



ESTHER LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

July 2026 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: <https://www.facebook.com/estherlutheran>

At Time to Celebrate and Reflect

As we welcome July, we are reminded of Jesus' invitation in Matthew 11 *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."* In the midst of summer activities, vacations, and busy schedules, Christ calls us to find renewal in His presence. His yoke is easy, and His burden is light, offering peace and strength for each new day.

July is filled with opportunities to gather in faith and fellowship. On Sunday, July 12, we will celebrate Worship by the Water, where we will affirm our baptismal promises and remember the grace of God's claim upon our lives. Whether your baptism was recent or many years ago, this service is a wonderful opportunity to renew our commitment to follow Christ. We welcome Bishop Bill Tesch, Pastor Laurie Skow-Anderson and SAM Jody Johnson as they lead us in Worship By the Water.

On Friday, July 17, we join together with our friends at Faith Lutheran Church in Miltona for the joint Pork Chop Feed. Serving our neighbors and sharing a meal together is one of the many ways we strengthen the bonds of Christian community and extend hospitality to one another.

Our month concludes with the annual Ice Cream Social and Country Store on Sunday, July 26. This tradition offers delicious food, fellowship, and fun while supporting the life and ministry of our congregation. We hope you will invite family, friends, and neighbors to join us.

This July we also celebrate America's 250th birthday. As we look back on our nation's history, we give thanks for those who have gone before us—those whose courage, sacrifice, faith, and perseverance have helped shape our communities. We honor their legacy while praying that God will continue to guide us in seeking justice, mercy, and peace for future generations.

May we use this time not only to celebrate but also to reflect honestly. Over 250 years, our nation has experienced moments of remarkable progress as well as times when we have fallen short of our highest ideals. We recognize that no people or nation is without mistakes. Yet, as people of faith, we believe that growth comes through humility, learning, and repentance. When we know better, we are called to do better.

Rather than longing for a return to the past, we are called to continue moving forward—building on the good that has been accomplished while striving to correct what has been unjust or broken. As followers of Christ, we seek a future where compassion overcomes division, justice is extended to all, and every person is treated with the dignity and worth they have as children of God. Jesus invites us into a way of living marked not by nostalgia or fear, but by humility, compassion, and a willingness to learn and grow.

May God continue to guide our nation and our communities as we work together to leave a legacy of hope, grace, and love for generations yet to come. And may this July be a season of reflection, rest, gratitude, joyful fellowship, and renewed faith as we answer Christ's invitation to come to Him.

May your month be filled with joyous celebrations with family and friends, and I look forward to seeing you at the wonderful worship and fellowship opportunities to celebrate both faith and community.

Have a blessed July full of love and 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 Muyres – 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,
Kathy Wilkins, and Ivy Christensen

SERVING IN JULY

Pastor: July 5-SAM Jewel Townsend, July 12- ELCA-
Worship by the Water, July 19- SAM Jewel Townsend,
July 26- Megan Townsend
Organists: Marcia Guenther
Altar Care: Deb Koep
Usher: NEED VOLUNTEER
Acolyte: NEED VOLUNTEER
Lay Reader: Deb Koep
Communion Assistant: Deb Koep & Amy Stanley
Birthday Card Sender: Jewel Townsend



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.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Isaac Grabow 07/01
Carl Moyle 07/01
Brynn Wunderlich 07/01
Axel Vik 07/03
Stanley Sanvik 07/05
Amy Jewell 07/07
Rick Arvidson 07/09
Nolan Lenzen 07/09
Deb Koep 07/13
Angie Steele 07/13
Abby Burquest 07/13
Brian Steele 07/14
Sarah Bunde 07/14
Gary Kreidler 07/16
Becky Arvidson 07/18
Katlyn Velde 07/18
Nora Stanley 07/18
Dane Bosl 07/20
Vicky Arvidson 07/20
Cole Steele 07/21
Linda Arvidson 07/25
Kad Wehking 07/25
Laura Hagel 07/27
JoAnna Krueger 07/27
Hadlee Sanvik 07/29
Hank Sanvik 07/29
Linda Klimek 07/30
Michael Lage 07/31
Taya Arvidson 07/31

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”.



We welcome you to join us for Worship by the Water on Sunday, July 12th at 10 am at the home of Rodney Peterson led by NWMN Synod staff Bishop Bill Tesch, Pastor Laurie Skow-Anderson, and SAM Jody Johnson. We will learn more about "Behold, the New Has Come" initiative and will be Affirming our Baptisms. 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](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



- Need people to help on July 5th to take the pews etc. off the floors that are receiving the new wood and carpeting.
- New flooring and carpet will start on July 6th and will be done by July 17th. Will then need help putting everything back into place.
 - Worship by the water is July 12th. There will be sign up sheets in the narthex to sign up to bring food. The council will be setting up and cleaning up. Please bring your own chairs. There will also be people from the Synod at the service.

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



**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



Our June WELCA meeting was held on Sunday, June 14th at 8:30 am. Our Checking Account balance is \$2,612.73, but the bill for the flowers from Easter has not been paid yet. We have \$7,833.40 in the memorial/savings fund. Lana, Jewel, Nancy, Kathy, Christy, Linda, and Luella were able to attend.

**REMINDER: ICE CREAM SOCIAL AND COUNTRY STORE
ARE COMING UP JULY 26**

- **Naomi Circle will make ice cream**
- **Martha Circle will Serve**
- **Ruth Circle will do the advertising**

Jewel attended the Luther Crest appreciation dinner. A suggestion would be that WELCA would help one of our women go the Luther Crest for one of there sessions during Women's Week. You can attend all week or just a day or two.

Lana had brought back a card that was attached to a bear in a church where she attended a funeral. These bears would sit in the pews for anyone who might feel lonely, especially at a funeral. We decided we want to do this. We are looking for small 12"-18" stuffed bears. These could be used, IF they are clean. Lana is making the cards to go on the bears. If anyone has any bears they want to donate, please bring them to church.

We ended up with 100 flat sheets from the donation from the motel in Parkers Prairie. We will use them for quilting. They will make a nice addition to the backs and blocks for our quilts. We are dyeing a bunch of them so they are not all white. We used some sheets for drop clothes for VBS when we were tie dying the T Shirts. The towels, shower curtains, and extras we received Bev Arvidson found an organization that sets up homes for the homeless to donate these too.

As you know Karin Wagner retired as our Sunday School Superintendent this year. We are actively searching for help for this worthwhile group of kids. If anyone can help by teaching please let Jewel or Mandy know. We need an all hands on deck to make your our young people are getting the opportunity to learn about God! This does not mean only women - we want guys also. Donna Pederson made sandwiches and bars for the Inez Nelson family when they did graveside services at

Esther. We received a nice Thank You card and \$100 donation. Thank you to the family of Inez.

Thank you to all the WELCA ladies who helped with Bible School. It turned out as a great experience for the kids and the adults. The food was fantastic and you have it down to a science. I heard the night we had pancakes and sausage everyone was through the line in 12 minutes (we had 33 kids and 18 helpers.) Christy documented everything in detail - we know how many bananas, apples, grapes etc were used every night, what worked, what did not, so we have the information for next year. Thank you all for the donations of food as well. You were very generous. It is amazing how everyone steps up to help. With 33 kids, it takes a great deal of help!

Gloria Rosenquist has been making diapers for the needy from old t-shirts. She shared the pattern with us. If anyone wants a copy of the pattern let Gloria or myself know.

Dates to remember:

- July 17th: Pork Chop Dinner at Faith. If you have not signed up yet, please do.
- July 26th: Ice Cream Social and Country Store
- September 18th & 19th: Annual WELCA Convention at Trinity in Crooksto and we need delegate.

Luella Thom, President

Esther L.C.W. Custard for Ice Cream Recipe

6 eggs, beat lightly in a glass bowl.

Mix in a separate bowl:

2 cups sugar

½ teaspoon salt

3 Tablespoons flour

4 cups milk

****NOTE:** if we all use whole milk, all batches will be the same. Crystallization can happen without enough fat content in the milk.

Added at the church:

1 1/3-quart whipping cream 1 Tablespoon vanilla (we use Mexican vanilla)

Beat 6 eggs lightly with a whisk in a large glass bowl.

Add the sugar/flour mixture alternatively with the milk and eggs whisking together well. Place the glass bowl in the microwave. Set minutes for 15. Whisk every 2-3 minutes until the mixture coats a spoon or becomes the consistency of pudding. (May take more/less than 15 minutes depending on the microwave.

CHILL!!

Circle making ice cream will purchase and add the cream & vanilla. (Take the chilled custard to church at this point.) Mix the chilled custard with 1 1/3 quarts of whipping cream and vanilla. Churn/freeze in an ice cream maker. Serve with toppings. Freeze in freezer containers .

10TH ANNUAL
PANTHER BOOSTERS
Golf Tournament

★ SATURDAY, AUGUST 1ST, 2026 ★
LAKE MILTONA GOLF CLUB

★ PROCEEDS BENEFIT PANTHER BOOSTER PROJECTS TO SUPPORT OUR YOUTH! ★

 WHEN: Saturday, August 1 st , 2026 Registration Begins at 12:00 PM Shotgun Start at 1:00 PM Burger Bar Meal Provided w/snacks and water	 WHERE: Lake Miltona Golf Course (3868 County Road 5 NE, Alexandria, MN)	 COST: \$100.00 Per Person Includes 18 holes of golf, cart, gift pack, lunch & burger bar	 CONTACT: Contact Mike Johnson to reserve your spot today at 218-579-0161
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★★ TEAM REGISTRATION ★★

Team Contact: _____ Cell Phone: _____
 Email: _____
 Golfer #1: _____ T-Shirt Size (S-4XL): _____
 Golfer #2: _____ T-Shirt Size (S-4XL): _____
 Golfer #3: _____ T-Shirt Size (S-4XL): _____
 Golfer #4: _____ T-Shirt Size (S-4XL): _____

There will be...

RAFFLE PRIZES
 SPLIT THE POT
 HOLE COMPETITIONS
 GAMES & ACTIVITIES
 AND MORE!

PLEASE RETURN FORM AND PAYMENT TO:
 Mike Johnson
 55869 Parkway Dr
 Parkers Prairie, MN 56361

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
 Panther Boosters

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
 JULY 24, 2026

Thank you
FOR SUPPORTING OUR PANTHERS!

25th Annual
Luther Crest
Golf Scramble

Monday
August 3rd, 2026
At Lake Miltona Golf Club

Luther Crest
SUMMER FEST

SATURDAY JULY 11, 2026

Prayer for July

Dear Lord, we ask that you go before us this month. We ask for Your grace and mercy to rain down on us and for Your Spirit to renew us. May we feel your power and strength rise up within us. We pray for help for all who are in need. We pray for comfort for the hurting, hope for the hopeless and rest for the weary. Thank you for your faithfulness. We are grateful for our blessings, your promises and your great love for us. may we live each day with an attitude of gratitude and take nothing for granted. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Guided By Grace
www.guidedbygrace.tailspinfarms.com

Thank you

GIFT OF PLANNING

Thank you to everyone who attended our Gift of Planning event in June. We were grateful for the wonderful turnout and the thoughtful conversations about making end-of-life planning easier for ourselves and for those we love.

A special thank you to Curt Lind, Christy Hart, Jewel Townsend, the WELCA, and the Cemetery Board for sharing their knowledge and resources throughout the evening. We are also deeply thankful to everyone who shared personal stories and experiences. Your openness made the evening meaningful and reminded us all of the importance of planning ahead with care and compassion.

If you would like additional information or copies of any of the following resources, please contact Jewel or Mandy in the church office:

- "My Funeral Planning" packet
- "Funeral Planning – Family" packet
- Next of Kin Box (Nokbox) ordering information
- Hotdishes by Jodi, LLC menu and price list
- Esther Cemetery information

Thank you again for helping make this event such a caring and worthwhile ministry for our congregation, families and community.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make "What a Mess" VBS such a fun, faith-filled, and successful week!

To all of our wonderful children—thank you for your enthusiasm, curiosity, laughter, and joy. You made each evening come alive!

To the parents and grandparents who made VBS a priority in the midst of busy summer schedules, thank you for investing in your children's faith and for sharing them with us each night.

And to our incredible youth and adult volunteers, thank you for generously sharing your time, talents, creativity, and love. Whether you led music, taught lessons, prepared snacks, organized games and crafts, decorated, cleaned up, or simply welcomed children with a smile, you helped create a week where God's love was experienced in meaningful ways.

We are grateful for each person who played a part in making VBS such a memorable week. Thank you for helping plant seeds of faith that will continue to grow in the lives of our children.





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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4 HAPPY 4 TH 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 <u>Council</u> 6 pm	9	10	11 LCBC SummerFest
12 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 10 am – Worship by the Water led by the ELCA Staff at Rodney Peterson’s home 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	13	14	15	16	17 Joint Pork Chop Feed at Faith in Miltona	18
19 Eighth 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	20 <u>Christian Education Planning Meeting</u> 6 pm	21	22	23	24	25
26 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost <i>Sunday Fellowship Before & After Worship</i> 10 am – Worship led by Megan Townsend 11-3 pm – Ice Cream Social & Country Store 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	27	28	29	30	31	1 August
2 Tenth 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	3 LCBC Golf Scramble	4	5	6	7	8

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