



# ESTHER LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

September 2024 Newsletter

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

11019 625<sup>th</sup> Ave – Parkers Prairie, MN 56361 Church Phone: 218-338-2171

Website: [www.estherlutheran.com](http://www.estherlutheran.com) Office Email: [secretary@estherlutheran.net](mailto:secretary@estherlutheran.net)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/estherlutheran](http://www.facebook.com/estherlutheran)



**PASTORAL CARE** - While we are in transition at Esther, visits to our members will be covered by the Caring Ministry Team. If you or someone you know of would like a visit please contact the church office at 218-338-2171 or [secretary@estherlutheran.net](mailto:secretary@estherlutheran.net).

**FOR EMERGENCY PASTORAL CARE** please contact the church phone number, **218-338-2171**, and Mandy Arvidson will notify the pastor on emergency call at that time, which rotates between Pastor Ben Dyrhaug and Deacon Sharon Bridges.

## IN OUR PRAYERS

Kristy Fyhrie	Georgia Hart
Scott Hart	Al Pederson
Dick Thom	Luella Thom
Ralph Townsend	
Gary Borst – friend of the Andersons	
Barb Burns – sister of Jerry Anderson	
Tom Egan – friend of the Townsends	
Judy Flemming – mother of Laurie Ratajesak	
Ty Hawes – friend of the McDaniels	
Woody Hoiseth – friend of the Thoms	
Ivy McKane – friend of Hagens and Guenthers	
Barb & Bob Nelson – sister & brother in-law of Jim Arvidson	
Jamison Pogose – nephew of Chuck Pogose	
Cindy Rachuy - sister of Dawn Kreidler	
Family and Friends of: Cindy Skoglund, Mary Durling,	
Lee Wesolowski, Jen Wintheiser, Merl Farber, Barb Tvedt, Ernie Hart, Eleanor Thompson	

## September Birthdays

09/03 Kathryn McDaniel  
09/09 Christy Hart  
09/12 Evangeline Krueger  
09/14 Russell Higgs  
09/15 Brady Arvidson  
09/15 Brooklyn McPhail  
09/15 Stephanie Sanvik  
09/16 Denelle Hart  
09/16 MerlLynda Heiser  
09/17 Averie Dobratz  
09/18 Derek Hart  
09/18 Orran Hart  
09/18 Ryan Sansness  
09/18 Molly Stanley  
09/19 Sawyer Ratajesak  
09/20 Jeremy Arvidson  
09/21 Vanessa Garlitz  
09/23 Deanna Kreidler  
09/23 Carrie Price  
09/24 Colby Schlosser  
09/26 LeAnn Aldrich  
09/26 Michael Arvidson  
09/29 Alicia Kruse  
09/30 Ben Arvidson  
09/30 Melissa Schlosser

## SERVING IN September

Pastor: Sept 8-Greg Billberg, Sept 15- Tom Kolden, Sept 22- Jewel Townsend, Sept 29- Kathryn Rothman  
Organists: Marcia Guenther, Brad Lambrecht  
Altar Care: Donna Pederson  
Usher: Mike Lage  
Acolyte: NEED VOLUNTEER  
Lay Reader: Karin Wagner  
Communion Assistant: Larry Doll  
Birthday Card Sender: Donna Pederson  
Tech Team: Mandy Arvidson, Nancy Bunde, Mike Lage, Jewel Townsend  
Birthday Fellowship: Mike & Becky Arvidson, John & Sara Skoglund, Bob & Leann Aldrich, Tom & Joan Burquest, Todd & Lisa Wunderlich



Sunday School will begin Sunday, September 8th at 9 am. Prek-k through 6th grade are invited! Please remember to bring your music bags with you!



Please join us for a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, September 22, to discuss and decide on the proposed recommendation of the council and call committee as we go forward to provide pastoral care for our church.

A detailed letter will be coming out to members by email, for those who receive weekly and monthly email announcements, and by USPS for those who do not receive their regular communication by email.



#### ICE CREAM

There is some ice cream left after the Ice Cream Social. There are cups and quarts available. Cost is \$2 for cups. There will be an envelope in the freezer.



Confirmation Class will start up again with a Meet & Greet Potluck on September 11, for all students and their parents. We are inviting anyone, 7th grade through adult, who would like to be a part of the class, whether you have already had Confirmation instruction or not. If you are interested in having your child or yourself in class, please contact Larry Doll or Jewel Townsend.



With our new AED installed, we would like to be sure that people are trained on how to use it. We are looking to have a CPR/AED certification training and are wondering how much interest there would be and what day of the week would accommodate the majority of people with interest in being certified. The cost per person is \$75. Please contact Mike Lage if you are interested in becoming certified and give feedback on the date and time that works best for you.



We called our August meeting on August 11th @ 8:30 AM. There were just 4 of us but we enjoyed our time together since it had been June since our last meeting. We have \$ 1,897.52 in the checking account and \$7,543.79 in the savings/memorial fund.

#### Upcoming events for WELCA:

\*\*\*September 20 & 21st is the Annual Convention at Christ the King Church in Moorhead. Donna Pederson volunteered to be our voting member this year. Jewel Townend will be attending as well as myself. If anyone still would like to attend, let me know. At the Annual Convention we try to get ladies from all 8 Conference, which is about 220 churches to come together. It is a difficult task. We usually have about 100 ladies that attend. Our main speaker this year will be Deb Hadley from Alexandria. Her presentation will be: Be Kind. Give More. Stay Humble. Shine God's love and light on all you meet, and God Bless you richly.

We will have a couple Silent Auction baskets our Esther WELCA will be bringing. In the past, our baskets have brought some of the most monies to support the Triennial Convention. WELCA ladies don't forget to bring items for these baskets to the next meeting, September 8<sup>th</sup>.

From this large group, each of the 8 conferences can nominate someone from their church to receive the Mary Magdalene Award. The board then picks from those submitted the woman from each conference. Our WELCA submitted Jewel Townsend. We must list all the things she does for Esther in the past and currently. As you know that list is many pages. We usually try to keep it a secret and get them to attend so they can be presented at the convention. With Jewel's schedule, we had to tell her ahead of time. She is attending the convention. She will get an award, a rose, recognized by the WELCA members in attendance, and a donation will be made to Luther Crest in her name. CONGRATULATIONS JEWEL.... YOU ARE VERY DESERVING OF THIS MARY MAGDALENE AWARD!!!! Our Esther WELCA women have been very active in our church and Jewel will join the past receivers of this award: Margaret Wehking, Joan Burquest, Yuvonne Anderson, Luella Thom. Shows... we have very active women in our congregation....

\*\*\*Also ... October 8th is the Conference 8 Fall Gathering. Please put this on your calendar. First Lutheran in Parkers Prairie is hosting it, our neighbors to the north. Their theme is Wellness: Mind, Body, and Soul. Registration is \$15 per person. Please let me know if you can attend this meeting. Starts with registration 8:15 to 9:00.

Meetings, speakers etc. from 9:00 to about 12:00. We then have lunch and done for the day. Deadline for registration is September 30<sup>th</sup>. The Fall Conference 8 is accepting donations for the Parkers Prairie Food Shelf. We will put a box in the Narthex to collect items for the food shelf. Suggested items: soups... both hearty and creamed, pastas, pasta sauce, cereals—both cold and hot, boxed meats, hamburger helper, tuna helper, taco kits, boxed potatoes, & baking supplies. They ask that you please check the expiration dates on all items donated. Many times, when we find things on sale and purchase, it is because they are nearing the expiration dates. Of course, cash is also needed.....

\*\*\*The Spring Conference 8 will be easy to get to as well. Calvary Lutheran in Alexandria, who has not had a WELCA group for quite some time, is going to be our

hosts for this event. It will be in March 5, 2025... early one.. so put on your calendar.

We discussed the Ice Cream social attendance again. There were so many things going on that weekend which did not help our attendance. We still have ice cream for sale downstairs in the freezer. We hope you will take advantage of the individual containers and be willing to purchase some. This will help make up for the attendance we did not have.

We have had a couple of the big roasters die for the kitchen. If you are so inclined to donate a new big roaster, we would really appreciate it. We regularly use 4 roasters; at the present time we have 2 good working ones.

For the 2025 Ice Cream Social it was suggested we have a regular 10:00 AM worship service and serve the Ice Cream Social from 11:00 to 3:00. Attendance after 3:00 was only a couple people. Since we have moved up the time to start at noon, we have most of the people at noon. Extras also came to church that day and stayed for lunch. Also suggested we take pictures of the Country Store items ahead of time to post on Facebook. People don't come with enough cash to purchase ice cream and things from the Country Store. The monies from the Ice Cream Social were: \$ 1,692 and \$ 460 from the Country Store. Expenses so far were: \$277.46 for the ice cream cups, \$168.51 for the buns, ham, butter. I know there is a bill for the cream yet that needs to get submitted and paid. We purchased the cream this year from Elden's. They gave us a good price, and a gift card to use towards it. It ended up being cheaper than Wal-Mart and more dependable.

If you have not noticed, there is a new larger freezer in the kitchen. The small one is not large enough to hold the ice cream when we make it. We have tried to borrow in the past... or the other option is to store in someone's freezer living close to church. It was decided, the WELCA would purchase our own. Donna and Al Pederson took on the task; got it purchased, and with the help of Derrick, set it into the kitchen area. Thanks Donna, Al, and Derrick for doing the hard work.

Our Esther WELCA made a motion several years ago to start a fund for all 8 Conferences. It was intended to give the pastors that are going to college to give them a little stipend as a Thank You, we appreciate what you are doing. We voted to again donate \$300 to this fund.

We also have some of the single quilts we made earlier this year if anyone would like to purchase them. We usually donate them all but were hoping to sell a few to help defray the cost of the batting we use in the quilts. REMEMBER.... IF SOMEONE IS IN THE HOSPITAL, SICK, OR NEEDS A PICK ME UP.... LET DONNA PEDERSON KNOW. She is our Sunshine Committee... and will get a card out to them.

Luella Thom, President

### Eleanor "Toots" Janet Thompson

Eleanor J. "Toots" Thompson, age 91, of Parkers Prairie, formerly of Bloomington, died surrounded by her family on Monday, September 2, 2024, at St. Williams Living Center.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m., on Saturday, September 14, 2024, at Esther Lutheran Church in Eastern Township with Rev. Ben Dyrhaug officiating. Music is provided by organist, Marcia Guenther and violinist, Anna Hagen. Interment is at the church cemetery.

Visitation is 5-8 p.m., Friday, at Lind Family Funeral Home in Alexandria and will continue one hour prior to the service at the church.

Eleanor Janet was born on January 14, 1933, to Albert and Ethel (Johnson) Hedlund in Eagle Bend. She was baptized and confirmed at Esther Lutheran Church in Eastern Township and attended country school. Eleanor graduated from Central High School in Alexandria in 1950. She was united in marriage to Duane Thompson on January 31, 1953, at Esther Lutheran Church. Shortly after their wedding, Duane was stationed in Japan while in the United States Army. Following his honorable discharge, they moved to Bloomington where they raised their three children, Kevin, Keith and Karla. Toots enjoyed decorating birthday cakes and crocheting for her children and eventually their grandchildren. She worked in the kitchen for the Bloomington School System for ten years and retired in 1993. She was a former member of St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Bloomington and Esther Lutheran Church. Toots and Duane enjoyed camping with the Rochester Roamers, taking monthly trips. She traveled with the Kennedy School choir to Hawaii, Florida, and the Bahamas. Eleanor especially loved taking trips to Sweden and Norway with her family. Toots will be remembered for taking a magnitude of photos/pictures, enough that if she hadn't taken them, Kodak would have been out of business much sooner.

She was preceded in death by her parents; an infant daughter; an infant son; grandson, Justin Thompson; and husband of 66 years, Duane in 2019.

Toots is survived by her two sons, Kevin (Mary) Thompson of Riverbank, California and Keith (Lois) Thompson of Bloomington; daughter, Karla (Donny) Kalpin of Leaf Valley; 15 grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; several great great-grandchildren; and nieces, nephews and other relatives.

The pallbearers are her grandsons, Kyle Thompson, Kody Thompson, Jack Thompson, Michael Kalpin, Mitchell Kalpin and Steven Helminiak.



If you would like to be added to our email list, please contact [secretary@estherlutheran.net](mailto:secretary@estherlutheran.net)

Visit our website at [estherlutheran.com](http://estherlutheran.com)

Follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/estherlutheran/](https://facebook.com/estherlutheran/)

We encourage you to keep up on the happenings of our synod and the ELCA, along with our partner ministries, by going to our website [www.estherlutheran.com](http://www.estherlutheran.com) and clicking on the "Faith Formation Resources" tab to find many great resources waiting for you to explore, including our synod newsletter "Northern Lights".

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1 Fifteenth Sunday of Pentecost</b> 10 am – Worship w/Holy communion led by Pastor Dennis Preston 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6 pm – Council meeting	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8 Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost</b> 8:30 am – WELCA 9 am – Sunday School 10 am – Worship led by Pastor Billberg 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6 pm – Confirmation Meet & Greet w/Potluck	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 5 – 8 pm Visitation for Eleanor Thompson at Lind Funeral Home in Alexandria	<b>14</b> 11 am Funeral for Eleanor Thompson
<b>15 Seventeenth Sunday of Pentecost</b> 9 am – Sunday School 9:30 am – Birthday Fellowship 10 am – Worship w/ Holy Communion led by Pastor Kolden 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 6 pm –Confirmation	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22 Eighteenth Sunday of Pentecost</b> 9 am – Sunday School 10 am – Worship led by Jewel Townsend <b>11 am – Congregational Meeting</b> 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 6 pm –Confirmation	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29 Nineteenth Sunday of Pentecost</b> 9 am – Sunday School 10 am – Worship led by Pastor Rothman 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	<b>30</b> Newsletter articles Due to the church office	<b>October 1</b>	<b>October 2</b> 6 pm –Confirmation	<b>October 3</b> 6 pm – Council meeting		

*Join us for fellowship each week before and after worship. Come early and stay after to catch up with friends and meet new ones.  
Coffee, juice and treats provided.*

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**11019 625<sup>th</sup> Ave**  
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