



ESTHER LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

March 2025 Newsletter

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

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BROKEN AND BELOVED

And just like that – here we are in Lent - a favorite time of the year at Esther! We start with Ash Wednesday Worship with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion, followed by five Wednesdays of soup and sandwich suppers with delicious food, and fellowship time that provides an opportunity to make new bonds and check in on each other. We end these sacred gatherings with our Holden Evening Prayer worship service – we love it and know it oh so well!

This year we will be journeying these forty days to the cross using a series called "Broken and Beloved". Each Wednesday as we gather to worship, our Confirmation students will be sharing stories of God's steadfast love for people from the bible: David, Naomi, Elijah, the Syrophoenician woman, Mary Magdalene, Peter, and Jesus. I invite you to consider following this Lenten devotional journey starting Ash Wednesday. Mandy will be sending out the daily devotions by email, there are paper copies available on the usher table, and I will be posting the devotions for each day on the private FB page "Esther Lutheran". If you would like to join in, search for the page and request to be in the group. This page is not our public Facebook page, but a closed page so people can share in a safe place, where we can lift up and encourage one another in faith.

As we go through these 40 days of lent, let us take time to dwell in the word of God revealed through the scriptures. Let us spend some time reflecting on our lives, our blessings, our callings. Let us give thanks to God who sent us Jesus, to take away our sin, and show

us God's love and how to share that same love with one another. It is difficult to ever completely comprehend what Jesus did for us on the cross. His death for our sins. His resurrection, for our eternal life.

Let us take time each of these 40 days to really enjoy some quiet time with God. I feel like we are always so busy and take for granted and push aside the one who loves us the most. Many times we tend to turn to God in our times of brokenness - when we sin, in our grief, in our desperation or fear, or when we wrestle with our own demons. Let us not wait for those moments. Through spiritual practices such as this devotional – or another devotional you may find more for you - we can learn to not just cling to God in our times of trial, but have daily hearts of gratitude and daily time with God. We can reflect on how God is calling us. Reflect on some what-ifs. What if - I took a breath and didn't try to force things to be the way that I want, but be still and listen for where the Holy Spirit is leading. What if - My calling right now is to mentor the next generation coming up, sharing my knowledge and stories to encourage others in their call and their faith. What if - I am being nudged to reach out to someone who may need to hear about Jesus.

I hope you will join us each day in the Lenten journey and take some special time each day with God, and to dwell in scripture and prayer with the one who loves you the most.

Peace,
Jewel

IN OUR PRAYERS

Kristy Fyhrie Georgia Hart
Scott Hart Al Peterson
Larry Sather Dick & Luella Thom
Ralph Townsend Shelly Hoppe
Jerry & Yvonne Anderson
Chris & Bruce Carter
Gary Borst – friend of the Hagens and Guenthers
Bob & Barb Nelson – sister and brother-in-law to Jim Arvidson
DeAnne Walz – niece of Gloria Rosenquist
Jackson Drum – friend of Esther members
Family and Friends of: Merl Farber, Barb Tvedt, Ernie Hart, Dan Orr, Cindy Rachuy, Larry Carlson, Barb Burns, Ben Hellerman, and Rita Wehking

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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



SERVING IN MARCH

Pastor: Mar 2 – Jewel Townsend, Mar 9 – Greg Billberg, Mar 16 – Jewel Townsend, Mar 23- Youth Service, Mar 30 – Ken Bowman
Organists: Marcia Guenther, Brad Lambrecht
Altar Care: Bev Arvidson
Usher: Rodney Peterson
Acolyte: Nora Stanley & Chase Stueve
Lay Reader: Kat McDaniel
Communion Assistant: Steph Stueve & Amy Stanley
Birthday Card Sender: Mandy Arvidson
Tech Team: Mike Lage, Jewel Townsend, Jaxson Bosl, Bode Wagner, Amy Stanley, Lana Doll, and Mandy Arvidson



2025 Proposed Budget	\$100,386.00
Contributions needed per month	\$8,365.50
Contributions needed per week	\$1,930.50



Fondue Party/Fundraiser!
Will be held at Esther Lutheran at 5 pm. Cost is \$25 per person. Please contact Luella Thom or Marcia Guenther for details.



It was voted on at the Annual Meeting to have Sunday Fellowship each week before and after worship in place of Birthday

Sunday. Sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex. Please sign up to make this a success. Duties include: Set up, make coffee, take out treats from the freezer, set out juice boxes, and clean up. You can also bring your own treats if you would like. Any questions, please contact Kat McDaniel.



We invite you to join us each week of Lent. Soup and Sandwich suppers will be at 6 pm and worship service at 7 pm. 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 the service. Christy Hart has volunteered to coordinate our Soup and Sandwich suppers and sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.



Schedule March & April

Mar 5 – Ash Wednesday Skit
Mar 12 – Lent – skit
Mar 19 – Lent – skit
Mar 26 – Lent – skit
April 2 – Lent – skit
April 9 – Lent – skit
April 17 – Maundy Thursday
April 18 – Good Friday (Youth Service)
April 20 – Easter Sunday
April 23 – Meal: Autumn Dobratz
April 27 – Lead Worship
April 30 – Meal: Laney Grinager
May 7 – End of year family, mentor, and student potluck

Wednesday, March 12: Naomi - Broken by Sin

6 pm: Soup & Sandwich supper

7 pm: Lenten Worship -

Wednesday, March 19: Elijah – Broken by Grief

6 pm: Soup & Sandwich supper

7 pm: Lenten Worship

Wednesday, March 26: The Syrophenician Woman – Broken by Des

peration

6 pm: Soup & Sandwich supper

7 pm: Lenten Worship

Wednesday, April 2: Mary Magdalene – Broken by Demons

6 pm: Soup & Sandwich supper

7 pm: Lenten Worship

Wednesday, April 9: Peter: Broken by Failure

6 pm: Soup & Sandwich supper

7 pm: Lenten Worship

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.



Sunday, April 13:

10 am – Palm Sunday Worship Service with Holy Communion

Thursday, April 17: Jesus

7 pm – Maundy Thursday worship service

Friday, April 18:

7 pm – Good Friday Worship Service led by the Youth

Sunday, April 20:

7 am – Easter Sunrise Service with Holy Communion

8 am – Breakfast served by the Youth

10 am – Easter Worship Service with Holy Communion



The Esther Lutheran Cemetery Board members are planning on purchasing spruce/pine trees to put in on the west side of the cemetery this spring. At this time they do not know what the price per tree will be, but thinking around \$300. They are looking at putting in around 20-30 trees. It was discussed at the annual meeting that if a person is interested in donating money to be put towards this project that donations can be made out to the Esther Lutheran Cemetery Fund



First Communion Class will be held on Sunday, March 30th and Sunday, April 6th at 8:45 am. All 5th graders and older that have not had the chance to take First Communion Class and would like to attend, please contact Karin Wagner or

Jewel Townsend. We do ask that parents attend each session with their child.



Our new Vanco online giving platform is now up and running! Scan the QR code, go online to estherlutheran.net, go to the tab “ways to support Esther Lutheran Church” and click on the link <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZP4R>, or download the app Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement. Any questions please ask Mandy Arvidson.

QR Code for
General Offering



Third Grade Bible Class will be held Sunday, March 16th at 8:45 am for all 3rd grade+ who have not yet received their Sparks Bible. Please contact Karin Wagner for more information and to sign up for class and/or to receive the Spark Bible Story or Spark Bible. They will also be presented during worship that day.



WELCA met Sunday, February 9th at 8:30 am. The last couple meetings we have had so many things to discuss and we have been running right up until worship time... and still not getting everything discussed. We had \$511.68 in our checking account and \$7,482.99 in our savings/memorial fund.

As a reminder: Donna Pederson is our Sunshine Committee. If someone is sick or needs some cheer let her know and she will send a card. She does a very good job spreading sunshine no matter where she goes.

We are going to donate and decorate our old coffee cups and use them for other gifts for Esther. It is a process of painting designs on the cups, baking them, and then ready to use. We have about 80 cups to decorate.

We made a bunch of stained glass windows last year just before Easter. It was decided to make a bunch more as we now have found smaller tape, and lots of ladies have paints sitting in their drawers they want to get rid of. We will be scheduling a painting party soon. We will let everyone know so you can come join in. Events like this we get things done, but we also get to know our fellow members.

Please sign up for treats on Sunday's.... we need everyone to help out. There are treats in the freezer if someone forgets or we need a few more. We will try to keep some in the freezer for future.

We are hosting another Women's Night Out. It will be May 14th at Herby's in Carlos at 6:00 pm. Please put this date on your calendar.

The Quilt Group is marching right along. We will be meeting again March 6th . Hope many of you can

join us. We will do a blessing of the quilts during worship on March 30th.

Spring meeting was held at Calvary Lutheran in Alexandria. Chris, Jewel, Donna, Margaret, Linda, and Luella attended the meeting. Great messages and learned about the West Central Community Action. If you are need of something, contact them. We had no idea how many services they offer to our community. They will be doing a workshop at our Annual Convention on September 20th as well.

Spoke of doing more events at Ice Cream Social such as lefse making or maybe hymn sing. We will finalize this in March. We need more things to draw a bigger crowd for a fund raiser for WELCA. We need funds to be able to bless our community, our youth, and other members as the need arises. Discussed doing a Country Store in November as November is when everyone is looking for Christmas gifts.

Looking into having a speaker here from Hospice on a Sunday after church along with a potluck. There are so many services Hospice now offers; it would be good for all of us to learn, relearn what they are.

We have 18 signed up for the Fondue Party fundraiser on Saturday, March 15th . Marcia and Luella have been working on the menu- shrimp, chicken, steak, to name a few. Desserts - with hot fudge and caramel for dipping to name a couple. Looking forward to seeing the gals who have signed up for this leisurely long meal!!

Have several new gals who agreed to be on our three circles, Ruth, Naomi and Martha this year. Question was: Is there instructions for serving a funeral. The funeral guidelines have been updated and will be in your directory. Each person will have all the information at hand if you are asked to work or chair the serving of a funeral. Typically, the gals on each of the circles are rotated every 5 years with 2025 is that year. Also in your directory is the new list of which circle you are in. Please review ... and keep list handy. If

something does not work for anyone, please let me know.

The WELCA served Larry Carlson's funeral in February. There were about 75 people in attendance for the lunch. Thanks to everyone who helped or brought cakes etc.

Next meeting is Sunday, March 9th at 8:30. If you have some ideas for the Ice Cream Social, please stop by. We need all the ideas we can generate to make this a bigger fund raiser for the WELCA.

It was decided we wanted to do something to bless the food shelf in Parkers Prairie. We have typically done toiletry gathering daily for a month. Luella was to contact the Food Shelf to see what they needed. They needed canned foods and a few other items so we will be doing that instead. There is a calendar included in the mailing. Please ... all families... we could use your help. There are a large number of families in need of our help right now. We will do a blessing on April 6th during worship.
Luella Thom, President

Items needed by the Parkers Prairie Food Shelf

DATE:		ITEM
MARCH	1	Package of Pasta
MARCH	2	Package of Pasta
MARCH	3	Package of Pasta
MARCH	4	Package of Pasta
MARCH	5	Spagetti sauce
MARCH	6	Spagetti sauce
MARCH	7	Spagetti sauce
MARCH	8	Spagetti sauce
MARCH	9	Peaches
MARCH	10	Peaches
MARCH	11	Peaches
MARCH	12	Pears
MARCH	13	Pears
MARCH	14	Pears
MARCH	15	Mandarin Oranges
MARCH	16	Mandarin Oranges
MARCH	17	Mandarin Oranges
MARCH	18	Green beans
MARCH	19	Green beans
MARCH	20	Green beans
MARCH	21	Green beans
MARCH	22	Corn
MARCH	23	Corn
MARCH	24	Corn
MARCH	25	Ketchup
MARCH	26	Ketchup
MARCH	27	Tuna
MARCH	28	Tuna
MARCH	29	Tuna
MARCH	30	Peas
MARCH	31	Peas

**CASH
ALSO
ACCEPTED
TO
PURCHASE
THESE
ITEMS!!!**



Lutheran Disaster Response is the ELCA's ministry to provide short- and long-term recovery when disasters strike in the United States and around the world. You can find out more by going to www.elca.org and typing "Lutheran Disaster Response" in the search box or following this link: <https://www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response/frequently-asked-questions>

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".



March 2025 “Knowing Christ-Making Christ Known through Faith, Hope and Love”

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 Transfiguration of Our Lord 9 am – Sunday School 10 am – Worship with Holy Communion led by Jewel 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	3	4	5 7 pm - Ash Wednesday Service	6 9 am – Quilting- Bring a sack lunch	7	8
9 First Sunday of Lent <u>*Daylight Savings*</u> 8:30 am - WELCA 9 am – Sunday School 10 am – Worship led Greg Billberg 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	10	11	12 6 pm - Soup & Sandwich supper 7 pm: Lenten Worship	13	14	15 Fondue/Fundraiser Party – 5 pm at Esther
16 Second Sunday of Lent 8:45 – Third Grade Bible Class 9 am – Sunday School 10 am – Worship with Holy Communion led by Jewel Townsend- Presentation of Bibles 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	17	18	19 6 pm - Soup & Sandwich supper 7 pm: Lenten Worship	20	21	22
23 Third Sunday of Lent 9 am – Sunday School 10 am – Worship led by the Youth 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	24	25	26 6 pm - Soup & Sandwich supper 7 pm: Lenten Worship	27	28	29
30 Fourth Sunday of Lent 8:45 am – First Communion Class 9 am – Sunday School 10 am – Worship with Holy Communion led by Ken Bowman – Blessing of the Quilts during worship 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	31	1	2 6 pm - Soup & Sandwich supper 7 pm: Lenten Worship	3	4	5
<i>Join us for Sunday 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.</i>						

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