



ESTHER LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

November 2026 Newsletter

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

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/estherlutheran

Remembering Whose We Are

Last Sunday we had the joy of celebrating with five young people as they affirmed their baptism. They shared their faith statements with us and declared their intention to continue growing in their faith and following Jesus. It was a wonderful reminder that confirmation classes are just a short time in a lifelong journey of walking together in faith and a time of intentionality to grow our understanding of what it means to be baptized into the family of God.

As we begin November, we take intentional time on All Saints' Sunday to remember those who have gone before us, trusting in the promise of eternal life that God gives us in baptism. We remember the people whose lives have touched ours, the faith they shared, the love they gave, and the ways they helped shape who we are today. As we remember our loved ones who have passed, we remember our baptismal promises – both the ones given to us by God and the ones made by us. A glimpse of this connection can be found in one of our scripture readings for All Saints' Sunday, 1 John 3:1, we hear these beautiful words:

"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are."

What a powerful reminder of whose we are. We belong to God. Not because of anything we have done or accomplished, but because God first loved us and claimed us as God's own.

And that matters. It matters not just on Sunday mornings, but our response to God's love shows up in the way we live every day. As children of God, we are called to follow Jesus. We are called to let our faith shape the decisions we make, the words we speak, and the ways we treat one another. In a sense, our baptism gets in the way of how we think or act. It reminds us that life isn't just about what is best for me, what I want, or what benefits me. We belong to God, and that changes how we see the world and the people around us.

This is especially important as we enter a month when we make decisions together that affect our communities, our state, and our nation. The choices we make, both individually and collectively, reach far beyond ourselves. They affect our neighbors, our communities, and even the wider world. As we make those decisions, perhaps it is worth asking ourselves: **Do these choices reflect whose we are? Do they reflect the love, compassion, justice, and care that Jesus calls us to live out?** Being a child of God doesn't mean we will always agree with one another or make every decision perfectly. But it does mean remembering that the people around us are also children of God, deserving of dignity, care, and respect.

There are opportunities this month to put our faith into action at Esther as we make porch pots together on November 7th to give to members of our community, or we join in the fun and fellowship when we make lefse together on November 20th and 21st. But we also have the opportunities to gather as a wider community this month, too.

On November 18th, we invite you to gather for a free community meal at the Miltona Community Center. This event gives us a chance to serve, visit, share a meal, and spend time with people throughout our wider community. It is a simple but meaningful way to build connections and strengthen the community we share.

Thanksgiving Eve is another chance for our entire community to join together for worship at First Lutheran in Parkers Prairie. Regardless of which church we attend, we are part of one body of Christ. Invite your friends and neighbors. This is a beautiful opportunity to gather together, worship together giving thanks for the many gifts God has given us, and celebrate the strong, caring community in which we are blessed to live.

As we move through November, may we remember those who have gone before us, give thanks for those who walk alongside us today, and live with the assurance of God's promise for tomorrow. We are children of God. We belong to God. May that promise shape not only what we believe, but how we live our lives together.
Peace, Jewel

IN OUR PRAYERS

Jerry Anderson
Kristy Fyhrie
Larry Sather
Joan Burquest
Dennis Rosenquist
Lois Rosenquist
Ricky Hart
Sara Skoglund
Steph Stueve
Denny Hagen – uncle of Mark Ratajesak
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
Joyce Muyres – friend of the Thoms
Bev Guse-Ohlrech – friend of the Pedersons
Kim Casavan – friend of Mandy Arvidson
Karen Schlosser – mother of Justin Schlosser
Pete Baugh – brother-in-law of Pr. Ken Bowman
Barb Hoyhtya – friends of the Thoms
Dirk Bergquist – friend of Esther members
Jeramie Harris – friend of the Townsends
David Meidinger – cousin of Jewel Townsend
Al Ratajesak – uncle of Mark Ratajesak
Family and Friends of: Bruce Carter, Gary Willie, Connie Pesta, Kathy Wilkins, Jim Schlosser, Leroy Olson, Dale Flemming, Wally Schlosser, Carter Stockert, Woodrow Peery, and Wes Hoyhtya



2026 Proposed Budget	**$107,114.00**
Actual contributions YTD as of 9/30/26	**$69,993.50**
Budgeted contributions as of 9/30/26	**$80,335.50**
Difference YTD as of 9/30/26:	**$-10,342.00**



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.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Kathy Mittag	11/03
John Skoglund	11/03
Sharon Carlson	11/05
Steven Dobratz	11/06
Amy Stanley	11/06
Wyatt Arvidson	11/06
Tessa Arvidson	11/07
Trent Hagen	11/09
Bob Aldrich	11/10
Hunter McQuiston	11/11
Ricky Hart	11/19
Nolan Hart	11/19
Patrick Wambeke	11/20
Dan Klimek	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

SERVING IN NOVEMBER

Pastor: Nov 1- SAM Jewel Townsend, Nov 8-SAM Jewel Townsend, Nov 15-Pr. Dennis Preston, Nov 22-Pr. Greg Billberg, Nov 29- Pr. Ken Bowman
Organists: Marcia Guenther
Altar Care: Donna Pederson
Usher: **NEED VOLUNTEER**
Acolyte: Nov 1- Sawyer Ratajesak, **Nov 8-NEED VOLUNTEER, Nov 15-NEED VOLUNTEER**, Nov 22-Sawyer Ratajesak, Nov 29-Sawyer Ratajesak
Lay Reader: Chris Carter
Communion Assistant: Chris Carter
Birthday Card Sender: Confirmation Class



SCHEDULE NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

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
Dec.2- 5:15 pm: **Meal: Provided by St. William's.** Decorate for the holiday – Seasons of the Church Year
Dec.9 - -6 pm: **Mentor & Student Potluck** – Spiritual Practices an handout Spiritual Gifts Assessment
Dec.16-6 pm: **Christmas Potluck** and Fun Night
Dec.23- NO CONFIRMATION
Dec.30- NO CONFIRMATION



Porch Pot Making Event at Kathy Mittag's November 7th at 9 am!
ALL are welcome! We look forward to a fun morning of creativity and fellowship!
Kathy's address: 20543 Cattail Dr NE Parkers Prairie, MN 56361



Get your lefse ready for the holidays! Pre-order forms are available in the Narthex. Submit your orders by November 30th. You can also place an order by calling Lana Doll at 218-280-6326

Join us for TWO lefse making days:
First Event:
November 20th at 5 pm
November 21st at 8 am

Second Event:
December 4th at 5 pm
December 5th at 8 am



Youth are selling 2027 calendars! Cost $10. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex. Orders due by November 29th.



We will be decorating for the Christmas Season following worship on Sunday, November 22nd. Any help is appreciated!



Community Thanksgiving Eve Worship
Wednesday, November 25, 6:30 pm
at First Lutheran Church in Parkers Prairie
hosted by First, Faith and Esther Lutheran Churches.
Pie and fellowship following worship.



Wednesday, November 18, 4:30-6:30 pm at the Miltona Community Center. Serving chili, cornbread and brownies.
All are welcome!

Women of the ELCA

Our last meeting was held on October 11th, 2026. We have in our checking account $3,752.42 and our memorial/savings fund has $ 6,853.05.

The Domestic Violence Luncheon was held on October 14th, Clara and Chuck Pogose, Jewel Townsend, Megan Townsend, Christy Hart, Dick and Luella Thom attended the event. Always sad to hear how many women, men, children are murdered in domestic violence situations. There are always 20 plus every year that are named and honored during the luncheon. We ALL NEED TO MAKE SURE WE ARE THERE TO HELP!

Jewel and I attended the Conference 8 Fall Gathering at Grace Lutheran. Grace Lutheran does not have a WELCA unit, but the ladies hosted all of us. They did a great job. The speaker they had from International Health Partners of Tanzania. It was very interesting to hear how they started and maintain many hospitals in Tanzania. They had brought many items; jewelry, pictures, wall hangings, etc. with them that were made from the people in Tanzania.

I attended a Leadership Training session in Little Norway Lutheran Church in rural Fertile, MN. Our theme was God is Woven into our Hearts. We had a speaker who showed us how to make Norwegian sweaters. She raises her own sheep and weaves her own wool to make sweaters.

Porch Pot Making will be on November 7th at Kathy Mittag's starting at 9:00 am. Bring pots, decorations, greenery, or anything that can be used for making pots; both real and artificial. Marcia has 34-gallon cans she is painting to use. Christy has gotten us a bunch of gallon plastic containers as well as some quart containers to use.

On November 20th at 5 pm we start the lefse making by peeling, cooking, and ricing the potatoes and get them in the refrigerator to cool for Saturday. All are welcome!

On November 21st at 8 am we roll, cook, package, freeze the lefse. Again, all are welcome!

On December 4th at 5 pm we start the second batch of lefse making by peeling, cooking, ricing the potatoes, and get them in the refrigerator to cool for Saturday. All are welcome!

On December 5th at 8 am the second batch to roll, cook, package, freeze the lefse. All are Welcome.

December 6th is the Christmas Market and Soup and Sandwich Luncheon. Hope you are making things to bring to the Christmas market. We start serving at 11:00 am.

WELCA is also helping serve Confirmation suppers:
January 13th: Naomi Circle
January 20th: Martha Circle
February 3rd: Ruth Circle

On Saturday, April 10th Esther Lutheran will be hosting the Conference 8 Spring Gathering. We would like to ask all of you to please put this date on your calendar. It cycles back about every 6 years for us to host the gathering. We will work to come up with a theme, speaker, food, etc., but will need help making this work. We last hosted in the fall of 2021. We had great help from many of you to pull this off. We will have 60-80 people attending. It will start with registration at 8:15 am with coffee and goodies. At 9:00 am we start with devotions, then business meeting, speaker, and lunch. We usually have lunch at noon, and then it is clean up.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, November 8th. Could we start at 8:00 am to give us a little extra time as we finalize everything for December 6th.

Luella Thom, President





THE BELL TOWER IS LEAKING

AND NEEDS TO BE REPAIRED!



The bell tower is leaking and needs to be repaired! Because of the high reach and difficult area to work in, we do not have an exact idea of cost, but it could surpass **$50,000**. Please consider helping with this important and much-needed repair. We need to preserve the future!

Help keep the bell ringing!

PUT A LITTLE GOOD IN YOUR HEART



Please send your donation to:
Esther Lutheran Church
11019 625 Ave
Parkers Prairie, MN 56361

Or donate electronically:
Scan the QR Code



HELP WANTED

We are looking for a dependable person who will take pride in keeping our church a beautiful place for everyone to gather and worship. Position will start on March 1, 2027. Please contact a member of Council if interested.

Sunday School Schedule

Nov. 8 – 9 am
Nov. 15- 9 am
Nov. 22 – 9 am – Christmas Program Practice
Nov. 29- NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
Dec. 6 – 9 am – Christmas Program Practice
Dec. 13- 8:30 am - Christmas Program Practice and Program to follow in Worship at 10 am



BEHOLD
the new has come

BEHOLD
CONNECT AND REFLECT
will meet on Sundays November 15, 22 and 29 at 9:15 am.
We will join in the weekly devotion and share our thoughts and stories and everyday experiences living out our baptismal promises and encouraging each other in faith.

RETHINKING RURAL MINISTRY Workshop



What's your congregation's next faithful step?
Your congregation has gifts to share: people who care, relationships built over time, and knowledge of the community you call home. How might God be inviting you to put those gifts to work?

Rethinking Rural Ministry offers pastors, deacons, Synod Authorized Ministers, and lay leaders time to explore that question together. During this workshop, participants will practice ways to listen to God, their neighbors, and one another. They'll explore curiosity as a spiritual practice and learn simple tools for reflecting on their congregation's spiritual, financial, missional, and human energy. The day will include prayerful reflection, encouragement from other rural leaders, and practical approaches to discerning a next faithful step. Participants will also have the option to sign up for ongoing mentoring calls or an in-person consultation. Consider attending with another leader from your congregation. Learning together gives you a shared place to begin when you return home.

SAM Jewel will be attending this event and welcomes others to attend with her.

Saturday, November 14 | 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran Church
1401 Madison Ave, Detroit Lakes, MN, 56501
Cost: $15
Learn more and register

Supporting Mental Wellness in Agricultural Communities

Suicide claims far too many lives in agricultural communities. The Minnesota Farm Suicide Prevention Campaign is offering free workshops that equip people to recognize when someone may be struggling, begin a caring conversation, and help connect them with support.

Please consider investing two hours of your time in learning more about mental wellness and suicide prevention.

Free Workshops

QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) for Agriculture
This two-hour, evidence-based workshop teaches three practical steps for recognizing warning signs, having supportive conversations, and connecting someone at risk with appropriate care and potentially lifesaving resources.

COMET (Changing Our Mental and Emotional Trajectory)
This two-hour, interactive workshop teaches seven questions that can help you begin a caring conversation with someone who seems sad, withdrawn, or simply not like themselves.

Participants may attend either or both workshops.

Who Should Attend?

These workshops are for anyone who lives or works in an agricultural or rural community, including farmers, farm families, agricultural professionals, rural clergy and church leaders, veterinarians, local officials, agency staff, and concerned neighbors.

Workshops will be offered in communities throughout Minnesota from mid-September through late October, including **Crookston, Fergus Falls, Thief River Falls, and many other locations**.

Find dates, locations, and registration information:
QPR/COMET Workshops

Questions? Contact Meg Moynihan at **651-201-6616** or meg.moynihan@state.mn.us.

Those needing reasonable accommodations should contact Meg at least 10 days before the event. TTY users may call the Minnesota Relay Service at 711.



















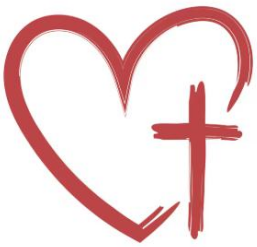












Busy Youth, Big Things Happening!

Sponsor a Resident

St. Williams Living Center & McCornell Court

$15

Each Resident will receive a 4.5" Poinsettia with holiday card.

Simply Flourish
Call 218-338-3800 or stop in
123 N Otter Avenue

Spread some Holiday Cheer!

LUTEFISK & MEATBALL DINNER

Sunday, November 22
11:30 am – 1:30pm

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: $25.00
Children ages 1-12: $.50/year
13-16: $10.00
Call 320-733-2388 for more information

Arabella Marketplace

STOP, SHOP & WIN PRIZES!

Saturday Before Thanksgiving
9am - 3pm

Arabella MANOR



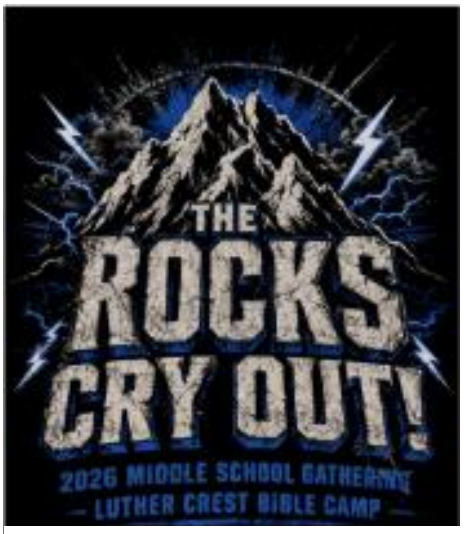
THE SS EDMUND FITZGERALD: FROM LAUNCH TO LEGEND

Free Presentation
Tuesday, November 10
6:30 pm

The BoatHouse
205 3rd Ave W | Alexandria, MN







Middle School Youth Gathering

December 5-6
Grades: 6-9

Luther Crest Bible Camp
SUMMER 2027 PROGRAMMING

Dates		On-Site Programs	Trip & Travel/ Specialty Programs
June 13-18	Week 1	Keepers High School Training	
June 20-25	Week 2	Onsite Day Camp, Seekers, Leapers, Witnesses, Blazers	Women's Week Fine Arts Camp*
June 27-July 2	Week 3	Onsite Day Camp, Explorers, Seekers, Leapers, Witnesses, Blazers	Wilderness Adventure
July 4- 7	Half Week 4	Leapers, Witnesses, Proclaimers	Family/All People Camp
July 11-16	Week 5	Onsite Day Camp, Explorers, Seekers, Leapers, Witnesses, Blazers	Xtreme Camp
July 18-23	Week 6	Onsite Day Camp, Explorers, Seekers, Leapers, Witnesses, Blazers	Night Owls^
July 23-25	Weekend		Family/All People Camp
July 25-30	Week 7	Onsite Day Camp, Explorers, Seekers, Leapers, Witnesses, Blazers	
Aug. 1-6	Week 8	Onsite Day Camp, Explorers, Seekers, Leapers, Witnesses, Blazers, Proclaimers	Family/All People Camp Middle School Adventure Challenge+

*** Fine Arts Camp:** Come to a week of camp that celebrates all sorts of fine arts! From painting and pottery to acting and improv to instruments, musical ensembles and more, this camp will feature special guest artists who will teach and lead mini sessions and masterclasses for all! Hosted at beautiful Camp Emmaus in Menahga, MN.
^ Night Owls: A classic weeklong camp program that features night games, star watching, sleeping in, and all the fun of camp but later! Hosted at beautiful Camp Emmaus in Menahga, MN.
+ Middle School Adventure Challenge: Come with your Middle School youth group and chaperones to this new group camping experience led by our camp staff! Hosted at beautiful camp Emmaus in Menahga, MN.

Contact Luther Crest by calling (320) 846-2431 or visiting luthercrest.org.

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!

Youth Leader Jamboree

Jan. 10-12



Take time to recharge, connect, and grow at Luther Crest! This retreat welcomes ministry professionals serving children, youth, young adults, and families for meaningful conversations, inspiring sessions, and fellowship with fellow pastors and faith formation leaders. You'll also hear exciting updates from Luther Crest and discover ways your congregation can partner with camp. Join us for a refreshing getaway, beginning with Sunday dinner and ending with Tuesday brunch. Best of all, it's completely FREE!

Luther Crest Bible Camp
SUMMER 2027 PROGRAMMING

Program	Grades (completed)	Program Length	Price
Explorers	K-2 (with a parent/guardian)	Sunday-Monday	Early Bird: $245 | Regular: $315
Seekers	2-4	Tuesday-Friday	Early Bird: $520 | Regular: $590
Leapers	3-6	Sunday-Friday	Early Bird: $775 | Regular $875 | Half Week Early Bird: $465 | Regular: $535
Witnesses	6-9	Sunday-Friday	Early Bird: $775 | Regular $875 | Half Week Early Bird: $465 | Regular: $535
Proclaimers	9-12	Sunday-Friday	Early Bird: $775 | Regular: $875 | Half Week Early Bird: $465 | Regular: $535
Wilderness Adventure (Wet & Wilderness)	7-9	Sunday-Friday	Early Bird: $725 | Regular: $775
Xtreme	7-9	Sunday-Friday	Early Bird: $955 | Regular: $1055
Blazers	9-12	Sunday-Friday	Free!
Keepers	10-12	Sunday-Friday	Free!
Family/ All People Camp	All Ages	Sunday-Friday	**Week Rates-** Early Bird: $325 | Regular: $735 | Child (2+): $87 | Family Max: $845 **Weekend Rates:** Early Bird: $145 | Regular: $475 | Child (2+): $87, Family Max: $575 **Half Week Rates:** Early Bird: $200 | Regular: $450 | Child (2+): $55, Family Max: $520
Women's Week	Adults	Sunday-Friday or Daily	**Week Rates-** Early Bird: $525 | Regular: $705 **Daily Rates:** $75/day (discounts for groups of 2 or more)
Night Owls	6-12	Sunday-Friday	Early Bird: $555 | Regular: $605
Fine Arts Camp	3-12	Sunday-Friday	Early Bird: $555 | Regular: $605
Middle School Adventure Challenege	6-8	Sunday-Thursday	Early Bird: $400 | Regular: $450
On-Site Day Camp	K-5	Monday-Thursday 9-5pm	Early Bird: $245 | Regular: $315

New this year: Make camp your own! Choose optional program add-ons (like specialty crafts and sports) during registration to personalize your classic camp experience with extra specialty programming each day.

EARLY BIRD DEADLINE IS FEB. 14!

November 2026 "Knowing Christ-Making Christ Known through Faith, Hope and Love"

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 All Saints Day *Fellowship before & after worship* 9 am – Sunday School 9:15 am – Behold Connect/Reflect 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: "Luther" Part 1	**5**	**6**	**7** Porch Pot Making at Kathy Mittag's 9 am
8 Twenty Fourth Sunday After Pentecost *Fellowship before & after worship* 8:30 am – WELCA 9 am – Sunday School 10 am- Worship led by SAM Jewel Townsend 2 pm – Worship at St. William's	**9**	**10**	**11** **Confirmation** 6 pm – Pizza & Movie Night: "Luther" Part 2	**12**	**13**	**14** Rethinking Rural Ministry at Trinity Lutheran in DL 10 am – 2 pm
15 Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost *Fellowship before & after worship* 9 am –Sunday School 9:15 am – Behold Connect/Reflect 10 am – Worship w/Holy Communion led by Pr. Dennis Preston 2 pm – Worship at St. William's	**16**	**17**	**18** **Confirmation** 6 pm – Meal: Chase Stueve: Review of Ten Commandments Community Meal at Miltona Community Center 4:30 pm-6:30 pm	**19**	**20** First Lefse Making 5 pm	**21** First Lefse Making 8 am
22 Twenty Sixth Sunday after Pentecost *Fellowship before & after worship* 9 am – Sunday School 9:15 – Behold Connect/Reflect 10 am- Worship led by Pr. Greg Billberg 11 am – Decorate Church for Christmas 2 pm – Worship at St. William's	**23**	**24**	**25 Newsletter Articles due to office** **NO CONFIRMATION** Thanksgiving Eve Service at First Lutheran in PP 6:30 pm	**26** **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!** 	**27**	**28**
29 First Sunday of Advent *Fellowship before & after worship* **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL** 9:15 – Behold Connect/Reflect 10 am- Worship led by Pr. Ken Bowman 2 pm – Worship at St. William's	**30**	**Dec 1**	**2** **Confirmation** 5:15 pm – Meal at St. William's Living Center Help decorate for the holidays	**3**	**4** Second Lefse Making 5 pm	**5** Second Lefse Making 8 am

Join us each Sunday for Fellowship Before & After Worship!

Esther Lutheran Church
11019 625th Ave
Parkers Prairie, MN 56361

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”