



# THE MESSENGER



*From the Pastor's desk...*

## Making the Offering a Meaningful Part of Worship



OFFERING practices have changed a great deal in recent years with online giving and lingering COVID practices. Join Pastor Tim Brown for a conversation about the role OFFERING plays in worship and how to highlight it in the worship service. Leave with ideas and practices that can be implemented at any congregation.

January 27th 2025 6-7pm

Zoom Link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/join/89469236322?meetingMasterEventId=ya\\_ZA16qStmdW-CiNQ7kuw](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/89469236322?meetingMasterEventId=ya_ZA16qStmdW-CiNQ7kuw)

December is a noteworthy month within our spiritual lives for a number of reasons:

\*We celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus \*We reflect upon the year's highs and lows. \*We consider our annual giving to service organizations including our church \*We make goals for the new year \*We give thanks to God for all that we learned through good times and those moments which have brought us to our knees.

The giving of our time and talents is a direct response to all that God has done and continues to do within our lives and the lives of our loved ones.

Please take time to join the above zoom conversation to learn more of the role OFFERING plays within our worship services.

For those who wish to gather together for this event; I will plan to host the above Zoom on the large screen TV at Fisher Church on January 27th. Please plan to arrive about 5:30 so that we can get settled and prepare to participate together, or you may access the Zoom link in your own homes.

Thank you for allowing be to be of service!

Pastor Gretchen





## *Fisher Lutheran Angel Tree Ministry*

You are invited to participate in Fisher Lutheran's Angel Tree Ministry to help spread joy this Christmas season.

By choosing a tag from the Angel Tree, you'll be blessing a child or family with a gift this Christmas.

### HOW TO HELP

1. **CHOOSE A TAG:** Visit the Angel Tree in the narthex of Fisher Lutheran and select an angel tag with a gift request.
2. **PURCHASE THE GIFT:** Purchase the suggested gift, wrap it and attach the angel tag to it.
3. **RETURN THE GIFT:** Bring your wrapped gift back to Fisher Lutheran by the due date listed on the tag.

*Let's come together  
to share the love and  
generosity of the season!*



Fisher Lutheran had a few confirmation students attend Abide 2024 Middle School Youth Gathering in Alexandria... The kids enjoyed all the fun activities and time spend together. Thank you Travis and Kristin Schwarz for driving and attending this event with them!!



## Hours

### Skiing and Snowboarding

#### Regular Hours:

Sat 10-6pm & Sun 11-6pm

#### Holiday Mondays

Jan 20 & Feb 17 10-6pm

Fridays from 4-8pm

(Starting Jan 3)



### Make a Reservation:

#### Email:

groups@bvskiarea.com

Call/Text Laurie: 218-766-7605

www.bvskiarea.com

12 Miles N on County Rd. 15

Follow us on Facebook!

## Welcome to Buena Vista!

Located on the Continental Divide, we offer 16 Runs-From Easy to Black Diamond.

Three Chairlifts and a Tow-Rope.

Tubing Park and Terrain Park.

Ski & Snowboard Lessons.

Holiday Parties, Business

Gatherings, & more!

### The Chalet

Three-story Chalet. Indoor & Outdoor Fireplaces, Gift Shop, (featuring Custom BV Apparel), Rental & Repair Shop, Dining & Sitting Areas

The Continental Café is located on 2nd floor offering a variety of menu items. Group Catering & Pre-paid food vouchers available upon request. Call ahead for food plans).

(Outside food & beverage, coolers & crock-pots are NOT allowed in the chalet).



Groups 2024-2025

75th Winter Season



Bemidji, MN

218-243-2231

www.bvskiarea.com

Pastor Gretchen would like to accompany a group to ski. Please contact her if interested.

Enjoy the great outdoors by gathering at Buena Vista Ski Area in Bemidji. This winter they are offering group rates for 15 or more people purchasing lift tickets. Group rates are good Saturday or Sunday and Holiday Mondays. Reservations are Required and must meet the minimum of 15 lift tickets.

Make reservations by calling/texting Laurie at 218-766-7605 or email: groups@bvskiarea.com. Hours are Sat 10-6pm Sun 11-6pm. Holiday Mondays (Jan 20 & Feb 17) 10-6pm. Website is www.bvskiarea.com.

# Fisher Lutheran Faith Statements

## Ean Egeland

My mom and I made crosses for myself, Pastor Gretchen, and my confermen. My motivation to make the crosses was the bible verse John Chapter 5 Verse 24, "Whoever hears the word of Christ and believes in him who sent him has eternal life and has passed from death to life." because it reminds me that my dad is in a safe place and that one day I will see him again. I choose to make crosses because it reminds me of the importance of my faith in God through Jesus Christ.

One of my favorite memories from confirmation would be going to Montana because we did a lot of things I've never done before like mountain climbing and white water rafting. I'm glad I had the opportunity to go.

I plan on continuing my faith by being an active member of the church and to continue my faith journey. I would like to thank all of you guys for your support through me and all my confemens journeys and also for the support you guys gave me and my family through the loss of my dad.



## Kinley Korynta

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; don't rely on your own intelligence. Know him in all your paths, and he will keep your ways straight." Proverbs 3:5-6. This is my favorite bible verse because God's saying trust in him with all your heart. Trust God with everything that's happening in our world, in our lives. That is what it means to live by faith. If someone had never heard of Jesus, I would tell them he is the Son of God who sacrificed himself for humanity's sins, he's someone who is offering a path to forgiveness and eternal life through faith in him. One of the commandments that I struggle to be most obedient to is the ninth. "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." It is hardest for me because it is easy to lie, and it is easy to break the commandment without knowing it. As Lutherans we are saved by Christ alone and God's grace. The sacrament of holy communion to me is a time in church where we are sharing bread and wine in remembrance of the body and blood of Jesus Christ. My favorite memory being a youth in the church is when we went on the Montana trip this summer. I liked staying in the mountains over night and watching the passion of the Christ play. If I could ask God one question it would be "Why is there Evil in the world?" 1 Samuel 15:23 says, "God has good reason to allow evil in the world." In addition to the biblical story of Adam & Eve in the garden, I think this is because he is allowing us to experience failure, pain, and struggle so we will grow stronger in our faith and become closer to him. I believe God answers all my prayers no matter what even if it is answered in a way I wouldn't expect or the way I wanted. The reason I chose today to continue to follow my pathway with Christ is because of the church, my family, and my friends and most importantly the bible. They all have held a big role in teaching me everything I know about God, church, and what it means to be Christian, and I appreciate them for everything they have done. I will continue my journey of faith by being an active member of the church and within the community.

## **Tristen Schwarz**

For today the Bible verse I picked for today is Deuteronomy chapter 31:6 and that Bible verse says to be strong and bold to have no fear or dread of them because it is the Lord your God who goes with you and he will not fail you or forsake you. Why I chose this Bible verse is because before I ride at the rodeos it gives me some reassurance that God will be with me no matter what. After confirmation how I plan to be an active member of Fisher church is to help my siblings with their confirmation and Vacation Bible School. One thing I would tell someone who has never heard of Jesus is that no matter how much money or Awards you have you will never feel complete without a relationship with Jesus. One way I am currently serving God's people is by volunteering at many places to help the youth or other charities. The sacrament of holy communion to me means That you are being forgiven for the sins you have committed. I think the person who mentored me most in my faith journey is my mom because she's always referencing and quoting the Bible and she lives by a Bible verse she has tattooed on her arm. The person who has taught me most about the love of God is probably my dad just by the way he talks about what Jesus has done for him all throughout his life. For me, remembering the Sabbath and to keep it holy means to remember God and rest while also being faithful and praising God. as Lutherans we believe that we are saved from our sins because Jesus died on the cross and God gave his only son so that we can be forever welcomed and loved by God. My favorite memory of confirmation was our trip to Montana and the mountains we got to hike up and camp on. The commandment I probably struggle with the most is don't use the Lord's name in vain because I sometimes forget and let it slip but I try to correct myself when I catch it. why I am choosing to be confirmed is so that it will bring me closer to God and will allow me to make my own choice about my faith. What I enjoy about being a member of the body of Christ is that I get to be near others that have some of the same values and beliefs as me and love God the same way I do. If I could ask God a question It would probably be: will I accomplish all the goals I want to accomplish in my life. The way I feel God answers my prayers is by maybe not answering them directly but answering them in different ways that he feels would be better for me. I want to say thank you to everyone who has helped me throughout my life to get to this point.

## **Peyton Hoffman**

The verse I chose for my faith statement was Romans 12:2- Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. This verse reminds me that we should not fall into the pattern of the world but come to Jesus' way of life instead. I trust in the Lord as he has helped me through many situations in my life. He has given me a path and a reason to believe. When I think about God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, it makes me feel whole and complete as a child of God. Being a child of God gives me purpose and hope for a better tomorrow. I plan to continue my journey with God in the church by being present and involved within my community. I want to continue to spread the word of the Lord and live by his word in my everyday life. For those who have never heard of Jesus, or need Jesus, I will tell them stories of Jesus. I will continue to teach words/stories I've learned from the Bible, and at church. Especially the core Lutheran teaching that we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. I want everyone to know that Jesus loves them and to give their life to Jesus just as I have. I want to continue to show and tell people that doing all things through Jesus Christ gives you hope and purpose in their lives. I am being of service by setting a good example in God's name. I do this by spreading his word and being kind to others. Some people may have noticed my kindness, leadership and compassion towards others as this is my way of life. Making people smile and having purpose is something I set out to do for myself and for my God. The commandment that is most challenging for me to follow is honor your father and your mother. I feel many young kids tend to struggle with it as it's hard sometimes to get along with someone all the time that you are around constantly. We are children learning about our own emotions and our young minds struggle to see both sides of the story or argument. It's part of growing up and going through the stages of childhood. I want to thank my Mom and Dad for always being there for me and supporting me in everything that I do. The Sacrament of Holy Communion is a good representation of Jesus giving himself to us and releasing our sins from our shoulders onto his. My best friend Lucy Paulsrud has mentored me in my faith throughout my childhood life. She is constantly preaching the love of God and it's helped me have a stronger relationship with him. Lucy has taught me that Jesus will love me through all the hard times and give me strength to succeed. I feel giving my life to Jesus everyday will help me through life and help me love myself. The 4th commandment to remember is The Sabbath Day to keep it holy, it commands us to take a day of rest. It means to open your heart and time for Jesus. We are saved by grace because Jesus is with us and loves us unconditionally. My favorite memory in confirmation is when we acted out different Bible verses of Bible verses. It gave us a chance to interact and have a better understanding of the lesson. I also loved sharing my highs and lows for the day because it made me think about my day and how it could have been better. It also opened my heart to others in class. They may have had similar days or maybe need an ear to listen. I know Jesus loves me, God is my savior and I trust him!

# Women of the ELCA

## OUR MISSION

*Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.*

## OUR PURPOSE

*"As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world."*

### FISHER LUTHERAN WELCA DECEMBER 2024 DEVOTIONAL BIBLE STUDY



#### "IN GOD'S GARDEN: WHAT FIG TREES TEACH US ABOUT ADVENT"

*By Rev. Heidi Haverkamp*  
DECEMBER 18, 2024 @ 9:00 AM

*This Advent, we'll learn from some surprising teachers: fig trees. Astonishingly vibrant, fig trees have a zest for life. Their roots have even been known to bust through plumbing and climb walls like ivy! Yet fig trees also have a dormant period—a time when they do not grow or bear fruit. But this period of waiting and rest isn't a time of waiting around. It's a time of pruning and fertilizing and watering; a time to prepare for the fruitful season ahead.*

*As we prepare the way of the Lord in this season, we are in our own dormant period of waiting and anticipation. Still, Jesus calls us to "keep awake" and to prepare ourselves for God's coming.*

*Join us to explore what fig trees can teach us about waiting and preparing for God's coming!*



Gather  
Zoom Bible  
Study

You can also join the Gather Zoom Bible Study session each  
**4th Monday of the Month**  
**7:00-8:00 PM**  
Zoom Meeting ID 830 8115 5921



**PATCHWORK**  
PARISHIONERS

**FISHER LUTHERAN QUILTING**

December 9 & 10  
January 6 & 7 / 20 & 21  
February 10 & 11/ 24 & 25  
March 10 & 11 / 24 & 25  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

### Gatherers Give with Glad Hearts *Fisher Lutheran Church*

October – December Donations  
will be gathered for...

### Northlands Rescue Mission

Simply purchase any items from the list to donate, return them to Fisher Lutheran in the gathering bag and they will be delivered to Lutheran World Relief.

#### Priority Items

- ◆ Shampoo, Body Wash
- ◆ Deodorant
- ◆ Men's Shoes/Work Boots (Sizes 10-13 Preferred)
- ◆ Men's Underwear (New, Sizes S - 2XL)
- ◆ Women's Underwear (New, All Sizes)
- ◆ Twin-size Fitted Sheets
- ◆ Shower Sandals

#### Clothing

- Men's jeans (waist size 30-36)
- Winter gloves
- White undershirts and tank tops

#### Consumables

- Cream of (anything) Soup
- Butter
- Mayo
- Canned Vegetables
- Spices (salt, pepper, garlic/onion powder, cumin)
- Sour Cream
- Noodles

#### Backpack Program

- Applesauce/fruit cups
- Instant oatmeal packets
- Cereal cups
- Juice boxes/pouches
- Soup/noodle cups, ramen noodles
- Snack items (individually packaged, not containing nuts)

#### Other

- Toilet paper
- Washcloths
- Pots & pans, Tupperware
- Adult diapers (size L or XL)
- Paper towels

- Shaving cream, Razors
- Baby diapers size 4+
- Ear plugs
- Toothpaste, toothbrushes
- Air mattresses (new)

- Shower curtains & liners
- Small appliances (e.g. microwave, toaster)



*If you currently have a Gatherer's Bag in your possession, please return it so that others may have an opportunity to participate in the giving.*

**Byglund Lutheran Church**

# **“Christmas in the Country”**

**LUTEFISK AND MEATBALL DINNER**

**BAZAAR AND BAKE SALE**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024**

Located 8 miles south of  
East Grand Forks on Highway 220

Menu includes lutefisk, meatballs  
and all the trimmings!



Serving from  
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Cost: Adults - \$20.00

Children 12 and under - free



# PARISH NEWS

Congratulations to all the Confirmands!

FLC—Tristen Schwarz, Ean Egeland, Kinley Korynta  
Peyton Hoffman and Piper Kovarik.

BLC—Avery Traub and Layne Egeland



## Pause for Peace—Mike Osaki

What does "Waiting" or "Listening" for God really look like? When life is so busy, how does it practically work? "Pause For Peace" is a simple answer. Created from ancient traditions reformed to help anyone to jump into easily, participants will rest in silence, answer 3 simple questions, listen to others and share what comes to mind. Join pastor Michael Ozaki after worship at Bygland on **December 8th** and Fisher on **December 15th** from 12-12:30 PM. Come and try this one hour practice and you may be surprised how God shows up among us.

