



## ESTHER LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

### June 2025 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)

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### It Takes a Village

We begin June with our Senior Recognition Sunday, recognizing four amazing young people from Esther and the accomplishment of high school graduation. We also celebrate our young adults who have graduated from college this spring, too. We are proud of you all and celebrate each of you on this milestone. Blessings to all of our graduates!

What feels like an ending is also a beginning. And this "village" of Esther has had a hand in shaping these young people for future success and service in our world. These students will go on to further their education and join the workforce, and start a new chapter in their life's journey. But friends, we are not done raising these young people. We are never really done. We raise them up to spread their wings and fly, but know that they are always a part of this faith community, no matter where they go. That is the great thing about the world we live in today - due to technology we are easily connected to one another. And we pray that these young people will eventually make their way back to Esther in one way or another, but we also encourage them to take the opportunity to join in the faith communities wherever they are. We pray that the seeds that have been planted, will be nurtured and will grow and bloom no matter where these young people are in the world. And that's where we continue as their village. Continue to connect. Continue to encourage. Continue to walk in faith together, though we may not be physically together.

Our paths are connected and will continue to meet up throughout our lives. We walk together on our faith journeys. We learn from one another's life stories. We lift one another up when we stumble and fall. We walk hand in hand. Sometimes we carry one another. God loves us, and in turn we love one another. Just as Jesus said in one of our recent gospel lessons, John 13:34-35 "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

This month we have another opportunity to show that love to our community children through Vacation Bible School. Esther's VBS, "Camp Chaos - Jesus is Our Path To Peace", will be held June 22-25, each evening starting with supper at 5:30 pm and ending with closing worship at 7:45 pm and send off at 8 pm. We welcome all kids, Pre-K through those entering 6th grade as "Campers". We encourage our 7th-9th graders to join in the fun as "Junior Counselors", assisting with lessons, activities and crafts. And we invite 10th grade - adults as "Camp Counselors", to join in by volunteering to help: in the kitchen - set up and clean up, preparing and serving meals; crafts - prepping, leading and assisting the Campers; worship - performing skits, leading music, running the technology; activities - setting up, building the "Bible Verse Challenge Path", leading main activities and filler activities; lessons - helping read stories and lead the discussion and activities that go with them. Sign-up sheets for volunteer opportunities, and food/supplies needed will be on the narthex table. We will be meeting Tuesdays June 3, June 10 and June 17 at 5:30 pm, to plan, prep and build what is needed for an awesome VBS experience for all involved.

We also invite the community to a Cookout and Worship on the final evening, Wednesday, June 25, at 5:30 pm. We will be grilling, so bring a dish to share and join in the fellowship and fun. A joyous worship will start at 6:30 pm, and afterwards the kids will show you what they have been up to at VBS this year. We pray the "village" will be there to share a meal, join in worship, and support these great kids and volunteers!

Peace, Jewel

### IN OUR PRAYERS

Kristy Fyhrie                      Scott Hart  
Dick & Luella Thom              Al & Donna Pederson  
Chris & Bruce Carter              Larry Sather  
Mike Heiser                      Colleen Burquest  
Jerry & Yvonne Anderson  
Doug Tvedt – Brother of Joan Burquest  
Rev. Bruce Miller – Father of Karin Wagner  
Megan Sheen – Niece of Linda Arvidson  
Jerry Pogose – Father of Chuck Pogose  
Marsha Clow – Sister of Linda Arvidson  
Gary Borst – Friend of the Andersons  
Ivy McKane – Friend of the Hagens and Guenthers  
Jackson Drum – Friend of Esther Members  
Shirley Nesges – Friend of the Thoms  
Ron Myren – Friend of Esther Members  
Carolyn Stockert – Friend of the Thoms  
Bev Guse-Ohlrech – friend of the Pedersons  
Joyce Muyres – friend of the Thoms  
Family and Friends of: Cindy Rachuy, Larry Carlson,  
Barb Burns, Ben Hellerman, Rita Wehking, John Haffner,  
Ralph Townsend, and Juanita Hughes

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### SERVING IN JUNE

**Pastor:** 1 – Brady Arvidson, 8- SAM Jewel Townsend,  
15- Pastor Dennis Preston, 22 – Pastor Greg Billberg,  
29- SAM Jewel Townsend  
**Organists:** Marcia Guenther, Brad Lambrecht  
**Altar Care:** Bev Arvidson  
**Usher:** **NEED VOLUNTEER**  
**Acolyte:** **NEED VOLUNTEER**  
**Lay Reader:** Terri Grinager  
**Communion Assistant:** **NEED VOLUNTEER**  
**Birthday Card Sender:** Nancy Bunde  
**Tech Team:** Nancy Bunde, Mike Lage, Jewel Townsend,  
Amy Stanley, Lana Doll, Mandy Arvidson

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<b>2025 Proposed Budget:</b>	<b>\$100,386.00</b>
<b>Budgeted contributions</b>	
<b>YTD as of 4/30/25:</b>	<b>\$33,462.00</b>
<b>Actual Contributions</b>	
<b>YTD as of 4/30/25:</b>	<b>\$32,063.82</b>
<b>Difference YTD as of 4/30/25:</b>	<b>\$-1,398.18</b>

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### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Jack Olson	06/01
Allen Pederson	06/01
Darwin Hart	06/02
Amber Johnson	06/02
Amber Ness	06/02
Kilen Klimek	06/03
Adam Grabow	06/04
Rebecca Orth	06/06
Kayla Thoennes	06/08
Rachel Denny	06/09
Aria Nordlund	06/13
Kirsten Hart	06/14
Devin Steele	06/15
Michelle Moyle	06/16
Ann Skoglund	06/16
Craig Gardner	06/19
Lane Hagen	06/21
Dominic Hart	06/23
Scott Hart	06/23
McKinnely Bosl	06/24
Tara Skoglund	06/24
Laney Steidl	06/24
Emerlee Skoglund	06/27
Robert Stanley	06/28
Haile Lenzen	06/29
Bode Wagner	06/30

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**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

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VBS Planning Team  
will meet June 10<sup>th</sup> &  
and 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.  
Anyone is invited to  
attend!



Choir will practice  
June 4, 11, and  
18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.  
All are welcome!



VBS at Esther will be held June 22-25<sup>th</sup> starting each evening with supper at 5:30 pm with lessons, music, crafts, and worship from 6-8 pm. For more information contact the church office at [secretary@estherlutheran.net](mailto:secretary@estherlutheran.net). Be sure to invite friends, grandkids, cousins, and neighbors to join in the fun! There will be a sign-up sheet in the



Join us for Worship By The Water on Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at 10 am at Rodney Peterson's home with a potluck to follow.

Rodney's address is 13335 Co Rd 42  
Parkers Prairie, MN 56361.



Church  
services will  
stay at 10 am  
this summer.



The Esther Lutheran Cemetery Board members are planning on purchasing spruce/pine trees to put in on the west side of the cemetery this fall. 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.







WELCA met on May 4th at 8:30. This was one week earlier than normal because of schedule conflicts. We have \$7,443.14 in our saving/memorial fund and \$1,881.30 in our checking account. Synod Convention is going to be September 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> at First Lutheran in Alexandria. Plans are well underway for it. We do need a voting representative yet. We donate silent auction baskets to the convention. Last year we did one each for themes: Coffee and Lake. They went over so well, the group decided to do that theme again for this year. If you have an item that will fit into either of these themes to put into a basket, please bring it. Typically, our Esther baskets bring some of the most monies for the auction. Let's try to do it again. The monies made from these baskets is divided up to the women elected to represent our synod at the Triennial Gathering. Next year, it will be in Des Moines, Iowa. With it being close, many of us can attend. We had our Women's Night out at Herby's May 14th. There seemed many conflicts as we had 13 ladies. We had a great time. Played a get to know you session while there. One of the questions asked: Who at Esther would you like to get to know better? Top two names were Justin Schlosser & Dean Thoennes. We had a great time!! Hope more are able to make it the next time!!! Great way to get to know one another. Marcia and Andrea were talking... they are related!! Bev Arvidson dropped off the quilts for Lutheran World Relief at Hensley in Osakis. From a pamphlet they had, we learned others have used blankets, hotel blankets, and mattress pads for batting or filler in the quilts. Asking all members of Esther Congregation, if you are discarding any blankets or mattress pads, could you please pass on to the Quilters Group. Graduation Recognition is this Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. We ask graduates to bring some of their accomplishments to share with the Esther Congregation. We have Anya Wagner, Grayson Tim, Orran Hart & Evan Lenzen. A cake & punch reception will be held before church with a presentation of their blankets during the worship service. Please come show your support for our graduates. The Ice Cream Social is coming up very quickly. It is July 27th. We need to get started advertising. We will be

having lefse and krumkake for sale and possibly demonstrations on how to make it. Hours for the Ice Cream Social and Country Store will be right after church 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Please keep this date on your calendar.

-Martha Circle will make ice cream

-Ruth Circle will serve

-Naomi Circle will advertise

We have a few smaller tie blankets that need to be done to sell for the Country Store if anyone has some time to work on them.... PLEASE!!

We made hearts that were made and stuffed with candy. These were given to the residents of St Williams Nursing Home on May Day. There are 64 residents there.

As many of you have heard, Karin has some family she needs to devote her time to during the Vacation Bible School time. We are putting a call out to our circles to please help with the making/serving of the food this year. The Martha Circle will do on Sunday, Ruth Circle will do Monday, and Naomi will do Tuesday. Wednesday night, we are asking our men and young men to grill on the last evening. We are researching food that is already there to determine what is needed. A signup list will be coming out shortly for the items needed. To date we have 22 kids attending with some checking their schedules as of now. The theme this year is "Camp Chaos". If you have grandkids, friends, neighbors etc. that might be interested in Bible School, please invite.

Luella Thom, President



## VETERANS & THOSE WHO SERVED IN A BRANCH OF THE SERVICE

Gloria Rosenquist and Lana Doll have put together these remembrances for all of you. These are made from flags that are worn and slated to be burnt. There is a basket in the Narthex. Help yourself or any of the rest of Esther congregation can take to give to a veteran or service member.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!**

We made hearts that were made and stuffed with candy. These were given to the residents of St Williams Nursing Home on May Day. There are 64 residents there.



### Esther Lutheran's Cemetery

Flowers were put on all the graves Sunday, May 18th after church. There were several people working to get flowers on every grave in the cemetery. Dennis Rosenquist supplied pizza for all those who helped. The cemetery is beautiful with all the flowers. We have been reusing many flowers as long as we can from donations from you the congregation. Since starting this about 6 years ago, we are having to throw a number of them away each year. We are hoping if you see a good deal on flowers, you would purchase and donate to the Cemetery Flower Fund. If you have put flowers on your family's grave and it is still on when the flowers need to be removed in June; we will take them off and add to the flowers we have for the graves. Many of you have asked what product has been used on the cemetery stones to clean them. The picture above is one of the stones that has changed significantly. This is 3 years of the product Wet & Forget It doing its magic. No scrubbing, just spray it on and let the product work. As you look around the cemetery, there are very few that still have black and green moss on them. We have tried to put a coat of this product on the stones that need it each year to get them cleaned. This product works with the rain, snow or wind removing the residue from the stones. Typically, putting a coat on in the fall so the winters weather help remove a great deal of the buildup. (you can purchase this product from home use at Menards, Ace Hardware, and Wal-Mart)

Thank You,  
Everyone!

Our new Vanco online giving platform is now up and running! This is a



great way to set up a scheduled giving plan for even when you cannot make it to church. Scan the

QR code, go online to [estherlutheran.com](https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZP4R), 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.



**Congratulations to our high school graduates Anya Wagner, Grayson Timm, Orran Hart and Evan Lenzen!**



*Welcome*  
New Members

If you know of anyone who would like to become a new member here at Esther Lutheran Church, whether they are new to the area, exploring their faith, or simply looking for a supportive community, we would be thrilled to have you! We believe everyone has a unique and valuable place in God's family and we welcome all to share in the community of faith here at Esther. Please feel free to contact Mandy in the church office at 218-338-2171 or [secretary@estherlutheran.net](mailto:secretary@estherlutheran.net) or Jewel Townsend at 320-760-2503 or [jewellht17@gmail.com](mailto:jewellht17@gmail.com)

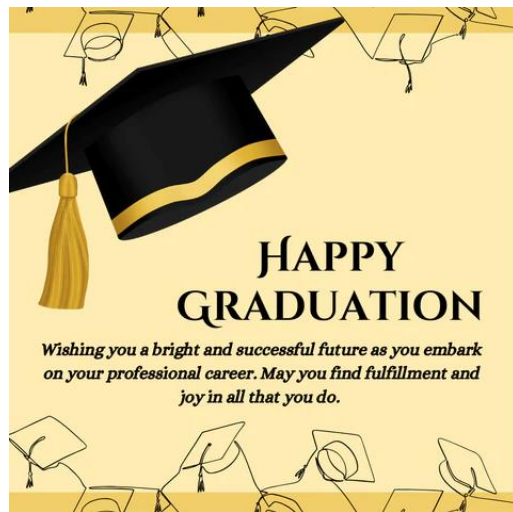


We are looking for hospitable people to serve Sunday Fellowship each week. Responsibilities will be set up, make coffee, set out treats (full supply in the freezer or you can bring your own), set out juice boxes, serve/greet people, and clean up. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. If you have questions, please contact Fellowship Coordinator, Kat McDaniel.

**Upcoming Event: Book Study at Faith Lutheran Miltona** - The book being read and discussed is "*The Gospel According to Peanuts*" written by Robert Short. Meetings will be on Tuesdays June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm. If you would like to sign up for the book please contact [faithlutheransecretary310@gmail.com](mailto:faithlutheransecretary310@gmail.com).

*Congratulations!*





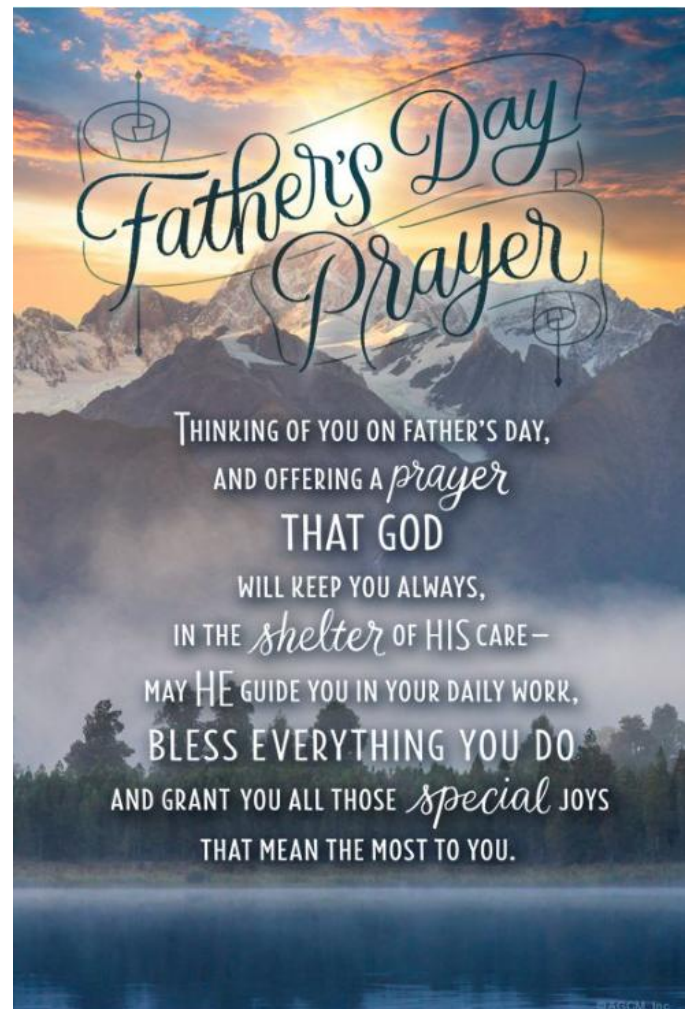
**Congratulations to our college graduates!**



**Kieda M. Wagner** graduated on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 from the University of Minnesota Morris with a Bachelor's Degree in English with a Creative Writing Emphasis and a minor in Theatre.



**Megan Townsend** graduated from Wartburg College on May 24, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion.



If you would like to be on 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"



## AREA HAPPENINGS:



**SUMMER  
FEST  
& AUCTION**

**JULY 26 2025**

**Join us for Luther Crest's  
80th Anniversary  
Summer Fest and Auction!**

**FEATURES:**

- Exciting live auction at the camp waterfront at 1pm. All proceeds go toward camper scholarships!
- Online auction and day-of viewing.
- Camp fun like zip lining, tours, arts and crafts, and beach time at our staffed waterfront.
- Camp meal in the dining hall served 11:00-12:45pm.

SCAN ME



**11:00am-4:00pm**

Or visit  
<https://luthercrest.org>



**JUNE 22-27, 2025**

**WOMEN'S WEEK**

**AT LUTHER CREST**

**COME FOR THE WEEK OR JUST A DAY!**

Explore your faith, go for a swim, take a hike, enjoy meals prepared for you (and cleaned up by camp staff), and simply be a camper again! Childcare options available.

**REGISTER BEFORE FEB. 14TH FOR  
EARLY BIRD SAVINGS.**



**REGISTER NOW**

**MORE INFORMATION**  
<https://luthercrest.org/womens-week/>

SCAN ME



Faith Lutheran of Miltna and  
Esther Lutheran of Rural Parkers Prairie  
invite you to their



**“Pork Chop Dinner”**

Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
4:30 pm to 7:30 pm

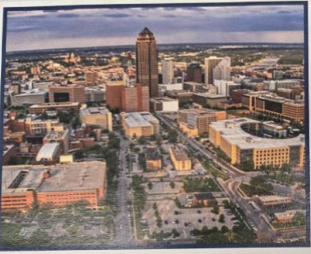
**Faith Lutheran Church**  
5500 County Road 14 NE  
Miltona, MN 53654

Adults: \$14.00  
Children: 5 - 10 \$7.00  
Children Under 5: Free

Hot dogs are available for the kids upon request


Community Fellowship Sponsored by:  
Faith Lutheran of Miltna and Esther Lutheran of Parkers Prairie


**UP COMING EVENTS**




The 2026 Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering will be held in Des Moines, Iowa, July 16-19, 2026. Advanced discounted registration for this event is available online at: <https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/index.php?eventid=763420&>

**37th Annual NW MN SWO Convention**  
**September 19-20, 2025**  
**First Lutheran Church**  
1655 18th Avenue E South McKay  
Alexandria, MN





**Luther Crest**




**Golf Scramble**

**Monday August 4th, 2025**

**Golf to support the camp you love!**

Register today for Luther Crest's 24th annual Golf Scramble at the Lake Miltona Golf Club. Use this link (<https://forms.gle/XFK5k6qS8sDg4bteA>) or scan the QR code to register.

SCAN ME





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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1 <u>Seventh Sunday of Easter</u></b> 9 am – Senior Recognition 10 am – Worship led by Brady Arvidson 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	2	<b>3</b> <u>VBS Planning Team</u> 5:30 pm	<b>4</b> <u>Choir Practice</u> 6 pm	5	6	7
<b>8 <u>Day of Pentecost</u></b> 10 am – Worship with Holy Communion led by SAM Jewel Townsend 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	<b>9</b> <u>Worship Committee</u> 6 pm	<b>10</b> <u>VBS Planning Team</u> 5:30 pm	<b>11</b> <u>Council</u> 6 pm <u>Choir Practice</u> 6 pm	12	13	14
<b>15 <u>First Sunday after Pentecost</u></b> 10 am – Worship led by SAM Jewel Townsend 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	16	<b>17</b> <u>VBS Planning Team</u> 5:30 pm	<b>18</b> <u>Choir Practice</u> 6 pm	19	20	21
<b>22 <u>Second Sunday after Pentecost</u></b> 10 am – Worship with Holy Communion led by Pastor Dennis Preston 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s <b>VBS Camp Chaos! 5:30 pm – 8 pm</b>	<b>23</b> <b>VBS- Camp Chaos!</b> <b>5:30 pm – 8 pm</b>	<b>24</b> <b>VBS Camp Chaos!</b> <b>5:30 pm – 8 pm</b>	<b>25</b> <b>VBS Camp Chaos!</b> <b>5:30 pm – 8 pm</b>	26	27	<b>28</b> <b>*Newsletter articles due to church office</b>
<b>29 <u>Third Sunday after Pentecost</u></b> 10 am – Worship with Holy Communion led by SAM Jewel Townsend - First Communion for Morgan & Mila Lenarz 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	30	1	2	3	<b>4</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup> of July</b>	5

*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.*

**Esther Lutheran Church**  
**11019 625<sup>th</sup> Ave**  
**Parkers Prairie, MN 56361**