year certification would be given to those in attendance. The event will be scheduled after conferring with Fisher's council.

The septic system was located, with the aid of blue prints, and lots of digging and searching by Alan & Cory Halvorson and Randy Moe. The septic tank was then pumped out on April 11, and judging by the process, it was thought that it had not been pumped out since the church was built. A diagram of its exact location was made by Randy, which will be stored with the blue prints and in additional locations for future reference. The function of the system should now improve considerably. Regular pumping was recommended for the next few years, to aid in facilitating its sluggish performance.

Pastor Karen has contacted involved parties regarding the circulation of the parish newsletter in order to help increase both the timelines of its arrival in the mail and publication on the websites.

Jamie brought in photos of various types of motion lights available for review. Input was provided and Jamie offered to purchase and install three lights by the south entrance doors as a gift to the church. He also got electrical advice regarding automatic light switches and was told that they weren't worth installing to decrease electrical usage.

In an effort to provide assistance to Barb Short, and plan for the future, the topic of organist was added to the agenda. Integration of the organ into the sound system for the purpose of playing recorded music and electronic bell chimes, as well as obtaining musical accompaniment on disk were discussed. Kathy stated that the organ has advanced capabilities that are not well understood, that the manual is very complicated, and that its early computer technology is not user friendly. Pastor Karen will contact Peggy Bartunek, of Grafton, who is knowledgeable on the features of our organ and could possibly visit to provide input on making full use of the organ's features. Kathy stated that should would be interested in being involved in this process with Barb, and can occasionally substitute as organist, but is not interested in a steady job as church organist at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Al will contact Tinkhams regarding mowing the church property and cemetery this season, and will report back next month.

The Easter breakfast was delicious and the annual production was a success, despite church attendance being slightly lower for this year's service/meal. Alternative ideas were proposed and discussed. The council's consensus was to continue the long-standing tradition, yet always stay open to considering new ideas.

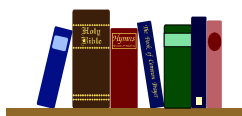
A motion was made to adjourn by Pam, seconded by Randy. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting will be held on may 9, at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Flaar, Secretary



Book Club



Book Club members will meet at 7:00 on May 24. The book for this meeting will be chosen at the late April meeting. Call or email Ardis Maney for more information after April 26. New members are always welcome.

Quilting

Quilting at Bygland will be held on May 2 and May 16, from 9:00 to 3:00.



Bygland News

“Thank You” for the memorial flowers...

In Memory of

Ralf & Esther Moe and Richard Allen Moe
Alma and Arley Aslakson
Eddie Haug
Georgia Flaata
Osmund & Winnie Thorson
Harold Thorson
Natalie Wavra
Loved Ones
Elmer & Thelma Jenson
Clifford Haarsager
Traci Senger



In Honor of...

Lorraine Setterholm

Given by

Ozzie & Carol Moe
Barb Short
Steve & Kathy Flaata
Steve & Kathy Flaata
John & Sandy Thorson
John & Sandy Thorson
Kent & Holly Wavra Family
Roger & Becky Moe Family
Dennis Jenson
Karen Ebertowski
Larry & Mary Don Krostue

Kent & Holly Wavra Family

May 6 ~ Last Day of Sunday School



This will be a very special day as the Sunday School year will wrap up with awards given to the students during the worship service.



Bridal Shower

There will be an open house bridal shower for Jenny Thorson at the Bygland Church on Monday, May 14, 2012 from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. All are welcome!



5th Annual Bygland Community Wide Rummage and Vendor Sale

Saturday, May 12, 2012

8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Bygland Lutheran Church

Proceeds will benefit the Bygland Lutheran Church Sunday School Program.

The Bygland Lutheran Church Sunday School is hosting the 5th annual community wide rummage and vendor sale on Saturday, May 12th, 2012 from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The doors will open for “early bird shoppers” from 7:00 AM to 8:00 AM. All parishioners, community members, and friends are asked to consider donating gently used household items, clothing, toys, books, etc. Items may be dropped off at the church anytime between now and the sale day. All items will be priced by the sale coordinators, unless otherwise specified. All unsold items will be donated to a local charity following the sale, unless otherwise specified.

There will be several vendors set-up to share with you their wonderful wares, including the following: Pampered Chef, Norwex, 31, Jewelry on the Run,



Tastefully Simple, Purses by Pam, Blankets by Jami, and Scentsy.

There will be hot coffee and cinnamon rolls available for purchase in the morning, followed by a pulled pork luncheon plate in the afternoon. Bars and coffee will be available for purchase the entire duration of the sale.

If anyone is interested in volunteering their time, see below for ways to help. All friends are welcome to join us on sale day for rummaging, vendor shopping, eating, and chatting.

****Setting-up and Labeling Tables:** Sunday, May 6, 2012 after church (10:00 AM).

****Sorting/Straightening:** Monday, May 7, 2012 starting at 5:00 PM - come when you can - all helpers welcome.

****Set-up/Final Drop Off:** Friday, May 11, 2012 from 4:00 to 7:00 PM.

Fisher News

Fisher Lutheran Church Council Minutes - April 4, 2012

Present: Phil Baird, Tami Newhouse, Caroline Tinkham, Jon Ross, Dean Smith, Wanda Rutherford, Lori Morken, Tyler Grove, Jordan Peterson and Pastor Karen Young Trenne.

Meeting was called to order by President Phil Baird. Devotions were led by Pastor Karen Young Trenne. The Secretary's Minutes from March were reviewed by the council members. A motion was MSC to approve them. The Treasurer's Financial Report from March was reviewed and discussed. A motion was MSC to approve them. Pastor Karen Young Trenne reported on her recent pastoral acts. It was noted that the Monday Bible Study sessions had concluded and that the materials were purchased by the church so are available for future use. Maundy Thursday service in Fisher on April 5 will include First Communion for 5th grade students. A thank you card was received from the Gideons for allowing them the opportunity to speak to the congregation on March 25 and for the donations that were received.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Phil reported on minor updates to the parsonage including CO and smoke alarms as well as a door lock on the garage. Jeremiah and Heidi Johnson are the new tenants. It was reported that the kitchen blueprints for the church had been located but all other plans are still missing. After research and review, the copier contract for the church will be transferred from Marco to Liberty. It was reported that the installation of motion lights at the rear doors of the church has been completed. Phil noted that he would be provided additional information for the Church Mutual Umbrella Policy as required. The council reviewed information on special offerings including Global Mission which will be accepted during the month of April as well as a special offering for the Valley Memorial Home Chaplaincy program which will be accepted during the month of May. It was reported that two microphones had been repaired. A quote for wireless microphones was received but no action was taken at the time. A motion was MSC to approve the cost of repair of the floor jacks at the front of the church. Adam McDonald will serve on the Mutual Ministry committee.

NEW BUSINESS: A request was made by Jerome Ness to install a flag pole at the cemetery. The council discussed the location of the pole and noted that all costs of the project would be covered by Jerome. A motion was MSC to approve the request. The council requested that the property committee contact EcoLab to service the church for a recent pest problem. Bruce Newhouse will be asked to make the contact. Lori Morken volunteered to have additional church keys made for the new head ushers. It was reported that Reed Tinkham was working on updating the usher protocol.

Next Meeting: The council's next meeting will be on May 2, 2012 at 7:30 PM. A motion was MSC to adjourn the meeting. All prayed the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Tami Newhouse



May 7 & 8 - 9:00 AM
LWR Quilting

May 23 - 9:00 AM Bible Study.
Session 9 - The People of God: Go and Tell

May 29 - 2:00 PM. Birthday Party
Program at 4000 Valley Square, GF.

VMH Chaplaincy Program



Special offerings for Valley Memorial Homes Chaplaincy program will be accepted during the month of May at FLC. VMH is proud of its rich Christian heritage. The chaplains, together with area clergy and congregational and parish leaders, provide for the spiritual well-being of VMH residents and tenants. Worship services, Bible studies, special program, sacraments and memorial services are all important components of the Chaplaincy program. If you would like to make a special gift to support this program, please make a notation on your check or envelope and include it in the Sunday offering during the month of May.