



ESTHER LUTHERAN, ELCA

February 2024 Newsletter

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

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Confirmation Mentors . . . What do they do?

That was the question I was asked quite a while back and my off-the-cuff answer was, “mentoring is primarily about relationship . . . being with and connecting with the youth without any agenda . . .”

And to connect without an agenda is to meet another person where they are and “walk with them” or in today’s language, “hang out” and get to know them and their “highs” and “lows.”

Mentors (and those being mentored) who are intentional about getting together on a weekly or monthly basis recognize the importance of this type of relationship and its impact on cultivating faith. It reminds me of the mortar that connects bricks together . . . hanging out consistently forms that mortar joint between the mentor and young person.

And in routinely getting together, I believe the space is created for young people to share not just their highs and lows but other areas of their lives as well. This might include exploring their faith in terms of what they believe about God (to include their doubts) . . . or even - what God might be calling them to do as followers of Christ. It might mean reading the Bible together or praying together . . . sharing those faith practices that’ve been life giving to the mentor (or the young person).

In other words, wherever young people are on their faith journey . . . there’s an older person they trust walking alongside them . . . willing to share their own stories of faith and even their times of doubt . . . when asked (or when the timing seems right).

So, what do mentors do? They consistently hang out with those they mentor and as they walk together . . . they share stories . . . stories of faith and even doubt . . . and in gathering together in Christ’s name . . . Christ is present.

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them” (Matthew 18:20).

Pastor Scott

IN OUR PRAYERS

Colleen Burquest
Larry Doll
Kristy Fyhrie
Ernie & Georgia Hart
Mike Heiser
Al Pederson
Cindy Skoglund
Luella Thom
Ralph Townsend
Delmar Wehking
Gary Borst – friend of the Andersons
Marsha Clow – sister of Linda Arvidson
Ty Hawes – friend of the McDaniels
Woody Hoiseth – friend of the Thoms
Cindy Rachuy - sister of Dawn Kreidler
Barb Tvedt – mother of Joan Burquest
Jen Wintheiser – friend of Esther members
Family and Friends of Jaci Schlosser, Joan Arvidson,
Doug Muyres, Merton Arvidson

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 Emma Gardner
2/11 Sherri Rupert
2/21 Mike Townsend
2/22 Cody Rupert
2/23 Amelia Arvidson
2/24 Lisa Arvidson
2/26 Rylee Zylstra
2/27 David Arvidson
2/28 Gloria Rosenquist

SERVING IN FEBRUARY

Pastor: Scott Hoecker
Organists: Marcia Guenther, Brad Lambrecht
Altar Care: Linda Arvidson
Communion Assistant: Christy Hart
Lay readers: Jim Arvidson, Grinager Family
Ushers: Scott Hart, Mark Wehking
Acolyte: Orran Hart
Birthday Card Sender: Marcia Guenther
Tech Team: Mike Lage, Jewel Townsend
Birthday Fellowship Families: Dobratz, Fyhrie/Silbernack, Nordlund, Mark & Jakki Wehking



Quilting Ministry will be on February 22, starting at 9 am.
Please bring a lunch. We look forward to a fun time of quilting and fellowship!



Join us February 14 for Ash Wednesday worship with Holy Communion at 7 pm.



We invite you to join us each week of Lent. Soup and sandwich suppers will be at 6:00pm and worship service at 7:00pm. We will be using the Holden Evening Prayer for our Wednesday evening service each week. Please join us as we gather to hear the Word from our confirmation students through their skits during each service. Christy Hart has volunteered to coordinate our Soup and Sandwich Suppers and sign-up sheets are on the narthex table.

Wed, Feb 21:

6 pm Soup & Sandwich Supper

7 pm Lenten Worship "Art of the Unfollow"

Wed, Feb 28:

6 pm Soup & Sandwich Supper

7 pm Lenten Worship "Being Seen"

Wed, March 6:

6 pm Soup & Sandwich Supper

7 pm Lenten Worship "The Other 99"

Wed, March 13:

6 pm Soup & Sandwich Supper

7 pm Lenten Worship "Adam & Eve Explained"

Wed, March 20:

6 pm Soup & Sandwich Supper

7 pm Lenten Worship "If God had a Facebook Account"

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sun, March 24:

10 am Palm Sunday Worship w/Holy Communion

Thu, March 28:

7 pm Maundy Thursday Worship w/First Communion

Fri, March 29:

7 pm Good Friday Worship

Sun, March 31:

7 am Easter Sunrise Worship w/Holy Communion

8 am Breakfast served by Youth Group

10 am Easter Worship w/Holy Communion



First Communion Class will be on Sunday, March 17, following the 10 am worship, and will also be baking First Communion bread on Wednesday, March 27, at 6 pm.



ACOLYTE TRAINING will be on February 18 after worship, and March 10 at 9 am. We invite all 5th graders on up to attend one of these training sessions, as well as their parents. Even if you have had previous training, we encourage all students and their parents to attend as a refresher and to learn about this important part of our worship service, practice how it is done, and why we serve in this way. This training is not just for the kids – anyone who is interested in serving as an acolyte is invited to attend. Thank you to Orran Hart and his parents for leading these training sessions!

CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES

SIGN UP SHEETS FOR 2024 WORSHIP TASKS ARE ON THE NARTHEX TABLE. As we start this new year, we ask each of you to prayerfully discern how you can share your time, talents and treasure here at Esther and in our communities. We have many opportunities at Esther to join a variety of committees and serve your congregation during worship services. We encourage you to try something new, share your ideas and skills with others, and be an encourager of those around you to do the same. We pray for God's blessing on each of you, on our communities, and on our congregation, as we walk together as a community of faith this coming year.

Please send all address, phone, and email changes to the church office by February 11. Also, if names or birthdays are incorrect or not included in last year's book, please forward that information to the church office as well.

If you are willing to help put Yearbooks together, please contact Jewel Townsend in the church office.



2024 Proposed Budget	\$124,376.00
Contributions needed per month	\$10,364.67
Contributions needed per week	\$2,391.84

January 2024 Contributions	\$11,181.10
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Week	Attendance	Offering
2/4/24	64	1,544.00



ESTHER WELCA REPORT February 2024

Our regular meeting was held on Sunday, January 14th at 8:30. There were 4 in attendance. Our Checking Account Balance is \$1,862.07, Memorial/Savings \$9,666.66.

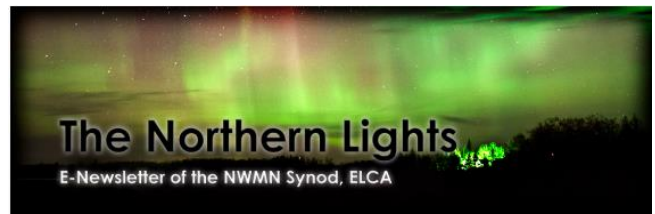
We are going to try to get a project to do one a quarter. Suggestions were making Christmas pots, ax throwing, bean bag, mother/daughter/friend get together, and ??? Looking for other ideas.

We for sure would like to plan to make Christmas pots. Asking all women interested to pick up Christmas things on clearance racks or at garage sales that could be put into the pots. We will have a pot party in the fall to put our pots together.

During Covid, the Women of the ELCA started a fund to give women studying to be a pastor a stipend as a little THANK YOU. All 220 churches are asked to donate to it. Esther started with the first \$300. This past fall, a few other churches donated \$675. That \$975 was given out to 4 women studying to be a pastor. Two were in Moorhead, one in Fergus Falls, and one in Alexandria. Each was given \$243.75 to use however they wish.

Invitations were sent out to 87 men in the church directory for the first Men's Night Out. It was held at Herby's in Carlos. 14 of them attended January 31st. We ended up with Mentor Night being the same night so a few of guys were not able to attend. They say they had a good time getting together. We did a small game identifying activities guys do from the table decorations, trying to get them to move around to visit with others. They pretty much stayed at their individual tables.

Our next meeting is February 11 th @ 8:30.
Hope everyone can come.
Luella Thom
President



Click below to view the current issue of the Northwest Minnesota Synod, ELCA monthly newsletter:

<https://mailchi.mp/cord/nwmn-synods-northern-lights-e-newsletter-15729958?=69992f3bc5>

You can also subscribe to the newsletter at:

<https://www.nwmnsynod.org/subscribers>



You are welcome to drop off eyeglasses that you are no longer using, in the collection box in the narthex.

If you would like to be added to our email list, please contact secretary@estherlutheran.net

Visit our website at estherlutheran.com

Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/estherlutheran/



Hey Esther Lutheran Church!!!

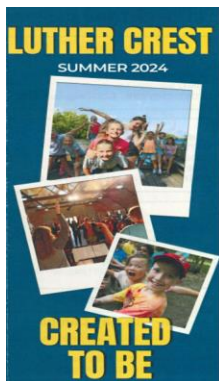
It's Megan Townsend here and I want to remind you that SUMMER IS ALMOST HERE, and that means that CAMP REGISTRATION IS OPEN! Whoo Hoo!! With that being said, I would like to tell you about some opportunities that Luther Crest Bible Camp has to offer. Luther Crest has added programs back into the summer schedule, many of which we had prior to 2020. Luther Crest also has some new programs, and favorite programs that we have had for many years. Following are the list of programs on the schedule for this summer for youth, families, women, and pastors/church leaders.

Programs for Summer 2024:

(Re-added Programs from Prior to 2020)

(New Programs as of 2024)

- On Site Day Camp (Grades Completed: K-5th)
- Explorers (Grades Completed:K-2)
- Seekers (Grades Completed: 2-4)
- Leapers (Grades Completed: 3-6)
- Witnesses (Grades Completed: 6-9)
- Xtreme Camp (Grades Completed:7-9)
- Night Owls (Grades Completed: 6-9)
- Wet and Wilderness (Grades Completed: 7-9)
- Blazers (Grades Completed: 9-12) FREE!
- Keepers (Grades Completed: 10-12) FREE!
- Proclaimers (Grades Completed: 9-12)
- Women's Week
- Camp Magi
- Family Camp
- All People Camp



Brochures are available in the narthex. For more summer program information, visit luthercrest.org or call 320-846-2431

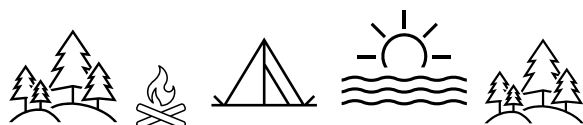
- Elementary Camps
- Middle School Camps
- Senior High Camps
- Day Camps
- All People Camps
- Women's Week
- FREE camp opportunities through Camp Magi, Blazers, Keepers and more!

**Luther Crest Early Bird Registration ends
Feb. 14, 2024**



SUMMER 2024

	Elementary	Middle School	High School	Intergenerational
June 16-21			Keeper Training	
June 23-28	Onsite DC Leapers	Witnesses Xtreme	Blazers	Women's Week
July 7-12	Leapers	Witnesses Xtreme	Blazers	Magi
July 12-14			ELCA Youth Gathering	Family & All People Camp
July 14-19	Explorers Seekers Leapers	Witnesses	Blazers	Magi
July 21-26	Onsite DC	Night Owl		Magi
July 26-28				Family & All People Camp
July 28-Aug 2	Leapers	Witnesses Wet & Wild	Blazers	Magi Family & All People Camp
Aug 2-4				Family & All People Camp
Aug 4-9	Onsite DC Explorers Seekers Leapers	Witnesses Wet & Wild	Proclaimers	Magi Family & All People Camp



The **Esther Camp and Spiritual Growth Fund** was created to help our young members attend bible camp to enrich their faith journey. To date the fund has over \$5,000. The Camp Fund Application can be found on our website www.estherlutheran.com under the "Faith Formation" tab.



NOW HIRING FOR SUMMER 2024

Luther Crest Bible Camp 2024 Summer Staff applications are being taken. Check out www.luthercrest.org for full job descriptions and application process.

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship w/Communion Coffee Fellowship after worship 2 pm Worship at St. Williams	5	6	7 6 pm Confirmation Supper 6:30-7:30 Class 7:30 Council	8 9 am Quilting Ministry	9	10
11 Transfiguration of Our Lord 8:30 am WELCA 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship w/Noisy Offering Coffee Fellowship after worship 2 pm Worship at St. Williams	12	13	14 7 pm Ash Wednesday worship w/Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion	15	16	17
18 First Sunday of Lent 9 am Sunday School 9:30 am Birthday Fellowship 10 am Worship w/Communion Coffee Fellowship after worship 2 pm Worship at St. Williams	19	20	21 6 pm Soup & Sandwich Supper 7 pm Lenten Worship	22 9 am Quilting Ministry	23	24
25 Second Sunday of Lent 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Coffee Fellowship after worship 2 pm Worship at St. Williams	26	27	28 6 pm Soup & Sandwich Supper 7 pm Lenten Worship	29		

