



ESTHER LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

November 2025 Newsletter

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

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

Website: www.estherlutheran.com Office Email: secretary@estherlutheran.net

Facebook: www.facebook.com/estherlutheran

Whenever I think of November I tend to want to jump right to Thanksgiving, which is my favorite holiday, when we gather and catch up with loved ones and enjoy lots of delicious food. However, before we get to the turkey and family gatherings, this month at Esther offers us many opportunities to gather together as a faith community. Opportunities to worship together, learn together, share together and serve together. We are fortunate to be part of a congregation that supports and cares for each other. But how does that look beyond the close-knit community of Esther?

I recently attended the Mental Health First Aid training put on by the NWMN Synod and a quote used that really stuck with me was when the instructor shared that a lot of the problems in this world are because, “we have forgotten that we belong to each other”. He was speaking of how our culture tends to teach us to focus on independence and individualism, which in part has led to feelings of isolation and loneliness, resulting in additional mental health issues. I looked up the full quote by Mother Teresa and found this: “Today, if we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other—that man, that woman, that child is my brother or my sister. If everyone could see the image of God in his neighbor, do you think we would still need tanks and generals?”

That quote has hung with me these past few weeks as I watch the news, attend community events, and engage in conversations. That quote has been with me as I visit with those who grieve, those having health concerns, those struggling financially, relationally or spiritually. That quote reminds me of how intertwined our lives are, and how our words and actions can reflect God’s love. Or not. Have we forgotten that we belong to each other? Do we see God in our neighbor? Does our neighbor see God in us?

As we celebrated Affirmation of Baptism for two of our young people, that quote snuck into my mind as we affirmed our baptismal call - to live among God’s faithful people, to come together to hear the word of God and share in Holy Communion, to proclaim the good news of God through word and deed, to serve all people following Jesus’ example, and to strive for justice and peace.

How do our baptismal promises play out in the world each day as we go about our lives? Do they show up in the way we care for our families and our neighbors near and far? We may think that the problems that others are having are not our problems, if they don’t directly affect us. We pray for the world in the “Prayers of the People”, but what is it that we do about these issues as the hands and feet of Jesus?

Inside this newsletter you will see multiple invitations to come together and remember that we are one in Christ. Already this month, a group of people gathered to make porch pots for community members. Another group came together to provide service and care for a member’s end of life service. Coming up this month you can: collect food and funds to support our local neighbors in need, gather together to give thanks to God as a whole community, share in stories of faith and life in Bible Study, Sunday School, 3X3 Group and Confirmation, share crafts or help make food items and invite people to attend our Christmas Market event to help our WELCA raise funds for multiple charities and partner ministries in our community. These are some opportunities to help us gather together and remember that we belong to one another. What other ideas might the Holy Spirit be prompting you to share? Who might the Holy Spirit be nudging you to invite? How might the Holy Spirit be guiding you to care for your neighbor near and far?

As we end the liturgical church year and start the new year with Advent later this month, let us think about the coming year and how we might live out our baptismal call, sharing our blessings and gifts for the good of all, and come together to remember and give thanks that we belong to one another in Christ. Peace, Jewel

IN OUR PRAYERS

Jerry Anderson Colleen Burquest
Scott Hart Chris & Bruce Carter
Kristy Fyhrie Larry Sather
Dick & Luella Thom Joan Burquest
Cindy Thiele
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
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, Mike Heiser, Sarah Pomeranz,
and Ron Myren

SERVING IN NOVEMBER

Pastor: Nov 2- SAM Jewel Townsend, Nov 9 - Pr. Dennis
Preston, Nov 16- Pr. Greg Billberg, Nov 23- Pr. Kenneth
Bowman, Nov 30- SAM Jewel Townsend
Organists: Marcia Guenther & Brad Lambrecht
Altar Care: Donna Pederson
Usher: Scott Hart
Acolyte: Moraina Wagner
Lay Reader: Karin Wagner
Communion Assistant: Karin Wagner
Birthday Card Sender: Linda Arvidson
Tech Team: Bode Wagner & Mike Lage



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

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

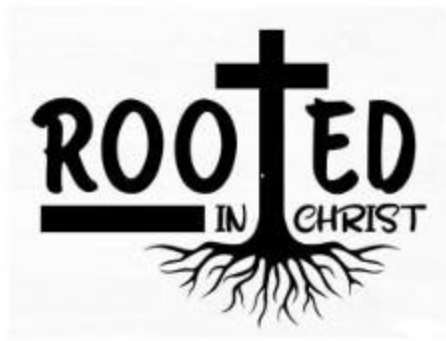
Katherine Mittag	11/03
John Skoglund	11/03
Sharon Carlson	11/05
Wyatt Arvidson	11/06
Steven Dobratz	11/06
Amy Stanley	11/06
Tessa Arvidson	11/07
Trent Hagen	11/09
Bob Aldrich	11/10
Hunter McQuiston	11/11
Nolan Hart	11/19
Ricky Hart	11/19
Dan Klimek	11/20
Patrick Wambeke	11/20
Lacey Carlson	11/21
Allen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



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



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.



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 - 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



SCHEDULE NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

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 – Spiritual Practices
November 26: OFF for Thanksgiving
December 3rd: Jewel Townsend & Larry Doll – Sacrament of Holy Communion Session One
December 10th: Meal: Brianna Skoglund – Sacrament of Holy Communion Session Two
December 17th: Christmas Potluck & Fun Night
December 24th: OFF for Christmas
December 31st: OFF for New Years



As Christmas is approaching, the Food Shelf needs EXTRA to help those in need. The Caring Ministry Team of Esther is going to be collecting donations every Sunday in November. This will be done during the offering with a separate container being passed at the same time as our offering plates. Hopefully, you might have a few extra bills at the beginning of each week you can share. Money donated is used to buy perishable items like hamburger and butter. Checks welcome also: make out to “Parkers Prairie Food Shelf.”

There is a box in the Narthex also to collect any food items you want to donate.

Below is a list of items they could use if you want to donate food:

Peanut butter, canned fruit, pasta sauce, soups, ketchup, pasta, cereal hot and cold, sugar, canned vegetables, flour. Please help if you can. We never know when we might need help also.

ESTHER CARING MINISTRY TEAM



Join us Sunday, November 23rd following worship to put the tree up and decorate church for the Advent and Christmas season. Many hands make light work!





We are looking for people to read the weekly Advent Candle Lightening reading starting November 30th. Please let Mandy or Jewel know if you would like to participate.



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



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.



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.

Esther Lutheran Church

Christmas MARKET

DECEMBER 7 11am-2pm

Homemade Soups
Hot Turkey & BBQ Sandwiches

Free Will Donation

Featuring FOR SALE

HOMEMADE LEFSE
CRAFTS
BAKED GOODS

All Proceeds go to support local charities

- Parkers Prairie Backpack program
- Parkers Prairie Food Shelf
- Parkers Prairie Ambulance
- Parkers Prairie Angel Tree
- Hilltop Kitchen
- Luthercrest

11019 County Hwy 71 • Parkers Prairie • MN



WELCA met on October 12, 2025, at 8:30. Bev reported we had \$7,513.81 in the memorial/savings fund. There is \$1,797.62 in the checking account. We had devotions and read our WELCA statement. Luella relayed information from the Fall Conference Meeting that was held at Messiah Lutheran in Hoffman on October 11th. The speaker, Betty McBrady Thomes, was extremely interesting as her sister has been in Zambia working with kids on the streets for many years. Her family helps raise money and they reach out to everyone to pray for their needs. God has been answering prayers for 25 years. She has been there long enough, so the government is now asking her how to do things to help the kids on the streets. In Zambia, the boy children are pretty much put out on the streets. The girls are kept as they can be sold as a dowry to be married. She has been long enough where some of the first boys she had helped when she first started are now returning from college to help also.

Esther WELCA hosted a table at the Domestic Violence Luncheon that was held October 15th at the Broadway Ballroom. Linda & Jim Arvidson, Donna Pederson, Megan & Jewel Townsend, Sue Ellwanger, and Luella attended this year. In 2024 there were 27 women, men, and babies murdered in domestic violence instances. We ALL need to be aware of people around us that might need help... it might be your next-door neighbor!

Because the WELCA does not have enough funds to help support all the charities we normally help, especially at Christmas time, we are hosting a Soup/Sandwich Lunch and Christmas Market. This will be held on December 7th from 11 am-2 pm. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex to sign to provide a large pot of one of your favorite soups to share. On the sheet is also sign up for some barbecue. We are just doing two kinds of sandwiches ... barbecues and a hot turkey. We hope you also have some crafts, baked goods, canned goods, that you could also donate for the Christmas Market. Invite your family and friends! There are some posters on the table in the Narthex if you could help hang up in the surrounding area.

On November 1st a group of ladies got together to make Christmas porch pots at Kathy Mittags. These

were given to members of our community who have been on our prayer list or experienced a loss or hardship in the past year. We had a good time and lots of supplies were gathered to assemble some beautiful Porch Pots. Most were outdoor creations, but we did do some indoor pots for those who live in apartments, and a few cups too out of artificial greens.

Because the WELCA nationwide is down, we are short on funds to meet the budget. If you have extra funds, you could help support the WELCA, please contact Bev, Lana, or Luella for information on where to send it. You could also write a check to our WELCA and we could do one check from our account.

Martha Circle worked at Sarah Pomeranz's funeral on Thursday, November 6th. We appreciate all those who helped set up, serve, and provided cakes and funds.

Our next meeting will be held November 9th at 8:30. Hope to see you then.
Luella Thom, President

All Saints Day



Lots going on here at Esther!





Lutheran Disaster Response shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need. How does Lutheran Disaster Response work? 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. Lutheran Disaster Response works closely with ELCA synods, global companion churches, Lutheran social ministry organizations — including Global Refuge and Lutheran World Relief — and ecumenical partners to develop responses that address local needs. Lutheran Disaster Response awards grants to partners, giving them the flexibility to address the needs of impacted communities. It also provides technical assistance, training opportunities and accompaniment through the relief and recovery stages. Additionally, Lutheran Disaster Response works with communities in disaster preparedness, mitigation and resilience. Lutheran Disaster Response abides by the principles of accompaniment, walking together in a solidarity that practices interdependence and mutuality. Every disaster is local, and local communities and organizations are best-equipped to address needs following a disaster.

Hurricane Response



The situation:

As predicted, the 2025 Atlantic hurricane season has been above average in the

number and intensity of its storms. Whatever unfolds this season, Lutheran Disaster Response will be there.

With strong relationships in the United States, in the Caribbean and around the world, Lutheran Disaster Response is already at work on the ground, accompanying hurricane survivors. Your support makes this work possible.

Our response:

Lutheran Disaster Response works with its partners to provide immediate relief, such as water, food, clothing, gift cards, tarps and other needs. Since many hurricanes also require a long-term response, Lutheran Disaster Response provides support on the long road to recovery with disaster case management, construction management, attention to unmet needs, and emotional and spiritual care.

What you can do:

Pray:

Please pray for the safety of communities impacted by hurricanes, including people in their paths and any emergency services personnel who are responding. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need. Pray that God will deliver comfort to those who mourn and strength to those working diligently to rescue survivors.

Give:

Your gifts will support disaster-impacted communities. Gifts to [Lutheran Disaster Response](#) equip us to respond to those affected by hurricanes and related disasters, such as mudslides, severe storms and flooding. These gifts also empower us to respond to disasters whenever and wherever they strike. Gifts to ["Hurricane Response"](#) will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by hurricanes, until the response is complete.

To give by phone, call 800-638-3522. Checks or money orders can be mailed to:

Lutheran Disaster Response

P.O. Box 1809

Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Connect:

To learn more about the situation and the ELCA's response:

<https://www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response>

Congratulations to Autumn Dobratz and Laney Grinager on achieving another milestone in their faith journey! Your Esther church family hopes nothing but the best for you as you continue your spiritual journey. God's richest blessings!



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

AREA HAPPENINGS:

PARKERS PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL
PRESENTS THE COMEDY

CRAZY TOWN

BY JONATHAN RAND

NOVEMBER 21-23

FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY

21 ST	22 ND	23 RD
7PM	7PM	2PM

Tickets:

\$5 - Adults

\$3 - Senior Citizens & Students K-12

LUTEFISK & MEATBALL DINNER

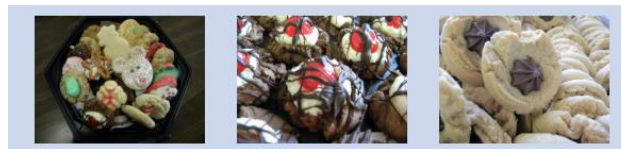
Sunday, November 23
11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Zion Lutheran Church
Browerville, Minnesota

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: \$5.00/year
13-16: \$10.00

Call 320-733-2388 for more information



NO TRICKS, JUST TREATS! The Luther Crest Bake Sale is back!

Get your orders
placed by
December 5th!

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 via mail or by dropping off
your printed order form at:

Luther Crest Bible Camp
8231 County Road 11 NE
Alexandria, MN 56308

Don't want to hassle of mailing
your order form? Order online via
our Google Form:

[Download the Order Form](#)

[Order Online](#)

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.

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	



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/>



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: 10-18
Fishing Camp	DATES: (Sunday-Friday) June 21-26 GRADES: Completed 3-6
On-Site Day Camp	DATES: June 22-26 July 5-10 July 13-17 July 20-24 July 27-31 Aug. 2-7 GRADES: Completed K-5

Thanksgiving Prayer

May our home be full of joy,
May our hearts be knit with love,
As we give our grateful thanks
For Thy blessings from above.

allerafi.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".

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 All Saints Sunday <i>Sunday Fellowship before and after worship</i> 9 am – Sunday School 10 am – Worship w/Holy Communion led by SAM Jewel Townsend 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	3	4	5 Confirmation 6 pm – Meal: Mya Holmquist	6 Funeral for Sarah Pomeranz 9 am – 11 am – Visitation 11:30 – Funeral Service	7	8
9 22nd Sunday after Pentecost <i>Sunday 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	10	11	12 Confirmation 6 pm – Meal: Cora Schlosser <u>Council</u> 6 pm	13	14	15
16 23rd Sunday after Pentecost <i>Sunday Fellowship before and after worship</i> 10 am – Worship with Holy Communion led by Pr. Billberg 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	17	18	19 Confirmation 6 pm - Mentor & Student Potluck	20	21	22
23 Christ the King <i>Sunday Fellowship before and after worship</i> 10 am – Worship led by Pr. Bowman 11 am – Decorate church for Christmas 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	24	25	26 Community Thanksgiving Eve Service 6:30 pm – First Lutheran in PP NO CONFIRMATION	27 HAPPY THANKSGIVING!	28	29 Newsletter articles due church office
30 First Sunday of Advent <i>Sunday Fellowship before and after worship</i> 10 am – Worship with Holy Communion led by SAM Jewel Townsend 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	1 December	2	3 Confirmation 6 pm – Meal: Jewel Townsend & Larry Doll	4	5	6

11 *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 625th Ave
Parkers Prairie, MN 56361