



ESTHER LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

November 2024 Newsletter

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

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A SEASON OF THANKSGIVING

As we move into the crisp days of November and the season of Thanksgiving, we count our blessings for the many gifts God has given us. Our attitude of gratitude helps us recognize that even through times of struggle, we still have many things to be grateful for. We live in a region that ensures clean air, clean lakes, and safe water to drink. Not every place on earth can say the same. We live in a country where we have freedoms that others can only dream of. We have a faith community that raises up the next generations through many years of faithful examples of love for God and extending that same love to others.

We ended October remembering our baptisms together at Esther. A beautiful worship filled with songs from Esther Harmony and our Sunday School children. Stories were shared by the congregation of their own baptisms and early church memories. We re-affirmed our baptismal promises and lit our baptismal candles. Thank you to all who participated and brought mementos to share and their baptism name plaques to decorate the sanctuary. The end of October we also commemorate the Reformation and our Confirmation students are taking in a movie about Martin Luther and his life's work of reforming the church.

All Saints' Sunday we remember all those who have gone before us. In a part of our service we speak of communing with the saints eternal. I remember being told by a pastor to imagine that the altar rail continues and forms a whole circle and the other half has the saints communing with us. Something to ponder as we remember and experience feelings of both grief and gratitude for the lives of our loved ones who have gone before us.

Veterans Day is this month, and we take this time to thank those who have served our country to help ensure that the freedoms we enjoy are always in place. We have multiple people from our community of faith that have served or are serving in the military. We thank you for your service and sacrifice – we are proud of you and we are blessed and honored to have you with us, as we continue to journey together in faith. We end this month with a Thanksgiving Eve Service, together with Faith Lutheran and First Lutheran, for a joint worship service on Wednesday, November 27, 6:30 pm at First Lutheran in Parkers Prairie. The community is invited to come together and join in thanksgiving to God for our many blessings.

May you and your loved ones have the opportunity to gather, or connect in some way, to catch up, share in each other's lives, and together give thanks for all of the gifts that the Lord has blessed you with.

Peace,
Jewel

- 1 Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
- 2 Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.
- 3 Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
- 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.
- 5 For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Psalm 100



PASTORAL CARE – If you or someone you know would like a visit and for emergency pastoral care, please contact Jewel Townsend at 320-760-2503.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Kristy Fyhrie Georgia Hart Ralph Townsend
 Scott Hart Al Pederson Dick & Luella Thom
 Gary Borst – friend of the Andersons
 Barb Burns – sister of Jerry Anderson
 Judy Flemming – mother of Laurie Ratajesak
 Ivy McKane – friend of Hagens and Guenthers
 Jamison Pogose – nephew of Chuck Pogose
 Cindy Rachuy - sister of Dawn Kreidler
 Bob & Barb Nelson – sister and brother-in-law of Jim Arvidson
 Linda Sudbeck – friend of the Pedersons
 DeAnne Walz – Niece of Gloria Rosenquist
 Family and Friends of: Merl Farber, Barb Tvedt, Ernie Hart, Dan Orr, and Pixie Lorine.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Katherine Mittag 11/03
 John Skoglund 11/03
 Sharon Carlson 11/05
 Wyatt Arvidson 11/06
 Steve Dobratz 11/06
 Amy Stanley 11/06
 Tessa Arvidson 11/07
 Trent Hagen 11/09
 Bob Aldrich 11/10
 Hunter McQuiston 11/11
 Nolan Hart 11/19
 Ricky Hart 11/19
 Dan Klimek 11/20
 Pat Wambeke 11/20
 Lacey Carlson 11/21
 Allen Nordlund 11/21
 Ryan Hart 11/23
 Sabrina Aldrich 11/26
 Keegan Skoglund 11/27
 Autumn Dobratz 11/29

SERVING IN NOVEMBER

Pastor: Nov 3 – Dennis Preston, Nov 10 – Jewel Townsend, Nov 17- Jewel Townsend, Nov 24- Ken Bowman

Organists: Marcia Guenther, Brad Lambrecht

Altar Care: Bev Arvidson & Nancy Bunde

Usher: NEED VOLUNTEER

Acolyte: Wagner Family

Lay Reader: Karin Wagner

Communion Assistant: Luella Thom

Birthday Card Sender: Jewel Townsend

Tech Team: Mandy Arvidson, Nancy Bunde, Mike Lage, Jewel Townsend

Birthday Fellowship: Rick & Bev Arvidson, Larry & Sharon Carlson, Jeff & Deb Koep, Chad & Steph Stueve



2024 Proposed Budget	\$124,376.00
Contributions needed per month	\$10,364.67
Contributions needed per week	\$2,391.84
Actual contributions YTD as of 10/31/24	\$79,291.06
Budgeted contributions as of 10/31/24	\$103,646.67
YTD contributions shortfall	-\$24,355.61



Thank you for your sacrifices, for your valor, for the things you carry, for protecting us, and for defending our rights. Thank you to all our veterans for your courage and strength.



Join us Sunday,
November 24th
after worship to
put the tree up and
decorate the
church for the
Advent and

Christmas season. Many hands will make light
work!



TREETOP POTS

You are invited to join us Saturday, November 30th at 9
am at the home of Kathy Mittag to make "Treetop
Pots." We will also be making some for members in our
congregation. Please bring Christmas decorations to
help decorate the pots and a pot for yourself to make a
creation to take home, and if you have extra to spare to
make for another person. If you would like to include
fairy lights, be sure to bring a string as well. Join in on
this fun and creative time of fellowship!



Treats to Eat!

You are
invited to
a time of
baking fun
and
fellowship
on

Saturday, November 23 at 9 am, at church to stock up
the freezer with some homemade treats for our
fellowship time each week before and after worship.
Please bring a batch of dough already mixed and ready
to bake, or the ingredients for your item and mixers will
be available. Please choose cookies, bars, breads or
candies that do well with being frozen. We will bake,
cool and package to stock up for a couple months worth
of goodies for our fellowship time. Contact Lana Doll
for more info and to RSVP.



Church Council is looking for two members to take the
place of Scott Hart & Jewel Townsend. Please contact
any council member if interested or if you have any
questions. Council Members are Mike Lage, Jewel
Townsend, Becky Arvidson, Jim Arvidson, Dennis
Rosenquist, Rodney Peterson, Lana Doll, and Amy
Stanley. Next Council meeting is December 5 at 6 pm.



We are looking for people to read the weekly Advent
Candle Lighting reading in December. Please let
Mandy or Jewel know if you would like to participate.





Schedule November & December

Nov. 13 – Meal: Bode Wagner – Commandments 9&10

Nov. 20 – Mentor Potluck - Apostles Creed- Article One

Nov. 27 – OFF for Thanksgiving

Dec. 4 – Meal: Bri Skoglund - Apostles' Creed - Article Two

Dec. 11 – Meal: Jaxson Bosl - Apostles' Creed - Article Three

Dec. 18 – Christmas potluck and fun night

Dec. 25 – OFF for Christmas



Noisy November Thank Offering To Support the Backpack Program - the Parkers Prairie Schools send home food packages each week to help reduce student food insecurity over the weekend. The Council is lifting

up the Backpack Program this November. Each remaining Sunday of November we will collect a "Noisy November Thank Offering" to go to the program. Please prayerfully consider an offering to help support our local students.



We held our last meeting October 13 at 8:30 AM
We have \$ 7,554.26 in our savings/memorial fund and \$ 1,452.52 in the checking account.

We had a few ladies attend the Conference 8 Fall meeting at First Lutheran in Parkers Prairie October 8. The theme was Wellness: Mind, Body, and Soul. Great to have it so close to us. Thanks to First Lutheran in Parkers for hosting.

Please put on your calendar March 6 at Calvary Lutheran in Alexandria for the Spring Conference 8 meeting.

Donna Pederson is our Sunshine Committee, which will send cards to those that are sick or any other issues they may need a pick me up. Please let her know. We decided to send \$100 to the Parkers Prairie Food Shelf. Bev will take it along with the food donated to First Lutheran in Parkers Prairie.

Decided not to do a Women's Night Out in October as was in the thoughts. Decided to try to do something in May around Mother's Day. We will firm up in January. It was a shorter meeting as there was not much business to cover so we had time to catch up with one another, which was important as well.

Luella Thom



Caring Conversations in Christ

will meet Sunday, November 24 8:45-9:30 am in the meeting room by the offices. All are welcome to come and share about what God is up to in your life. Refreshments will be served.



First Lutheran Church in Parkers Prairie

Wednesday, November 27th at 6:30 pm

There will be a pie social afterwards if anyone would like to help provide pies



Lois Rosenquist's 100th Birthday Party

will be held Saturday, November 30th at Rose City Bar & Grill 12pm – 4 pm. Come and help celebrate this wonderful lady!



There is an oak tree in the triangle with a black X on it. If anyone would like to cut this down and take the

wood – please do. If you have any questions, contact Steve Dobratz.



Sunday School Christmas Program

will be held Sunday, December 8th during worship. Worship starts at 10 am and the program will start at 10:15. We would love for everyone to join us!



Anyone interested in purchasing gift cards from the Youth information will be in the Narthex



Youth Fundraiser
The Esther Youth are selling 2025 inspirational calendars. A sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex.



POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for anyone who would like to purchase Poinsettias for our Christmas at Esther. If you would like

to order a poinsettia in honor/memory of someone, please fill out the form in the narthex and attach your payment.

Make checks payable to Esther WELCA.

The prices are as follows:

Pixie \$ 6.99

Regular 6-8 blooms \$ 13.99

Large 8-12 blooms \$ 22.99

Extra Large 16-20 blooms \$ 39.99

Choice of colors: Red, Pink, or White. Orders need to be to Luella Thom by November 25



Luther Crest Bake Sale!

Back by popular demand, Luther Crest is again hosting its annual Christmas bake sale! Don't worry about how you're going to find time to make your family's favorite holiday treats. Let Luther Crest do the baking for you this holiday season! Our fabulously popular cookies, candies, and breads will certainly get your taste buds dancing and make your Christmas season much less hectic. Buy some treats for your family, or gift a few dozen to friends, family, or neighbors. Order forms are in the Narthex.

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

Visit our website at estherlutheran.com

Follow us on Facebook at 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 and clicking on the "Faith Formation Resources" tab to find many great resources waiting for you to explore, including our synod newsletter "Northern Lights".



Zion Lutheran Church

Browerville, MN

Sunday, November 24th 11:30am-1:30pm

Traditional Lutefisk with butter and cream sauce, Rommegrot, meatballs and gravy, lefse, fruit soup, mashed potatoes, gravy, squash, coleslaw, pie, milk, and coffee
(All You can Eat!)

Tickets: \$20.00

Children ages 1-12: \$.50/year

13-16: \$10.00

Call 320-733-2388 for more information

A Prayer for Thanksgiving

Loving God,
We turn our hearts to you on this day for giving thanks, mindful of your many gifts.
For each one, we are grateful.
For each one, we are blessed.
For each one we are opened to the abundance of your love.
May this Thanksgiving Day offer a reminder to be generous with others, as you are with us.
We praise you.
We rejoice in you.
We give you thanks.
Amen.

Sadlier



Join us for a time of fellowship each week before and after worship! Come early and/or stay after to catch up with friends and meet new ones. Coffee, juice and treats provided.

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 Twenty Fourth Sunday of Pentecost/All Saints Day 9 am – Sunday School 10 am – Worship with Holy Communion led by Pastor Preston 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	4	5	6 Confirmation 6 pm – Pizza & Movie Night	7 Council 6 pm	8	9
10 Twenty Fifth Sunday of Pentecost 8:30 am - WELCA 9 am – Sunday School 10 am – Worship led by Jewel 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	11	12	13 Confirmation 6 pm – Meal by Bode Wagner Family	14	15	16
17 Twenty Sixth Sunday of Pentecost 9 am – Sunday School 9:30 am – Birthday Fellowship/New Member welcome 10 am – Worship with Holy Communion led by Jewel 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	18	19	20 Confirmation 6 pm - Mentor & Student Potluck	21	22	23 Treats to Eat at church 9 am
24 Twenty Seventh Sunday of Pentecost 8:45-9:30 am – Caring Conversations in Christ 9 am – Sunday School 10 am – Worship led by Pastor Bowman 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	25	26	27 No confirmation Thanksgiving Eve Service – First Lutheran in PP 6:30 pm	28 Happy Thanksgiving!	29 Newsletter articles due to church office	30 Treetop Pot making-Kathy Mittag’s 9 am Lois’s birthday party – Rose City Bar & Grill 12 pm – 4 pm
Dec 1 Twenty Eighth Sunday of Pentecost 9 am – Sunday School 10 am – Worship with Holy Communion with Pastor Greg and Jewel’s installation 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	2	3	4 Confirmation 6 pm – Meal by Bri Skoglund Family	5 Council 6 pm	6	7
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