



ESTHER LUTHERAN, ELCA

March 2024 Newsletter

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

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Cultivating Teen Faith

This is the title of a book that researched confirmation in the ELCA and other denominations. When confirmands were invited to share what motivated them to participate in confirmation they answered (% total of strongly agree + somewhat agree combined) Osmer and Douglass in *Cultivating Teen Faith*, (p.5):

“To learn more about God and faith . . .” (87%)

1. “To be strengthened in my faith . . .” (85%)
2. “To come to my own decision about my faith in God . . .” (81%)
3. “I want to be confirmed . . .” (80%)

To be clear, these are the youth that are in confirmation telling others what motivates them to participate.

Also, it’s worth mentioning that confirmation occurs for two hours each week. This means that the bulk of experiencing what it looks like to follow Jesus occurs outside of these two hours.

And this won’t be surprising . . . that cultivating faith, typically, occurs in our most trusted relationships, usually in our families and/or with our mentors. It’s been said that faith is more often caught than taught . . . And I believe that’s true.

So, if family (to include mentors) are crucial to passing on the faith in ways that it is caught, what can be done at home?

Three faith practices are highly effective at passing on the faith so the next generation not only believes in a God that comes to us out of love, but they experience a sense of belonging that reflects a God of relationship that meets you and I often in places of brokenness.

In order of importance, these practices are highly effective at *Cultivating Teen Faith* (97):

- Pray with your teen at bed time
- Prayer before meals (Come Lord Jesus, be our guest and let these gifts to us be blessed. Amen - is one example of a table prayer)
- Reading the Bible (And wondering how it connects to your life, or who do you most connect with in the story? Or, what struck you? What confuses you? All are good questions when reading the Bible)

Finally, when it might seem like passing on the faith is beyond you or me, we need only recall that we only plant seeds, it is God who provides the growth according to the apostle:

“I [Paul] planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow.” (1 Cor. 3:6, NLT).

Pr. Scott

IN OUR PRAYERS

Yuvonne Anderson
Colleen Burquest
Larry Doll
Kristy Fyhrie
Ernie & Georgia Hart
Mike Heiser
Al Pederson
Cindy Skoglund
Luella Thom
Ralph Townsend
Delmar Wehking
Margaret 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 Mary Durling, Jaci Schlosser, Joan Arvidson, Doug Muyres, Merton Arvidson

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/01 Thea Arvidson
3/01 Kristina Kreidler
3/01 Craig Pomerence
3/03 Ella Ness
3/03 Emma Timm
3/03 Nash Vik
3/05 Evalynn Grinager
3/08 Amanda Dobratz
3/08 Brody Lenzen
3/10 Marcia Guenther
3/11 Calie Schlosser
3/12 Emma Arvidson
3/12 Letti Hamman
3/14 Larry Doll
3/14 Judy Thoennes
3/14 Kieda Wagner
3/15 Isaiah Schlosser
3/15 Michael Wunderlich
3/16 Kiley Peterson
3/18 Ty Lenzen
3/20 Lacey Grinager
3/23 Sara Dreher
3/24 Lana Doll
3/25 Nancy Bunde
3/28 Anya Wagner
3/31 Garret Wehking

SERVING IN MARCH

Pastor: Scott Hoecker
Organists: Marcia Guenther, Brad Lambrecht
Altar Care: Donna Pederson
Communion Assistant: Larry Doll
Lay readers: 3 - Luella Thom; 10, 17, 14 - Karin Wagner;
31 - Megan Townsend
Ushers: Rodney Peterson, Rick Guenther
Acolyte: 3rd & 31st – NEED VOLUNTEER; 10, 17, 24 –
Wagner Family
Birthday Card Sender: Linda Arvidson
Tech Team: Mandy Arvidson, Mike Lage, Jewel
Townsend
Birthday Fellowship: Judy Thoennes, Jeremy Arvidson
& Missy Schlosser, Justin Schlosser, Kathy Mittag

WELCOME TO ESTHER!



**We welcomed through baptism
March 3,
Natalee Joyce McDaniel,**
daughter of
Hunter & Kathryn McDaniel.
Natalee's sponsors are
Brian and Erin Krueger.
Blessings to Natalee and family!



NEW MEMBER SUNDAY, MARCH 10

We welcome Kathy Mittag as a new member of
Esther at the 10 am worship, followed by a New
Member Welcome Reception in Kathy's honor,
hosted by the Caring Ministry Team.



**Quilting Ministry will be on
March 21,** starting at 9 am.
Please bring a lunch. We look
forward to a fun time of quilting
and fellowship! **BLESSING OF THE
QUILTS WILL BE ON SUNDAY,
MARCH 10 DURING WORSHIP.**

Easter Flower Order Forms are on
the narthex table. Please place your
order and payment in the envelope
provided. **Orders due by March 10.**





Lent

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, 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/First Communion

Thu, March 28:

7 pm Maundy Thursday Worship w/First Communion

Fri, March 29:

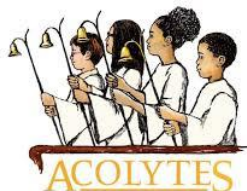
7 pm Good Friday Worship

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



ACOLYTE TRAINING
will be on March 10
after worship. We
invite all 5th graders
on up to attend, 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!



First Communion Class will
be on Sunday, March 10
during Sunday School,
Sunday, March 17

following worship and we will also be baking First Communion Bread on Wednesday, March 27 at 6 pm. All 5th graders and older that have not had the chance to take First Communion Class and would like to attend, please contact Pastor Scott, Karin Wagner or Jewel Townsend. We do ask that parents attend each session with their student.

CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES



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
February 2024 Contributions	\$5,935.54
YTD Actual Contributions vs. Budget	- \$3,612.70



ESTHER WELCA REPORT March 2024

The Esther WELCA met Sunday, February 11 @ 8:30 with 4 members present. We currently have \$ 9,666.66 in the Memorial/Savings fund. There is \$ 1,762.07 in the checking account.

We will be getting the sign-up sheets soon for the **Spring Conference 8** over at Peace in Ashby. This will be held Saturday, April 27th. Registration begins at 8:00 am and will commence at 9:00. The speaker for this event will be **Patty Wetterling**. She will be speaking how her faith in God got her threw the ordeal of her son

Jacob's abduction and the years of searching and waiting. They will have limited seating so will want to get our registration forms back to them as soon as possible for **all of women of Esther** who might be interested in attending this conference. Patty is friends with one of the women of Peace and agreed she would like to speak about her faith.

April 28th will be the Graduation Recognition for our 3 Seniors. Joan Burquest has purchased the fleece for the 3 seniors. We will make the blankets Tuesday, March 12th at 6:00 PM. We need to get them to Jakki this month. Her schedule is crazy busy so need ample time to get them completed with the Bible verses. Graduates are: Camryn Schlosser, Brody Lenzen, and Seth Sansness. (We have fleece for 3 smaller blankets purchased for God's Work Our Hands Day. If we have enough people March 12th, we might try to get them done as well so they can be donated). Guys...young people ... you can all help. If you can tie a knot, you are invited to come also.

It was voted at our January meeting; we do some type of project each quarter. Jewel has samples for stained glass (plexiglass) windows we are looking to make some for the residents at St Williams. They will be 8" x 12" to fit in their windows. Hoping to get a bunch done in time for Easter. Jewel has lots of acrylic paint. Need to cut strips of green FROG tape to make a design on the glass and then paint. There are 57 total residents in the nursing home and assisted living facilities.

((Remember to be looking at Garage Sales etc for Christmas items that can be made into outdoor pots for Christmas. This will be our project for the last quarter of 2024... need to find all we can so costs are inexpensive.))

Sue Ellwanger resigned as WELCA secretary, Lana Doll will take over her position. We did not do elections in November. Elections were at the February meeting. Luella was reelected as President; Donna Pederson as Vice President; Treasurer Bev Arvidson and Nancy Bunde share the responsibility; Altar Guild: Linda Arvidson, Deb Koep, Donna Pederson; Sunshine Committee: Cindy Skoglund.

Sue Ellwanger helped write a resolution a couple years ago to put money in a fund to give a stipend to each woman in studying the ministry. It is to be given out at the end of each year. Esther WELCA started with a \$300 donation... it grew to \$ 975 at the end of 2023. This was given out at the end of 2023. It was divided up amount

4 women studying the ministry. One of them went to Alexandria.

The Quilt Group is moving right along. Yuvonne has been graciously leading us along. We have had a good time getting together every other Thursday to quilt. We have 6-7 ladies working on the quilts. Yuvonne's goal was 50. We are more than half-way there. If anyone is interested, please join us. It is easy... even I have been able to help!! I did not think quilting would ever be something in my vocabulary. (Even have Dick helping me cut blocks!!) So *guys*....you can come too!!! If you don't want to help, we would take leftover cotton or cotton blends to cut into squares for the quilts. Also, would take donations of \$\$\$ to buy fabric and help pay for the batting we purchase to put into each of the quilts. We have some families in need of quilts now so will be doing a blessing for the quilts we have done on Sunday, March 10th. If anyone knows of a family that has a fire, please let any of the WELCA ladies know so we can get quilts for them. We usually send a bunch to Lutheran World Relief (last year the Synod donated over 194,000 quilts to LWR.) We also donate to places like Social Services and Someplace Safe.

Dates and events coming up in 2024:

- Ice Cream Social & Country Store ... July 28th
Ruth Circle will make Ice Cream
Naomi Circle will serve
Martha Circle will do advertising
- Annual WELCA Convention September 20 & 21 at Christ the King Church in Moorhead.
We need a voting member for this event.
- October 8th... this will be the Fall Conference
8 meeting. This will be held at First
Lutheran in Parkers Prairie

Luella Thom, President



We have been waiting on the AED for some time. It will arrive the end of next week. The WELCA ladies donated \$1,000 towards the purchase. Members have said they would help pay for the rest of it. We have an additional \$500 that has been donated so far. The unit cost is \$2,765. We will have an additional \$1,265 needed to cover the cost if anyone would like to help contribute to the cost. Make the check to Esther WELCA. Stay tuned for training that we will be doing once it is installed and ready for use.

Luella Thom, WELCA President



**Thank you for sharing your talents with us during this Lenten Season and beyond.

**We will be practicing "Christmas Hallelujah" after Holden Evening service on March 13 and 20. Please plan to stay for about 20 minutes. The youth that practiced this last week are Evy, Laney, Anya, Isabell, Landen, Taya and Autumn. Others that are interested in singing are invited to stay and practice – this includes Esther Harmony. We will be using this piece in the near future.

**Our Sending Song on March 17th is a choral piece, "O Lord, I Pray", consisting of a lead singer, congregation joining in, with a violin descant. Please join us in singing this beautiful piece. (This is a piece we have sung in past years.)

**Good Friday, March 29, Esther Harmony will be singing a select choral piece. Thank you to Tom, Jim, Dave, Larry and Devin for practicing diligently!

**Sunday School is scheduled to sing Sunday, April 14!! Come and listen to the new songs they have been learning! (Kids, please bring your new Sunday School Music Bags each week as we have new handouts to add to them.) Be sure to read the printed lyrics to your songs that are in your folders. If you have not received a music bag, please let Marcia know and she will get you one.

2024 DIRECTORIES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE USHER TABLE. We will not be labeling directories this year – please take as needed for you and your family. Additional copies will be printed as needed throughout the year. If you would like a directory sent to you by email or USPS, please contact secretary@estherlutheran.net.

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/



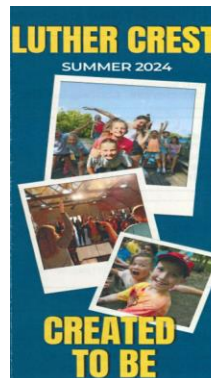
SUMMER IS ALMOST HERE, and that means that CAMP REGISTRATION IS OPEN! Luther Crest has added programs back into the summer schedule, many of which they had prior to 2020. Luther Crest also has some new programs, and favorite programs that they have had for many years. Following are the list of programs 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)

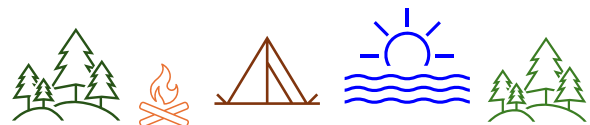
(New Programs as of 2024)

- 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!



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.

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 Third Sunday of Lent 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship w/ Baptism & Communion Coffee Fellowship after worship 2 pm Worship at St. Williams	4	5	6 6 pm Soup & Sandwich Supper 7 pm Holden Evening Prayer	7 9 am Quilting Ministry	8	9
10 Fourth Sunday of Lent 8:30 am WELCA 9 am Sunday School w/1 st Comm. Class 10 am Worship w/New Member Welcome, Blessing of Quilts & Noisy Offering *New Member Reception after worship *Acolyte Training after worship *Council meets after worship 2 pm Worship at St. Williams	11	12	13 6 pm Soup & Sandwich Supper 7 pm Holden Evening Prayer Worship	14	15	16
17 Fifth Sunday of Lent 9 am Sunday School 9:30 am Birthday Fellowship 10 am Worship First Communion Class after worship Coffee Fellowship after worship 2 pm Worship at St. Williams	18 6 pm Worship Committee	19	20 6 pm Soup & Sandwich Supper 7 pm Holden Evening Prayer Worship	21 9 am Quilting Ministry	22	23
24 Palm Sunday 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship w/First Communion Coffee Fellowship after worship 2 pm Worship at St. Williams	25	26	27 6 pm First Comm Class Bread Baking	28 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7 pm Worship w/First Communion	29 GOOD FRIDAY 7 pm Worship	30
31 † EASTER SUNDAY † 7 am Sunrise Worship w/Communion 8 am Breakfast served by Youth 10 am Worship w/ Communion						

