



ESTHER LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

June 2026 Newsletter

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

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

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Planting, Growing, and Making Time for God

June is a season of planting and growing. Across our fields and gardens, seeds are being placed into the soil with hope and expectation. Farmers and gardeners alike know that much depends on conditions beyond our control. We pray for timely rains, warm sunshine, and protection from storms. We do the work we can, but ultimately we trust God to provide the growth.

This time of year is also one of the busiest. The days are long, schedules fill quickly, and there never seems to be enough time to accomplish everything on our lists. Between planting, yard work, family activities, and community events, it is easy for our spiritual lives to be pushed aside.

Yet just as crops need moisture and sunlight to thrive, our faith needs regular nourishment. God invites us to spend time in prayer, worship, Scripture reading, and quiet reflection. These moments may seem small, but they help keep us rooted in Christ and connected to the One who gives us strength for each day.

As we pray for favorable weather and successful planting this season, may we also remember to cultivate our relationship with God. Even in the midst of busy days, God is present—walking beside us in the fields, gardens, homes, and workplaces. When we make time for Him, we discover anew the peace, guidance, and blessings that sustain us through every season. We have many opportunities this summer to gather together and help plant and nurture seeds of faith in both our youth and adults. I am excited to see the enthusiasm of our volunteers as we plan for a week of Vacation Bible School. Ideas brought forward often grow into even better ideas as the team works together. Through months of planning and preparation that culminate in the VBS week itself, we experience fellowship, songs, crafts, and activities that help us grow closer to God and to one another.

We also have young people heading to Luther Crest Bible Camp this summer, along with our seminarian, Megan, who will be spending her sixth summer serving there. As the season continues, there will be youth group events, special worship services, and opportunities to come together in service to our communities through the Joint Pork Chop Feed and Ice Cream Social. These gatherings provide wonderful opportunities for fellowship, food, fun, and faith. May God bless our work, watch over our families, and grant growth to both the seeds planted in the earth and the faith planted in our hearts.

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. — 1 Corinthians 3:6

Peace,
Jewel



IN OUR PRAYERS

Jerry Anderson Kristy Fyhrie
Larry Sather Joan Burquest
Dennis Rosenquist Lois Rosenquist
Ricky Hart Sara Skoglund
Margaret Wehking
Leroy Olson – father of Becky Arvidson
Cheryl Farber – mother of Melissa Schlosser
Rev. Bruce Miller- father of Karin Wagner
Marg Peterson -friend of the Thoms
Dale Flemming – father of Laurie Ratajesak
Gary Borst – friend of the Andersons
Shirley Nesges – friend of the Thoms
Bev Lorine – mother of Mandy Arvidson
Joyce Muires – friend of the Thoms
Bev Guse-Ohlrech – friend of the Pedersons
Allison Dotzler – friend of Kathy Mittag
Cadence Smith – friend of Mandy Arvidson
Becky Yttrie – friend of the Townsends
Kim Casavan – friend of Mandy Arvidson
Pete Baugh – brother-in-law of Pr. Ken Bowman
Karen Schlosser – mother of Justin Schlosser
Chris Clapshaw – step-brother of Mark Ratajesak
Family and Friends of: Sarah Pomeranz, David
Anderson, Katie Jahnke, Colleen Burquest, Doug Tvedt,
Alma Robinson, Jerry Pogose, Terry Burns, Wayne Lund,
Bruce Carter, Inez Nelson, Gary Willie, Connie Pesta,
and Kathy Wilkins

SERVING IN JUNE

Pastor: June 7- SAM Jewel Townsend, June 14- Pr.
Dennis Preston, June 21- SAM Jewel Townsend, June
28-Megan Townsend
Organists: Marcia Guenther & Brad Lambrecht
Altar Care: Bev Arvidson
Usher: NEED VOLUNTEER
Acolyte: NEED VOLUNTEER
Lay Reader: Chris Carter
Communion Assistant: Chris Carter
Birthday Card Sender: Elaine Fyhrie

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Allen Pederson 06/01
Jack Olson 06/01
Amber Johnson 06/02
Darwin Hart 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
Ann Skoglund 06/16
Michelle Moyle 06/16
Craig Gardner 06/19
Lane Hagen 06/21
Scott Hart 06/23
Dominic Hart 06/23
Laney Steidl 06/24
Tara Skoglund 06/24
McKinnely Bosl 06/24
Emerlee Skoglund 06/27
Rob Stanley 06/28
Haile Lenzen 06/29
Bode Wagner 06/30



2026 Proposed Budget	\$107,114.00
Budgeted contributions YTD as of 4/30/26	\$35,704.67
Actual contributions YTD as of 4/30/26	\$35,274.00
Difference YTD as of 4/30/26:	\$ -430.67



PASTORAL CARE – If you or someone you know would like a visit and for emergency pastoral care, please contact Jewel Townsend at 320-760-250

2026 DIRECTORIES ARE AVAILABLE ON THE USHER TABLE. We will not be labeling directories this year- please take as needed for you and your family. Additional copies will be printed as needed throughout the year. If you would like a directory sent to you by email or USPS, please contact secretary@estherlutheran.net



SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP – BEFORE & AFTER CHURCH

Members of the Esther Congregation have been graciously providing food and drinks for our Sunday morning fellowship, and we'd love to invite more people to join in!

Hosting is simple—just bring/make a pot of coffee, some refreshments (such as a cheese and meat tray, sweets, or other goodies), water, and a few drink options for those who prefer something other than coffee. A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex where you can choose a Sunday that works for you.

We understand that not everyone enjoys baking, so hosting is open to anyone who would like to help in whatever way they can. WELCA has also stocked the freezer with cookies from Hilltop Kitchen, which are available for use at any time.

If hosting isn't for you, donations are always appreciated and help keep this fellowship going strong.

As you may have noticed, we skipped treats on Palm Sunday, anticipating a busy morning in the Narthex—but many of you let us know they were missed!

Typically, after worship, we linger, snack, and enjoy time together. Without treats, everyone seemed to head home a bit more quickly!

Let's keep this special time of fellowship going—we appreciate everyone who helps make it happen.



We welcome you to join us for Worship by the Water on Sunday, July 12th at 10 am at the home of Rodney Peterson. Please be sure to bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on during worship. We invite you to stay for a potluck after worship for a time of food and fellowship.

Also, bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share. Rodney's address is 13335 County Road 42, Parkers Prairie, MN.



Vanco online giving platform 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, 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

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



“Pork Chop Dinner”

Friday, July 17th, 2026
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 Miltona and Esther Lutheran of Parkers Prairie*

The Gift of Planning

Join us at Esther on Tuesday, June 9 at 6:00 PM for an evening of food, fellowship, and thoughtful conversation about planning for the future to provide the ultimate gift to yourself and your loved ones: peace of mind.

What to expect:

Representatives from Lind Family Funeral Home will guide us through end-of-life planning.

Jewel Townsend will share a Funeral Planning Packet to help you document your wishes and personal story for loved ones.

Christy Hart will offer practical tips for organizing financial and vital information, making it easier to access and understand—both now and in the future.

We'll be grilling burgers and brats, so please bring a dish to share as we gather for a meaningful and informative night.



New carpet and flooring is going to be installed this summer! We will need help on Sunday, July 5th to move everything out of the sanctuary and Narthex. ANY HELP IS APPRECIATED!



MOBILEPACK™

TURN HUNGER INTO HOPE WITH YOUR OWN TWO HANDS

Join us for a Feed My Starving Children MobilePack™ event to provide life changing meals where they're needed most. We welcome volunteers of all abilities, ages 5 and up to help us pack 101,088 meals!

WHAT: FMSC MobilePack™ events offer volunteers a one-of-a-kind experience. You'll hand-pack rice, soy, dried vegetables and a nutritionally complete blend of vitamins and minerals into bags which are then sealed, boxed, placed on pallets and shipped to incredible partners who distribute the food to children who need it around the world.

DATE: June 28-29, 2026

LOCATION: Calvary Church | 605 Douglas St., Alexandria, MN

VOLUNTEER: It's fun to serve alongside people you know! Sign up with your family, coworkers, teammates, or friends. Volunteers of all abilities (ages 5 and up) are welcome, and you do not need to be connected to Calvary to participate. Shifts are 2 hours each. Click below to see available times.

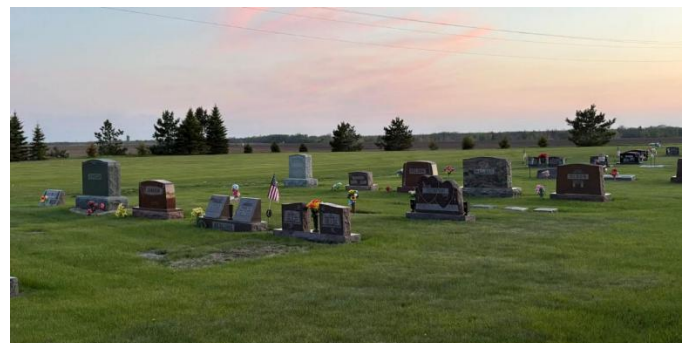
DONATE: Your generosity makes a huge difference in the lives of thousands of children in need around the world! The total cost for this MobilePack™ event is \$30k. Thanks to a generous donor, the next \$7,500 donated will be matched.

Go to <https://give.fmssc.org/campaign/2606-200ea-alexandria-mn-calvary-church/c774158> to volunteer. Please contact Angie at Calvary at angie@calvaryalex.org or call 320-763-5178 with any questions.

Congratulations to graduates Evy Grinager & Isaiah Schlosser!



Thank you to all who helped with the flowers & crosses!





WELCA met on Sunday, May 10th at 8:30 am. We have \$7,833.40 in our memorial/savings fund. There is \$2,105.73 in our checking account.

We did Hat Day on May 3rd. There were a few who wore hats. Next year will need to do reminders the day before as many forgotten.

Want to remind everyone that Donna Pederson is our Sunshine Committee. If there is anyone sick or in need of a card from Esther let her know the name.

The WELCA hosted the Graduation Recognition Sunday for Evy Grinager and Isaiah Schlosser. We served cake, punch, nuts, and coffee. Ruth Circle hosted the event. Evy and Isaiah were presented with blankets with their Confirmation Bible Verses during Worship.

Luther Crest delivery for any items donated for the quilt auction is June 26th. There are forms hanging on the bulletin board in the Narthex at church. The Quilt Auction is on July 11th.

VBS is right around the corner. We need the WELCA ladies to help and serve please. The menus are made and the food list is listed in the Narthex if you can sign up for food and help. We can use EXTRA HELP always with the kids. If you can help, even one night, we would appreciate it. Plus can guarantee you will enjoy watching the kids have a great time.

Our Ice Cream Social and Country Store is approaching fast. Naomi Circle will make ice cream, Martha Circle will serve, and Ruth Circle will do the advertising.

September 18th & 19 is the Annual WELCA Convention at Trinity in Crookston. We are doing two silent auction baskets for it - coffee and garden theme. If you have any items, please bring them to church.

We completed the giving of the quilts that were made during the winter of 2026 by the Quilting Group. We had 44 to give away this year. We decided to give locally this year rather than give to Lutheran Word Relief. We could have given away many more if we had them. They were given to: eleven to St Williams Nursing

Home, six to Kali Christensen for Todd County Social Services, five to Angela Scheicher for Todd County young mothers, three to Britta Messer family who had a fire, three to Larry Doll for some Veterans in need, two to Anna Hagen to take to Cancer Unit at Lakewood Hospital in Staples, twelve to People's Church in Bemidji that house about 30 homeless a night, and two to Parkers Prairie Ambulance In the future, West Central Community and their Foster Care Program could use quilts. We had no problem finding places to donate to.

Jim Arvidson got sheets from the motel in Parkers Prairie that changed ownership and they were getting rid all the old. We wanted sheets to use for quilting. We have about 100 flat sheets to use for quilting. Thanks Jim!

There are also several queen and king sets of sheets that are still left. If you need or know someone who is in need, please take some. There are also some worn fitted sheets if you need any. We also ended up with boxes of shower curtains, towels and pillowcases. We donated a bunch of towels and pillowcases to People's Church in Bemidji when they visited Esther last weekend. Bev Arvidson knows of another homeless group that will take everything we have left over.

Gloria Rosenquist gave us a copy of a diaper pattern she uses to make diapers for the needy from t-shirts. If you would like a copy, let us know. Next WELCA meeting will be June 14th at 8:30 am. We hope you can join us. DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR FOOD AND HELPERS FOR VBS..

Luella Thom, President

ICE CREAM SOCIAL & SERVICE
Homemade ice cream, pies, sandwiches & crafts for sale!!

SUNDAY, JULY 26
Esther Lutheran Church
11019 625th Ave • Rural Parkers Prairie
(9 Miles east of Parkers Prairie, 3 miles north of Rose City)

Church Service: 10am
Ice Cream Social: 11-3pm

 **St. William's Living Ce...**
1h · 🌐

A heartfelt thank you to the wonderful ladies of Esther Lutheran Church for creating and donating such beautiful handmade quilts to our residents.

Your time, talent, and generosity have wrapped our residents in warmth, comfort, and love. Each stitch is a reminder of the kindness and care shared within our community.

We are so grateful for your thoughtful gift and the joy it brings to everyone at St. William's Living Center. 💜 🧵

Thank you to Megan Townsend for leading worship May 31st and to the LCBC staff for showing up to support their fellow staff member!
We hope to see you again!



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

Visit our website at estherlutheran.com

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".



June 2026 “Knowing Christ-Making Christ Known through Faith, Hope and Love”

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 VBS Planning Meeting 5:30 pm	4	5	6
7 Second Sunday after Pentecost <i>Sunday Fellowship Before & After Worship</i> 10 am – Worship w/Holy Communion led by SAM Jewel Townsend 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	8	9 Gift of Planning Event 6 pm	10 Council 6 pm	11	12	13
14 Third Sunday after Pentecost <i>Sunday Fellowship Before & After Worship</i> 8:30 am - WELCA 10 am – Worship led by Pr. Preston 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s 5:30 pm – VBS Starts!	15 VBS 5:30 pm – Supper 6-8 pm – Crafts, lessons & music	16 VBS 5:30 pm – Supper 6-8 pm – Crafts, lessons & music	17 VBS 5:30 pm – Supper 6-8 pm – Crafts, lessons & music	18 VBS 5:30 pm - Potluck 6:30 pm - Program	19	20
21 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost <i>Sunday Fellowship Before & After Worship</i> 10 am – Worship w/Holy Communion led by SAM Jewel Townsend 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	22	23	24	25	26	27 Newsletter articles due to church office
28 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost <i>Sunday Fellowship Before & After Worship hosted by the Hans & Sophia Arvidson Family</i> 10 am – Worship led by Megan Townsend 11 am – Hans & Sophia Arvidson Family Reunion 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s Feed Our Starving Children Event at Calvary Lutheran in Alexandria	29 Feed Our Starving Children Event at Calvary Lutheran in Alexandria	30	JULY 1	2	3	4 HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!
5 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost <i>Sunday Fellowship Before & After Worship</i> 10 am – Worship w/Holy Communion led by SAM Jewel Townsend 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	6	7	8 Council 6 pm	9	10	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.

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Parkers Prairie, MN 56361