

ESTHER LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
October 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: www.facebook.com/estherlutheran

Growing in Faith Together

This past month has been a busy one at Esther as we've started up Sunday School and Confirmation classes for another year. It warms my heart seeing the church filled with children and young people again—hearing their voices, watching them learn, and being reminded that faith is something we grow into together.

We also started **Behold Coffee and Conversations** each Sunday at 9:15 am in the "Back Room." It is a simple time to gather, share in the weekly devotion, share our stories, listen to one another, and support each other as we continue growing in faith. Faith grows through our relationship with God and others. Through stories, through questions, and through the people God puts on our path to walk alongside us.

This past Sunday we got a chance to see part of that faith journey as we held Bible class for our third grader, and she was presented a Bible by her parents, from the congregation. It was a beautiful reminder of one of the promises we make at baptism: **"place in their hands the holy scriptures."**

We have been talking a lot about our baptismal promises, but it is important to remember the promise God makes to us. Baptism is first and foremost God's gift. Through water and the Word, God claims us as God's own, forgives us, gives us new life in Christ, and promises to be with us. We are joined to the whole family of God, given the gift of the Holy Spirit, and sent into the world to be part of God's work of love and grace. God's promise doesn't end. It is a promise we carry with us throughout our entire lives. We are God's beloved children—not because of anything we have done or will do, but because God's love and mercy are freely given to us through Jesus Christ.

And because God first makes this promise to us, we respond by making promises of our own. At baptism, parents and sponsors and those present promise 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.

We make these promises because we want our children to grow into people who love and trust God.

On the last Sunday of October, we will have the joy of celebrating **Affirmation of Baptism with five of our young people**. What began for them at the baptismal font continues as they take these promises into their own hands and make them their own, as they affirm their baptismal covenant by promising:

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.

As I think about these promises, I am reminded that none of us lives out our faith alone. God gives us the gift of faith and then provides us with parents, family, teachers, mentors, pastors, friends, and an entire congregation who encourage, pray for, celebrate with, and sometimes simply walk beside us.

It has been such a pleasure working with these five young people, their parents and their mentors over the past two years and watching them grow—not only in their knowledge of the Bible and their faith, but in who they are created to be. I am excited to see where God leads each of them in the years ahead.

And I pray that as a congregation, we will continue to do what we promised at their baptisms**: to surround them as God's faithful people, nurture them in faith and prayer, and remind them that they are deeply loved children of God.**

Because that is what we do at Esther. We learn together. We grow together. We ask questions together. We celebrate together. And through it all, we remind one another that God is with us.

God makes the first promise. We spend our lives learning how to live into that promise. And we don't do it alone. We do it together.

What a beautiful promise—and what a beautiful responsibility—to be the church together.

Peace,
Jewel

IN OUR PRAYERS

Jerry Anderson
Kristy Fyhrie
Larry Sather
Joan Burquest
Dennis Rosenquist
Lois Rosenquist
Ricky Hart
Sara Skoglund
Cheryl Farber – mother of Melissa Schlosser
Rev. Bruce Miller- father of Karin Wagner
Marg Peterson -friend of the Thoms
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
Becky Yttrie – friend of the Townsends
Kim Casavan – friend of Mandy Arvidson
Karen Schlosser – mother of Justin Schlosser
Pete Baugh – brother-in-law of Pr. Ken Bowman
Wes & Barb Hoyhtya – friends of the Thoms
Audrey Plessner - sister of Kathy Mittag
Dirk Bergquist – friend of Esther members
Family and Friends of: Katie Jahnke, Colleen Burquest, Doug Tvedt, Jerry Pogose, Terry Burns, Bruce Carter, Gary Willie, Connie Pesta, Kathy Wilkins, Ivy Christensen, Jim Schlosser, Leroy Olson, Dale Flemming, Wally Schlosser, Carter Stockert, Woodrow Peery, and Elaine Salvog

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Joan Burquest	10/3
Chase Stueve	10/4
Jakki Wehking	10/7
Dexter Pomeranz	10/7
Seth Sansness	10/7
Elora Wagner	10/7
Hunter McDaniel	10/11
Jewel Townsend	10/11
Brolin McPhail	10/12
Cade Klimek	10/13
Megan Higgs	10/15
Veronica Arvidson	10/18
Isabell Steidl	10/18
Yuvonne 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



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

OUR CHURCH'S FINANCIAL HEALTH

2026 Proposed Budget	**$107,114.00**
Actual contributions YTD as of 8/31/26	**$62,790.05**
Budgeted contributions as of 8/31/26	**$71,409.33**
Difference YTD as of 8/31-26:	**$-8,619.28**

SERVING IN OCTOBER

Pastor: Oct 4- Pr. Greg Billberg, Oct 11-Pr. Dennis Preston, Oct 18- SAM Jewel Townsend, Oct 25- SAM Jewel Townsend
Organists: Marcia Guenther
Altar Care: Deb Koep
Usher: Dave & Elliott Arvidson
Acolyte: Emma & Elliott Arvidson
Lay Reader: Deb Koep
Communion Assistant: Christy Hart
Birthday Card Sender: Deb Koep



SCHEDULE OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

Oct. 7 – 6 pm: Meal: Elliott Arvidson: Fifth & Sixth Commandments
Oct. 14 – NO CONFIRMATION
Oct. 21 – 6 pm: Meal: Presley Bosl: Seventh & Eighth Commandments
Oct. 28- 6 pm: Meal: Logan Arvidson: Ninth & Tenth Commandments
Nov. 4 – 6 pm: Pizza & Movie Night: "Luther" Part 1: Parents & Mentors are invited to attend
Nov. 11 – 6 pm: Pizza & Movie Night: "Luther" Part 2: Parents & Mentors are invited to attend
Nov. 18 – 6 pm: Meal: Chase Stueve: Review of Ten Commandments
Nov. 25 – NO CONFIRMATION



Detroit Lakes
Saturday, November 14, 2026
10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes

This workshop will offer tools to help your congregation discern its next faithful step, including spiritual curiosity practices, ways to learn from your community and congregation, energy audits to guide leadership conversations, and a simple stewardship process. There will also be time for encouragement and worshipful reflection, with the option to sign up for monthly mentoring calls or an in-person consultation. Go to NWMN Synod website for information and to register. Jewel will also be attending.



MARY MAGDALENE AWARD

Deb has been a member of Esther Lutheran family all of her life. Her parents and grandparents passed their faith to Deb. She taught Sunday School and sang in the choir as a teenager.

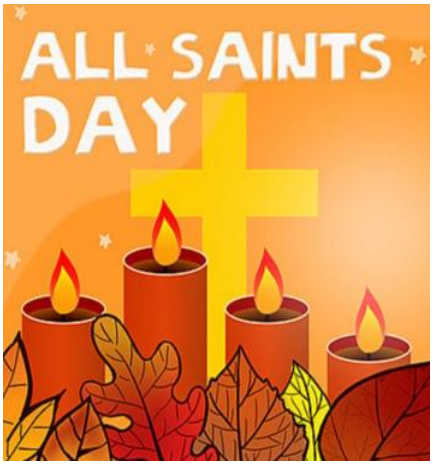
She married Jeff and had two daughters and raised them to be part of Esther. She has 4 grandchildren and she now watches them serve our congregation with their gifts. A verse her family says embodies Deb: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" Colossians 3:23. Deb is a humble servant who performs tasks not for acknowledgement but for the Lord. As the girls grew, she returned to teaching Sunday School. She has been a member of WELCA, Altar Guild, and the Worship Committee for many years. She is a faithful lay reader, and communion assistant. Deb is the kind of person whose quiet act of service often goes unnoticed. She is among the first to arrive, preparing for worship and church events, and among the last to leave; making sure everything is cleaned and put away, and all the lights are turned off. She always serves funerals. She is the "egg coffee maker" on her circle. We only have a few that are willing to take responsibility for the coffee, but Deb is always there first to get the coffee started. (and she doesn't drink coffee). Deb lovingly decorates the church throughout the year, bringing creativity, beauty, and special attention to every season, especially the holidays. Since retiring Deb assists her husband Jeff with all the record keeping for Cemetery Board for our church cemetery.

We at Esther are very thankful for Deb's serving us and the community. Thank you, Deb!! $25 will be donated in Deb's honor to WELCA High School Scholarship Fund.









All Saints Sunday is on Sunday, November 1st. 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 Mandy in the church office by October 29th.**



Mental Health First Aid will be held on Saturday, November 21st from 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m. on Zoom. This will be led by Aaron Suomala Folkerds. This This class will help participants identify, understand, and respond to mental health challenges. Go to NWMN Synod website for information and to register.



Women of the ELCA

WELCA met Sunday, September 13th at 8:30 am. Treasurer's report: Savings/Memorial $7,833.40, Checking account $3,952.42

Just another reminder: If someone is having difficulty, sick, or in the hospital, please let Donna Pederson know. She will send them a card to let them know the Esther family is thinking and praying for them.

Dates to remember:

- October 24th: Conference 8 Fall Meeting at Grace Lutheran in Brandon. Speaker will be from Health Partners from Tanzania. It will be a mother and son. Grace supports this mission regularly. Please let Luella know if you can attend. It is $20 each.

- October 30th: Leadership training for WELCA up at Little Norway Church by Fertile. It runs from 9:30-3:00. Luella is going if anyone wants to ride along. There is no charge, just need to give a head count for the meal.

- November 7th: Our porch pot making at Kathy Mittag's. Hope you are gathering up items as you see them. You can drop them off at Kathy's as she has room to store them until November.

- November 20 & 21st First lefse making
- December 4th & 5th Second lefse making

- **December 6th is our soup/sandwich and Christmas Market. Hope you are working on some things to share at the Christmas Market.**

Sept 18th & 19th: The Annual Convention at Trinity in Crookston. Donna Pederson volunteered to be our voting delegate this year. We only had 22 voting delegates this year, which is down from our normal 30 plus. The theme was "Button Up Your Faith". All devotions and our main speaker, Gaye Lindfors, used that theme in their presenting. Our WELCA turned out in force at the last minute for the Silent Auction baskets. In fact, we had so many items it was turned into three and maybe could have been four. The last time I checked before the end of the auction, all our baskets were $75-$95 range. We had one with a Garden theme and two with a Baby theme. The theme "Button Up Your Faith" turned out to be a great one. We discussed how a button connects usually two pieces of something, like God connects to us; but we need to work on our faith to keep that connection to God. With the theme, several of the board members made items with buttons. Luella used salt and pepper shakers and made button flowers for all the tables. I could have sold many of them at the convention. We also had a cross wall hanging that Donna Pederson graciously made and her daughter Heidi quilted it with doves. Kathy and Luella sewed on the white pearl type buttons on the cross. We asked all to bring a button from home to sew on the wall hanging. Many dug into their grandmother's buttons. It turned out beautiful. We then raffled the wall hanging off to one of the attendees.



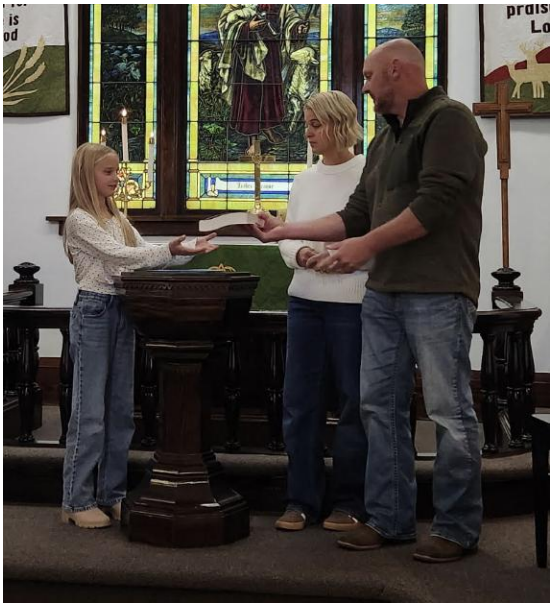


At the Annual Convention, we also recognize women of the ELCA who have been going above and beyond in their churches and community. It is the Mary Magdalene Award. Each gets a book with all the award winners, an award, and a rose. This year we had 15 ladies receive awards. A few of them were in the mid 90's. Our WELCA nominated Deb Koep for an award. She could not attend the convention, so her award was presented during church on September 20th. With so many knowing and this being in the works since April, we were still able to surprise her. Deb deserves this award. (please see the write up about Deb in separate article) Our WELCA meeting on September 13th coincided with the first day of Sunday School. We served root beer and orange floats after church. We decided at our last meeting to donate $1,000 to the steeple repair fund from our savings monies. We also discussed having some fund raisers with our Sunday School. Stay tuned as we get those finalized.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, October 11th at 8:30 am. Luella Thom, President



Congratulations to Molly Stanley for receiving her 3rd grade bible! God bless you!



Women's Weekend

November 20-22



Calling all women! Let's gather together at camp for a beautiful fall weekend complete with meaningful worship, guest speakers, Bible studies, delicious meals, crafts, activities, snacks, and more! We will explore Luther Crest's fall and winter theme: "The Rocks Cry Out," centered around God's creation, the wisdom it offers us, and the role we play in stewarding and protecting it. Come on Friday late afternoon and stay until Sunday morning with all meals from Friday dinner-Sunday brunch included! Bring a friend and get a discount!

MEA Day Camp

October 15 & 16
Grades: K-5



Join us here at camp for 2 days of games, crafts, learning, singing, and fun! This Day Camp runs 9AM-5PM on the Thursday and Friday of MEA Break weekend (Oct. 15-16). Together we'll spend time getting to know one another, playing fun fall games, and diving into the Bible through worship and discussion. Campers currently in grades K-5 are welcome to come for one or both days (both days will have different programming). Lunch and an afternoon snack will be provided.

Lois & Melissa having fun at Oktoberfest!





Luther Crest Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, October 10th at 10 am.

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"

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	**2**	**3** Spruce Hill Church Open House 12 pm-4pm
4 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost *Fellowship before & after worship* 9 am – Sunday School 9:15 – Coffee & Conversation 10 am – Worship w/Holy Communion led by Pr. Billberg 11 am – 9th Grade Confirmand Meeting 2 pm – Worship at St. William's	**5**	**6**	**7** **Confirmation**: 6 pm – Meal: Elliott Arvidson	**8**	**9**	**10** Luther Crest Annual Meeting 10 am
11 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost *Fellowship before & after worship* 8:30 am – WELCA 9 am – Sunday School 9:15 – Coffee & Conversation 10 am- Worship led by Pr. Preston 2 pm – Worship at St. William's	**12**	**13**	**14** **NO CONFIRMATION** **Council** 6 pm 26th Annual Domestic Violence Luncheon	**15** **MEA**	**16** **MEA**	**17**
18 Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost *Fellowship before & after worship* 9 am – All People Sunday School 9:15 am – Coffee & Conversation 10 am – Worship w/Holy Communion led by SAM Jewel 2 pm – Worship at St. William's	**19**	**20**	**21** **Confirmation**: 6 pm – Meal: Presley Bosl	**22**	**23**	**24** WELCA Conference 8 Fall Gathering Grace Lutheran in Brandon
25 Confirmation Sunday 8:30 am – WELCA 9 am – Sunday School 9:15 – Coffee & Conversation 9:30 am – Confirmation Reception 10 am- Worship led by SAM Jewel 2 pm – Worship at St. William's	**26**	**27**	**28** **Confirmation**: 6 pm – Meal: Logan Arvidson	**29** **NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE**	**30**	**31** **HAPPY HALLOWEEN!**
Nov 1 All Saints Day *Fellowship before & after worship* 9 am – Sunday School 9:15 am – Coffee & Conversation 10 am – Worship w/Holy Communion led by SAM Jewel 2 pm Worship at St. William's	**2**	**3**	**4** **Confirmation**: 6 pm – Pizza & Movie Night	**5**	**6**	**7**

Join us each Sunday for Fellowship Before & After Worship!

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