



ESTHER LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

October 2025 Newsletter

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

11019 625th Ave – Parkers Prairie, MN 56361

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/estherlutheran

FAITHFUL FALL

I always love this time of year as the trees are changing colors and the pumpkins become bright orange. We see lots of beauty in the scenery, but also in each other. This time of year shines bright with neighbors sharing with neighbors as we exchange our harvest plenty with each other. We've seen a variety of crops like plums, apples, tomatoes, and preserves shared in the narthex these past many weeks. Sharing our plenty to care for our neighbor.

I had the pleasure of going to the WELCA Annual Convention in September and had a lovely time getting to know other women throughout the synod. I was warmly welcomed as I sat down to dinner Friday night with a table of women I had never met. Throughout our meal we shared who we were and where we were from, as well as some other great questions like where we fell in our family birth order and how that has impacted our lives, what was our favorite class in school, and if we had played (or do still play) an instrument. These questions, posed as conversation starters, opened us up to more than we bargained for when bits of our faith stories poured out. Stories shared through just these few brief questions was impactful in encouraging one another in life and faith.

Our first All People Sunday School will be on October 5 at 9 am. Lois Rosenquist will share her stories of her Sunday School days which will surely overflow into some faith filled conversations. This is one of those great opportunities to join in a time of sharing memories and lifting each other up in faith. Sharing is impactful. Our time, our stories, our resources, our talents. Sharing is part of our life of stewardship - being entrusted to care for the many gifts God has granted us. Stewardship is not a committee nobody wants to be on, but a lifestyle of "what I do after I say "I believe" (Clarence C. Stoughton, former President of Wittenberg University). Sharing our worldly wealth is one way of caring for others, but so is sharing our time, our knowledge and skills, or our story to encourage one another in life and faith.

Our last few weeks of gospel scripture has focused on stewardship. While our society seems to teach us to look out for ourselves and grab all we can while we can, the Bible reminds us to be good stewards of all that we have been entrusted with. We were reminded of this with the story of the dishonest manager (Luke 16:1-13) and the story of the rich man and poor Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31). As we look at our lives of stewardship, how do we use our time - serving God or serving something else? Does our lifestyle reflect our call to stewardship? What shines through as our priorities? How do we care for and share all that we have been entrusted with?

We will be celebrating the Affirmation of Baptism for two of our young people on the last Sunday of this month. Let's take a look at what was promised at their (and our own) baptisms by parents, sponsors and the congregation:

*As you bring your children to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:
to live with them among God's faithful people,
bring them to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in their hands the holy scriptures,*

*and nurture them in faith and prayer,
so that your children may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace. (ELW Holy Baptism)*

Here is what these young people will promise on their Confirmation Day (as we did on our Confirmation Day):
Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

*to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth? (ELW Affirmation of Baptism)*

Our next month of scriptures find us in stories of faith. Our God is faithful to us and we have faith in God to provide and protect us. Faith is the human response of total trust and belief in God and His promises that we receive through baptism.

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world. (ELW Holy Baptism).

Our synod has received a grant from Wartburg Theological Seminary for a faith building opportunity for our congregations. If you would like to find out more about the "Behold, the New Has Come" project, and what this five year program of living out our baptismal promises in our everyday lives entails, and how you may be a part of it, please contact me.

May we continue to share our faith stories to encourage one another. May we continue to learn and grow in our own faith in God, who has always been and will forever be faithful to us.

Peace,
Jewel



IN OUR PRAYERS

Jerry Anderson	Colleen Burquest
Scott Hart	Chris & Bruce Carter Kristy
Fyhrie	Al & Donna Pederson
Larry Sather	Dick & Luella Thom
Joan Burquest	Cindy Thiele
Grayson Timm	
Rev. Bruce Miller- father of Karin Wagner	
Dale Flemming – father of Laurie Ratajesak	
Megan Sheen – niece of Linda Arvidson	
Doug Tvedt – brother of Joan Burquest	
Jerry Pogose – father of Chuck Pogose	

Gary Borst – friend of the Andersons
Shirley Nesges – friend of the Thoms
Carolyn Stockert – friend of the Thoms
Joyce Muyres – friend of the Thoms
Bev Guse-Ohlrech – friend of the Pedersons
Reilly McCormick – friend of Esther congregation
Leila Preston – wife of Pastor Dennis Preston
Marg Peterson – friend of the Thoms
Christopher Noll – friend of the Thoms
Cadence Smith – friend of Mandy Arvidson
Family and Friends of: Larry Carlson, Barb Burns, Juanita Hughes, Kathy Hoppe, and Mike Heiser

SERVING IN OCTOBER

Pastor: Oct 5- SAM Jewel Townsend, Oct 12- Pr. Preston, Oct 19 – Pr. Billberg, Oct 26 – SAM Jewel Townsend

Organists: Marcia Guenther, Brad Lambrecht

Altar Care: Chris Carter

Usher: Dave & Elliott Arvidson

Acolyte: Emma & Elliott Arvidson

Lay Reader: Chris Carter

Communion Assistant: Steph Stueve & Amy Stanley

Birthday Card Sender: Linda Arvidson

Tech Team: Mandy Arvidson & Mike Lage



2025 Proposed Budget	\$100,386.00
Budgeted contributions YTD	
As of 8/31/25:	\$66,924.00
Actual contributions YTD	
As of 8/31/25:	\$50,249.28
Difference YTD as of 8/31/25:	\$-16,674.72



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.



We will be honoring our Confirmation students Autumn Dobratz and Laney Grinager on Sunday, October 26th with a Cake Reception at 9:30 am.

SCHEDULE OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

October 1: Meal: Jaxson Bosl-Lord's Prayer Fifth and Sixth Petitions

October 8: Meal: Presley Bosl-Lord's Prayer Seventh Petition and Conclusion

October 15: Off for MEA

October 22: Meal: Reid Gardner – Spiritual Practices

October 29 : Pizza & Movie Night

November 5: Meal: Mya Holmquist-Sacrament of Holy Baptism Session One

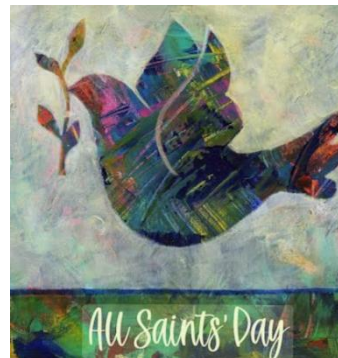
November 12: Meal: Cora Schlosser- Sacrament of Holy Baptism Session Two

November 19: Mentor and Student Potluck with Class – Sacrament of the Holy Communion Session One

November 26: OFF for Thanksgiving

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

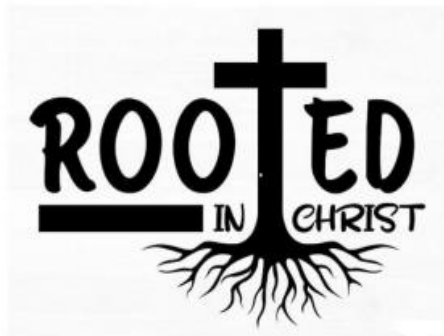
Joan Burquest	10/03
Chase Stueve	10/04
Dexter Pomeranz	10/07
Seth Sansness	10/07
Elora Wagner	10/07
Jakki Wehking	10/07
Hunter McDaniel	10/11
Jewel Townsend	10/11
Brolin McPhail	10/12
Cade Klimek	10/13
Megan Higgs	10/15
Veronica Arvidson	10/18
Yvonne Anderson	10/19
Nancy Hendershot	10/19
Bennett Krueger	10/19
Maverick Bosl	10/21
Chris Carter	10/23
Marilyn Chow	10/24
Karin Wagner	10/25
Susan Hart	10/27
Sheila Heiser	10/28
Terri Grinager	10/31



All Saints Sunday will be on November 2nd. You are invited to share the names of friends or family who have passed away in the last year. Please send their date of birth and date of passing to the church office by October 31st.



We are excited to launch a new way to build fellowship here at Esther!
Sign your household up to enjoy a time of connection and conversation. A hostess will be assigned to coordinate the get-together – whether it's a potluck, brunch, or afternoon coffee. You will be assigned a new group twice a year. Sign-up by October 15th in the Narthex. Any questions, please contact Gloria Rosenquist at 218-943-1042.



The Esther Lutheran Youth Group leaders invite all Esther Lutheran Youth Group to join them for "Rooted in Christ" Bible Study this fall! Come ready to grow deeper in friendship and God's word. There is always a seat for you at his table!

Who: Esther Lutheran Youth

When: Third Sunday of each month - 10/19, 11/30, and 12/21 (may change depending on holidays/activities).

Time: 9:00-9:45 am

Where: Esther Lutheran Youth Room

What to Bring: Your Bible (if you have one) and an open heart

Any questions please contact
Anna Hagen at 320-766-6371



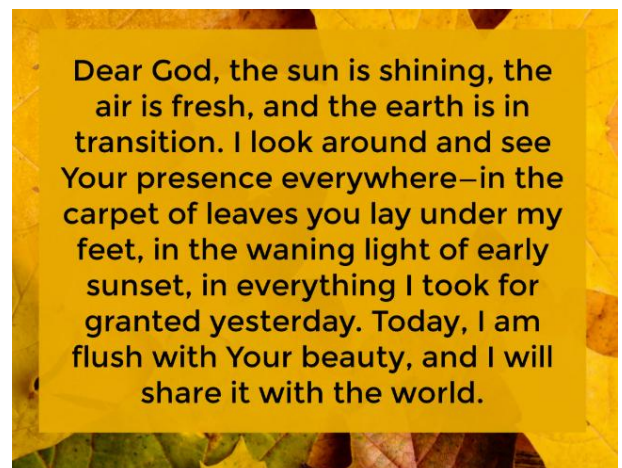
We are looking for hospitable people to serve Sunday Fellowship each week. Responsibilities will be set up, make coffee,

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.



The Esther Lutheran Cemetery Board members will be planting trees again in the cemetery next spring. If you would like to help purchase trees, please make your donation to Esther Lutheran Cemetery

Fund. You can also go to estherlutheran.com and click on the "Give to Esther Lutheran Church" tab and click on the Vanco Link or scan the QR code below.





Esther WELCA met Sunday, September 14th at 8:30 am. We reviewed our minutes and thoughts from the last meeting with regards to pots, soup dinner, and Country Store, or Christmas Market.

We have \$7,503.41 in our savings/memorial fund. There is \$1,941.62 in our checking account.

With the amount of money we donate to other charities and our youth, we feel we need to raise more funds to help increase our checking account. We discussed having a Country Store or Christmas Market Dec 7th if anyone has anything they would like to donate or we would like baked goods as well. As mentioned in another article, we nominated Marcia for the Mary Magdalene Award this year for the Annual Convention. Thanks, Marcia, for all you do for Esther. Nancy, Donna, Jewel, Anna, Marcia, and Luella attended all or parts of the convention this year. The Fall Conference 8 at Messiah Lutheran in Hoffman is coming up October 11th. As of now, Luella is the only one attending. With any luck, this meeting will be the last one I do as the Conference Recorder. I have served 2 – two-year terms so time to pass the torch to someone else.

Chris made up Prayer Jars and we took some of these to each of the nurse's stations at St. Williams Living Center.

November 1st at Kathy Mittag's is the day we will be making Christmas pots. Please bring pots, red twigs, and decorations you might want to get rid of to use.

Luella is hosting an Esther Women's Get-Together at her home on Monday, October 6th at 6:00 pm. We always run out of time to talk at our WELCA meetings so another evening will afford us time to relax and discuss our WELCA events. Please bring an appetizer.

Our next meeting will be October 12th at 8:30 am.

Luella Thom, President

OCTOBER *Upcoming Events*
NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

19th Annual Take A Stand Against Domestic Violence

Tuesday, October 14, 2025
5:00 P.M. at Zion Lutheran Church in Alexandria
Speaker: Josh & Niki Sakry, Parents of Ariel, Victim of Domestic Violence Homicide in 2022

25th Annual Domestic Abuse Awareness Luncheon

Wednesday, October 15, 2025
11:30 – 1:00 P.M.
Broadway Ballroom
Speaker: Rhonda Martinson, J.D.
"Responding to Domestic Violence: How Even Seemingly Small Things Can Help"

Tickets: \$25 (individual) or \$200 (table of 8)

Questions?
Email: peaceinalexandria@gmail.com

19th Annual Take a Stand Against Domestic Violence

will be held Tuesday, October 14th at 5 pm at Zion Lutheran Church in Alexandria, MN. Speakers: Josh & Niki Sakry, parents of Ariel, victim of domestic violence homicide in 2022.

25th Annual Domestic Violence Luncheon:
"Responding to Domestic Violence: How Even Seemingly Small Things Can Help" will be held on Wednesday, October 15th from 11:30 am-1 pm at the Broadway Ballroom (please note this is a change of venue from previous years). The speaker this year will be Rhonda Martinson, J.D. WELCA is hosting a table at this event. Each ticket is \$25.00, which includes the program and lunch. There is room for 8 at the table Esther will be hosting. Please let Luella Thom know if you can attend. Please make checks to Esther WELCA.

Any other questions please contact
peaceinalexandria@gmail.com

WELCA Convention Update

The Annual WELCA Convention was held September 19 & 20 at First Lutheran in Alexandria, MN. We tried to stress, *AS SOON AS A WOMAN WALKS THROUGH THE CHURCH DOORS, SHE IS A WOMAN OF THE ELCA!*

This year Donna, Nancy, Jewel, Anna, Marcia, and Luella attended this event. We had a similar attendance as the last few years - 107. We had 33 voting members on Friday with another 33 non-voting members that attended Friday. The business meeting was held Friday afternoon. I was re-elected as Vice President for the next 2 years. We had a great dinner that evening catered by the Pioneer Grill of Alexandria. We also had entertainment after dinner. Saturday was Bible Study with Pastor Megan from First Lutheran. Our guest speaker was Jennifer Hockenbery, who is the Interim Executive Director of Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We had breakout sessions in the afternoon with Teen and Adult Challenge, West Central Community Action, and Churches United. They were all very interesting as we learned how they serve those of us in need.

The WELCA honors those that are nominated from the 220 congregations in our Synod. These Mary Magdalene Awards go to those that Go & Tell in our congregations. This year the Esther WELCA nominated Marcia Guenther for this award. Marcia was one of nine women we honored that day. Anna was able to get Marcia there on Saturday without knowing until she arrived that she was getting the award. Marcia gives of her music talents with the organ, choir, band, Sunday School children. There is a book showing all those honored on the Narthex table. Please see the write up about her. Ladies are presented with an award, a red rose, and \$25 donated to one of the charities of choice. Next year's convention will be held in the northern part of our Synod at Trinity Lutheran in Crookston. Hope some of you are able to travel up that way to attend.

Funds received at the convention:

Registration: 9,200.00

Silent Auction: 3,436.00

Gift Cards: 1,205.00

Given to the 4 Breakout Sessions;

Offerings Collected: 1,652.00 - 50% goes to Churchwide

Balance of 1652.00 \$206.50 given to the 4 following:

West Central Communities Action, Churches United;

Adult & Teen Challenge, and African Girls Scholarship

We had an unbelievable 103 Silent Auction baskets.

First Lutheran was having trouble finding tables to hold them all!

Luella Thom, Vice President NWMN SYNOD



You are invited to join us Saturday, November 1st 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!

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- + place in their hands the holy scriptures,
- + and nurture them in faith and prayer,
- + so that your children may learn to trust God,
- + proclaim Christ through word and deed,
- + care for others and the world God made,
- + and work for justice and peace.



Our new Vanco online giving site is up and running! An easy way to give to Esther! Scan QR code, go on our website, or download Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app. Any questions, please contact Mandy Arvidson
Download App: Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement
or go to:
estherlutheran.com – Give to Esther Lutheran Church

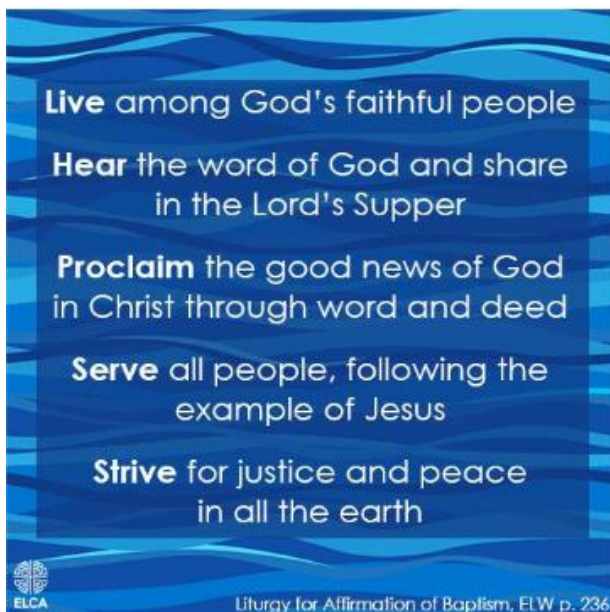


We believe everyone has a unique and valuable place in God's family and we welcome all to share in the community of faith here at Esther. If you would like to become a member please contact Mandy in the church office at 218-338-2171 or secretary@estherlutheran.net or Jewel Townsend at 320-760-2503 or jewellht17@gmail.com

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."



AREA HAPPENINGS:

Retreat Season

MEA Day Camp Oct. 16-17, 2025 Grades: K-5	High School Recharge Retreat Feb. 20-22, 2026 Grades: 9-12
Advent Family Retreat Dec. 5-7, 2025 Grades: All ages	Spring Break Day Camp March 12-13 Grades: K-5
Children and Youth Retreat Jan. 16-18, 2026 Grades: 3-9	
Children and Youth Retreat Feb. 6-8, 2026 Grades: 3-9	



LUTHER CREST
Annual Meeting
October 11th, 2025
10AM in the Luther Crest Chapel



Luther Crest's 80th Year of Ministry

Fall-Spring Calendar

- Oct. 11: Annual Meeting
- Oct. 16-17: MEA Day Camp (K-5)
- Nov. 1: Summer Camp Registration Opens
- Nov. 1: Summer Staff Applications Open
- Nov. 1: LCBC Bake Sale Begins
- Dec. 5-7: Advent Family Retreat
- Dec. 12-13: LCBC Bake Sale Pick Up at Luther Crest
- Jan. 11-13, 2026: Church Leader Jamboree
- Jan. 16-18: Children and Youth Retreat
- Feb. 6-8: Children and Youth Retreat
- Feb. 14: Summer Registration Early Bird Deadline
- Feb. 20-22: Recharge High School Retreat
- March 12-13: Spring Break Day Camp (K-5)
- March 19-22: Adult Creative Retreat
- May -August: Summer Camp Programming
- May-August: Calvary at the Lake Sunday Services

Check us out online for more information about each of these events as we get closer to each date. Visit www.luthercrest.org. Follow us on Facebook (@luthercrest) and Instagram (@luthercrest) as well for more updates and news about camp happenings.



Summer 2026 Programming

Explorers	DATES: (Sunday-Monday) July 5-6 July 12-13 July 19-20 July 26-27 Aug. 2-3 GRADES: Completed K-2
Seekers	DATES: (Tuesday-Friday) June 23-26 July 7-10 July 14-17 July 21-24 July 28-31 Aug. 4-7 GRADES: Completed 2-4
Leapers	DATES: (Sunday-Friday) June 21-26 June 28-July 1 (half week) July 5-10 July 12-17 July 19-24 July 26-31 Aug. 2-7 GRADES: Completed 3-6
Witnesses	DATES: (Sunday-Friday) June 21-26 June 28-July 1 (half week) July 5-10 July 12-17 July 19-24 July 26-31 Aug. 2-7 GRADES: Completed 6-9
Xtreme	DATES: (Sunday-Friday) July 5-10 July 12-17 GRADES: Completed 7-9
Wet and Wilderness	DATES: (Sunday-Friday) July 19-24 GRADES: Completed 7-9
Proclaimers	DATES: Aug. 2-7 GRADES: Completed 9-12
Blazers	DATES: (Sunday-Friday) June 21-26 July 5-10 July 12-17 July 19-24 July 26-31 GRADES: 9-12
Keepers	TRAINING: June 14-19 GRADES: 10-12
Fishing Camp	DATES: (Sunday-Friday) June 21-26 GRADES: Completed 3-6
On-Site Day Camp	DATES: June 22-26 July 6-10 July 13-17 July 20-24 July 27-31 Aug. 2-7 GRADES: Completed K-5



JUNE 21-26, 2026
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.

REGISTRATION OPENS NOV. 1

REGISTER BEFORE FEB. 14TH FOR EARLY BIRD SAVINGS.

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



October 2025 "Knowing Christ-Making Christ Known through Faith, Hope and Love"

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 <u>Confirmation</u> 6 pm – Meal: Jaxson Bosl 6:30-Class	2	3	4
5 <u>Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost</u> <i>Fellowship before and after worship</i> 9 am – ALL PEOPLE Sunday School 10 am – Worship with Holy Communion led by SAM Jewel Townsend 2 pm – Worship at St. William's	6	7	8 <u>Confirmation</u> 6 pm – Meal: Presley Bosl 6:30- Class <u>Council</u> 6 pm	9	10	11 WELCA Fall Conference 10 am- LCBC Annual Meeting
12 <u>Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost</u> <i>Fellowship before and after worship</i> 8:30 am - WELCA 9 am – Sunday School 10 am – Worship led by Pr. Preston 2 pm – Worship at St. William's	13	14 5 pm - Take a Stand Against Domestic Violence in Alex	15 11:30 am – Domestic Violence Luncheon in Alex <u>Confirmation</u> OFF FOR MEA	16 MEA	17 MEA	18
19 <u>Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost</u> <i>Fellowship before and after worship</i> 9 am – Sunday School 9 am – Rooted in Christ Bible Study 10 am – Worship with Holy Communion led by Pr. Billberg 2 pm – Worship at St. William's	20 6 pm – Worship Committee	21	22 <u>Confirmation</u> 6 pm – Meal: Reid Gardner 6:30- Class	23	24	25
26 <u>Confirmation/Reformation Sunday</u> Wear Red Today 9 am – Sunday School 9:30 – Cake Reception for Confirmands 10 am – Worship with Holy Communion and Confirmation led by SAM Jewel Townsend 2 pm – Worship at St. William's	27	28	29 <u>Confirmation</u> 6 pm – Meal: Pizza and Movie Night	30 Newsletter Articles due to church office	31	1 9 am - WELCA Treetop Pot Making at Kathy Mittag's

*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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Parkers Prairie, MN 56361