

VINE & BRANCHES

A Monthly Newsletter of Fish Lake Lutheran Church

January 2020

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:19

We have had a lot of snow pretty early this year. It's been a headache and a half in some ways, but one thing I have enjoyed is how fresh and new things have looked. The early (and sometimes even later) parts of December can be really brown and dead feeling, but this year we have been covered with a fresh blanket of white.

This fresh, white canvas seems appropriate as we look toward the beginning of this new year, and new decade. As many of you have already heard, 2020 will bring the beginning of a new chapter for Grant, Sam, and me, as we are relocating our family to Antananarivo, Madagascar to be the Country Coordinators for the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program. We are excited to begin this new chapter, even as we thank God for the 4 years of ministry here at Fish Lake Lutheran. This chapter has been filled with God's love and grace. We have watched children grow, we have lost those beloved to us, we have built relationships, we have shared life together, and through all of this, we have shared the love of God in word and deed. This has definitely been a beloved chapter in our lives, and we thank God for you!

This new chapter for the Applehans clan does open a new chapter for you at Fish Lake as well. And sometimes that blank white page can be a bit overwhelming to look at. What will this chapter bring? Who will walk with us through this transition? What might things look like on the other side? New things can be very exciting, but new things can be scary as well.

Believe it or not, we are a bit anxious about what this move might mean for our family as well. But we know that God has walked with us in the past, and the God who brought us here will walk with us into this future as well, whether we know what it will look like or not. And that same God walks with you at Fish Lake as well. God has brought Fish Lake Lutheran through 152 years of ministry in this place, and this is the God who will walk with you into whatever the future holds. You will have many other companions – Bishop Lull, Krista Lind (her assistant assigned to Fish Lake), and more people who you have not yet even met – but I'm sure they would all join me in pointing you towards Christ, who walks with you each individually and with Fish Lake each day.

As we all move forward into the new thing that God is doing in Christ, know that I will always pray for you. I treasure my time with you, and Fish Lake will always hold a special place in my

heart. I pray that you will open your hearts and homes to whatever pastor God brings into your midst, and that you will have the courage to embrace that person with the same love with which God embraces you.

Blessings as you walk forward with God!
Pastor Amanda Applehans

ANNUAL MEETING: JANUARY 26TH FOLLOWING WORSHIP!

Voices of Fish Lake

Hi, as you probably just heard I'm Jarrett and I would like to tell you all why my stole is like this (show music notes and instruments). Well, it's because I want to develop and create music but it is a hard and rocky path being an artist nowadays. But, as the bible verse Jeremiah 29:11 says "I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for," and I trust that he helps me find my way. It funnily reminds me of a song I know called the good part, which talks about not knowing the future and skipping to the good part of life where you can be in peace knowing that you made it and are going to be in a peaceful, full, life. And some of you adults may laugh knowing that it is never that simple but, I hope that I can find gods plan for me, It is also why I chose in Isaiah 40:31, "but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." So that is why my stole is like this and my hope is pure. I wish that it all turns out well, thank you.

Jarrett Nelson

A notice from the Cemetery Board

As you may recall, last year the board took the proactive action to remove natural wreaths and decorations from the cemetery earlier than previous years. This was due to the potential outbreak of "elongate hemlock scale" (or EHS). EHS is an insect that can spread to any nearby evergreen plants, including trees and shrubs. Similar to the emerald ash borer, even Minnesota winters do not kill it. To mitigate risks of spreading it is recommended that potentially infected items be disposed of properly either by bagging or incineration.

To protect against this risk, the Cemetery Board would like to notify the congregation that all natural decorations may be removed from the grounds on or before the end of the month of January 2020.

If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to Pete Meagher or any other board member.

Respectfully,
The Fish Lake Lutheran Cemetery Board



You will change peoples lives' when you give a gift of...

\$5000 = Weekend backpack food program for 1 school ear for a whole school

\$2500 = Safe refuge and food for 1 month at the emergency shelter for women

\$1500 = Provide 3 healthy meals a day plus snacks for 1 year to a single mom and her child

\$1000 = Provide monthly meals and fresh produce to a home bound older adult for 1 whole year

\$500 = One advocate to support 43 victims of domestic violence

\$250 = Feeds a family of 4 for 1 full month breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks

\$100 = One day of safe refuge, advocacy and food for 1 woman at an emergency shelter

\$50 = One whole week of breakfast, lunch, dinner and a snack for 3 children.

WELCA/Fish Lake Lutheran Church has donated \$1,898.68 dollars and 112 pounds of food in support of Cambridge and North Branch Family Pathways in 2019!

A Note of Hope from Jim and Angie,

On Feb. 28, 2019, Jim was unexpectedly diagnosed with inoperable pancreatic cancer. We thought we were scheduling his gallbladder surgery when we got the news. The initial prognosis was poor. It wasn't certain he'd live much past a year. He completed chemo locally & proton beam radiation at Mayo. Things were especially bad after radiation. However, Jim feels much better, has returned to work part-time after being off most of the year, is working out & is off nearly all his medications. As of his Dec. 3rd Mayo appointment, his tumor is less than half its original size, all else looks good, and no more treatments. We are hopeful Jim will be cancer free someday.

If you sent a card, letter, email or text; gave us a gift card, money, your time; brought us food, toilet paper, paper towels; took care of our pets; took Jim to & from radiation at Mayo a day so Angie could do laundry & cook; took us out to eat; mowed our lawn; did hard manual labor on our acreage; visited us, called us, checked in on us, prayed for us, sent positive thoughts & cared for us: THANK YOU!! We are SO GRATEFUL for all of you and could have never gotten through this without the AMAZING people in our lives! We are very blessed indeed! Best Christmas Ever for us! *Thanks for Praying for Jim* (Christmas Card is on the bulletin board by the basement door)

In the case of bad weather where weather advisories recommend no travel, Please call the church office, the recorded message will inform you if the church will be closed for that day. 651-674-4252



Fish Lake Lutheran Leadership Positions

Thank you to those who have served Fish Lake as our dedicated leaders and committee members. Your time, commitment, and faithfulness to the mission of our church are deeply appreciated.

Below are opportunities for leadership positions for 2020. Stand forth to God's call! Connect with a nominating committee member at any time for further information or descriptions. Our Annual Meeting will be on January 26, 2020.

- 5 (2 year terms) for the council
- 3 (3 year terms) for the cemetery board
- 1 (3 year term) for the audit committee
- 1 (1 year term) for head usher
- 2 (3 year terms) for nominating committee

Contact:

Kelli Klein 651-235-9238

Shelly Lustig 612-562-2850

Connie Smegal 763-689-9398

Note: There are currently openings on the Church Council and one on the Nomination Committee.

Warmometer - Spread the Warmth

The Warmometer says the weather outside is chilly but at Fish Lake Lutheran our hearts are warm. In November we collected 8 pounds of scarves, mittens, hats, socks and even slippers. Let's keep up the good work and keep those in need warm this winter. All sizes are needed from babies to grandparents.

God Bless You,
The Social Ministry Committee

From Our Friends at Li'l Farm,

We are forever grateful for your support through the quilt auction. You helped provide a safe home for over 400 children!!

Peace, gratitude and blessings,
Sister Margaret



I would like to take a moment to introduce you to Amborella House - a ministry to adult women who have been sex trafficked/exploited.

Her name is “Carrie”...this part of her story begins with attending a basketball game at school with a friend. They were approached after the game to attend a party. Wanting to feel accepted and “popular”, they went to the party. Upon arrival, they were given a drink that was laced with drugs. They would wake up the next morning only to learn they had been taken advantage of by several male classmates. They would then be brainwashed, taken to Las Vegas and sold to a trafficker. Carrie’s story goes on to describe how she was given a different name, “groomed” and prepared for her new life being sold into prostitution. Carrie’s story does not end well...she would be sold to two men for a weekend and later found murdered. This is a true story...but not all stories have to end as Carrie’s did.

Many women are seeking a refuge and safe place to leave “the life” while also finding renewed hope and healing from their past. They are looking to restore their lives so they can write a new story for their future.

That’s where Amborella House comes in. We have done our due diligence in assuring the foundation is strong and ready to serve the women with excellence! We have utilized the experts in the field to help us along the way. We are completely united with our sights set on one purpose...the mission of providing a safe refuge for women to heal and restore from being sex trafficked.

Amborella House will not only provide a safe refuge for healing and restoration, but also include 24/7 onsite trained staff, professional individual and group therapy, case management by qualified staff members, basic life skills, GED tutoring and test prep, career readiness training, links to healthcare and legal services and sensitive faith based care. Learn more on our website: renewhopemn.org

We have a signed purchase agreement on a house sitting on 6 beautiful acres of land. The home will house up to 5 women at a time. We are walking through the zoning and planning process and hope to complete it in December. Once completed, we can close on the house and move forward in setting up the home and hiring and training staff. We are so excited to know we are so close! Our goal? Open the doors on June 1st !

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter

Terri Hopman, Executive Director Amborella House



January 2020:

Monday, 6th	Audit Committee Meeting 6-7 pm Year of Renewal Meeting 6:30-7:30 pm
Tuesday, 7th	Social Ministry Meeting 6:00 pm
Wednesday, 8th	WELCA 9 am - noon
Saturday, 11th	1st Grade Baptism Retreat 10 am-noon
Sunday, 12th	Baptism Milestone Celebration during Worship Congregational Budget Meeting 11:00 am-noon
Saturday, 18th	Block of the Month 8:30-10:30 Dancing with the Dragonfly/Quilting Workshop 10 am-3 pm
Wednesday, 22nd	WELCA extra sewing day 12:00-3:00 pm
Thursday, 23rd	Communication Team Meeting 11:00 am
Sunday, 26th	Congregational Annual Meeting 11:00 am

*Youth programming and Praise Band Rehearsal each Wednesday evening

Year of Renewal Team Update

"Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Jesus, in Matthew 18:20

When we come to worship, we expect to encounter the holy. In the water, bread, and wine of the sacraments, in the word read and preached, in the songs sung, we encounter God who has come into our world to be with us. This is truly holy space – holy time.

But, holy time doesn't end when the final "Thanks be to God" is said. Holy time can be found in many times and spaces. It is holy time when parents gather without their children for a drink and time to talk about the joys and challenges of parenthood. It is holy time when those who have lost loved ones bring cards and casseroles to one with a fresh loss. It is holy time whenever two or three who call themselves "Christian" gather to share life together.

This time together has always been recognized as good, and as holy. Martin Luther called it "Mutual conversation and consolation of believers," in the Smalcald Articles (a short summary written to encapsulate the core of the faith). In section 3 article 4, Luther says this,

"We want to return to the gospel, which gives guidance and help against sin in more than one

way, because God is extravagantly rich in his grace: first, through the power of the spoken word...second, through baptism; third, through the holy Sacrament of the Altar; fourth through the power of the keys and also through the mutual conversation and consolation of believers."

Mutual conversation and consolation of believers. That holy space where we share our successes and struggles, our challenges and concerns with one another in trust and faith that the God who loves us walks with us in the person of another. This holy space has been experienced by many in our congregation as we have walked through the Year of Renewal process. People have listened deeply to one another, and been deeply listened to, and in that holy space God was present.

And this work is ongoing! If you are interested in having a listening conversation with one of our Year of Renewal members, just contact the office. We will connect you with someone who would love to listen to your story! Another place people have found this holy space is during our coffee hour after worship. Many have found a space to know and be known during this time after worship.

I have heard that for some this coffee hour can be a struggle. And I've seen some of these things myself. So, to help us all participate more deeply in this holy practice of "mutual conversation and consolation," here are a couple of tips for us all to consider. First, switch up which table you sit at for coffee. It's important to keep up existing relationships, but try once a month to sit at a different table with faces you don't know as well. You just might find a new connection! Second, consider your coffee hour table full for "regulars" when there are 2 chairs left at the table. This makes it easier for those who are working to reach out find a space to meet and better know others.

Above all, come down for coffee hour whenever you can. This holy time of conversing, of knowing and being known, is the lifeblood of the congregation. We are one body in Christ, and just as the body needs a nervous system so the different parts of the body can communicate, our congregation needs a way to connect and communicate as well. Your presence is not only welcome, it is needed to help keep this body healthy and working well together.

Where two are three are gathered in Christ's name, he has promised to be present with us. Come and connect with your Fish Lake family, and see Christ's face in the face of another.

The Year of Renewal Team: Kelli Klein, Jami Wilking, Rick Cedergren, Mike Linder, Clarke Street, Barb Sauer and Pastor Amanda



Our monthly WELCA meeting was held on Wednesday, December 4, 2019.

1. **The Secretary's minutes were approved and accepted, as written.** Thank you notes were received and read from the Fairview Hospice organization for our donation of weighted blankets, the Lil' Farm, Family Pathways, and the Bethany Lutheran Church for their outreach program.

2. **The Treasurer's report was read and approved.** The opening balance was \$4,626.17; income was \$3,430.15, expenses were \$3,051.68, leaving a balance of \$5,004.64. Our savings account totals \$2,802.54.

3. **Social Secretary:** Kathy continues to send out cards to our shut ins. Seven mission quilts were given to Sue and Connie Warner to be given to the St. Paul Lutheran Church in their mission services. Mary Kay will make a call to the St. Paul Lutheran Church minister to see where we can help them financially.

4. **Old Business**

a. **WELCA Sunday is December 22nd.** Sharon Petit will organize the 2nd annual Christmas cookie potluck. WELCA Sunday in January is the Annual Meeting which will be followed by a potluck. Volunteers and workers from the congregation will be asked to help.

b. **Quilt Needs:**

All required and necessary quilts were reviewed and status of completion brought up to date.

c. **Service and Mission Update:**

- Kitchen updates: Discussed any kitchen supply needs. Potato peelers were purchased.
- Bundles of Love: Donations of hats, mittens, and blankets were delivered.
- Wedding Quilt Policy - Tabled until January.

5. **Updates from previous agenda:**

a. Christmas Centerpiece/ Adopt a Table: Fourteen toppers and centerpieces have been completed and are now being displayed, giving a very festive look to our downstairs area.

b. BOM: Approximately 70 people are registered again this year. A workshop is planned for January 18; 40 people have already signed up. The servers for the BOM workshop are Kathy Lodin, Candy McColley, and Judy Nelson.

c. We tabled discussion for income from our Quilt Bingo until January.

6. New Business:

- a. Last year, we approved giving \$200 each to attendees to Camp Wapo with a \$1200 limit. There is still \$600 in that fund. We approved putting this money in FLLC Youth Fund.
- b. An extra sewing day will be held on January 22nd from noon-3:00 pm.
- c. We approved sending \$200 to Family Pathways to help fund the Viking Vittles program.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 8, 2019. Any woman, friend, or member of Fish Lake Lutheran is welcome to all or any part of our day.

Our meeting was concluded with the Lord's Prayer followed by a potluck lunch.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Kay Linder

2020 Youth Mission Trip Next Summer the youth of Fish Lake will be headed to Savannah, GA to serve alongside residents there and learn more about this historic town.! We will leave on Saturday, July 10 and return on Saturday, July 18. We will serve Monday-Thursday during the day, then staff will have informative and fun activities planned for us in the evenings. The cost for the week will be \$550., but if money is an issue talk with Pastor Amanda and we'll figure things out. To register please bring a deposit of \$100.00 and a completed registration form to the church office, or get it to Pastor Amanda. This is going to be a great trip, but there are only 15 spaces reserved, so if you are interested be sure to get your registration in fast!!

Shalom Thrift Shop

Are you or a family in need of some financial assistance, or do know of a family that is? Members of Fish Lake Lutheran volunteer their time at the *Shalom Thrift Store* in Cambridge. Because of the generosity of their time, Fish Lake Lutheran receives funds each month to help families with financial struggles. *Contact Pastor Amanda Applehans or the church office if you, or someone you know, could benefit this service.*

Dear Fish Lake Lutheran Church Women's Group,

Thank you so very much for the amazing and generous donation of 3 beautiful weighted Blankets! We look forward to using them with patients. I have a "heavy" quilt that my grandmother made many years ago and it is by far one of the most comforting quilts!

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Fairview Hospice, Janell T. Volunteer Specialist

January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
			1 <i>Let the New Year Begin with Joy and Hope in our Hearts!</i>
5 Confirmation Retreat @ Camp Wapo Sat. 9:00 am departure Sunday 5th returning about noon Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am	6 Audit Committee Meeting - 6pm Year of Renewal Committee Meeting 6:30 pm	7 Social Ministry Meeting 6:00 pm	8 WELCA - 9:00 am Staff Meeting - 11:00 am Faith Weavers 1- 5:00 pm Family Night/Confirmation - 6:00 pm Faith Weavers 2- 6:15 pm
12 Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Celebration 10:00 am Budget information meeting following Worship	13	14	15 DEADLINE FOR VINE & BRANCHES Faith Weavers 1- 5:00 pm Family Night/Confirmation - 6:00 pm Faith Weavers 2- 6:15 pm
19 Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am	20		22 Staff Meeting 11:00 am WELCA/Extra Sewing day 12:00 pm Faith Weavers 1- 5:00 pm Family Night/Confirmation - 6:00 pm Faith Weavers 2- 6:15 pm
26 Choir Rehearsal 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Annual Meeting 11:00	27	28	29 Faith Weavers 1- 5:00 pm Family Night/Confirmation - 6:00 pm Faith Weavers 2- 6:15 pm

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Fish Lake Council Meeting 6:30 pm	3	4 Confirmation Retreat @ Camp Wapo Sat. 9:00am departure Sunday 5th return at noon
9	10	11
16	17	18 Block of the Month 8:30 am Dancing with the Dragonfly/Quilting Workshop 10:00 am
23 Communications Team Meeting 11:00	24	25
30	31	1

Sunday Morning Schedule

10:00 a.m. Worship
Refreshments and Fellowship



Offering Counters

- 5 Rick & Deb Lofboom, Cindy Blesener
- 12 Joel & Katie Santjer, Nancy Hoffman
- 19 Laurie Knutson, Shelly Lustig
- 26 Mary Street, Arnie Ricke

Coffee Hosts

- 1 Cookie Jar
- 8 Youth Group
- 15
- 22 WELCA Ladies:

Ushers

- 5 Kelli Klein & Amy Johnson
- 12 Cory & Lisa Nephew & family
- 19 Mark & Cindy Blesener
- 16 Jerome & Elizabeth Huselid





December 5, 2019

Members Present: Steve Mettling, Justin Ricke, Bev Zachrison, Barb Sauer, Candy McColley

Devotions: Steve lead our Devotions tonight. Candy offered to do so in January.

I. Standing Reports

Financial Report: LaDonna reviewed our November Balance Sheet and the Profit/Loss Budget vs Actual. We will continue to use these documents as we prepare and finalize a 2020 Budget.

Pastor's Report:

Self-Guided Tour of our Sanctuary was implemented the night of our Pork Dinner. There were about 40 people who went through the tour that evening.

Milestones: 10 Commandments retreat and celebration. Three children attended using a craft to help them memorize the commandments and games to understand each one and how it helps to support life together.

Baptism: Remington David Hondlik on the 17th of Nov.

Grace Pointe: Led worship on Nov. 20.

Attended and Participated in the *Joint Minsiterium of the St. Paul and Mpls Synods* with year's focus of inter-faith dialogue. Pastor Amanda wrote the Benediction and Sending for the service and helped serve Communion.

We ended the month with a Service of Thanksgiving. Judy Nelson did an amazing job decorating our altar. Following worship some of our younger families helped prepare for the Hanging of the Greens on Dec. 1.

Stats: Home Visits 5; Communion 5; Worship 4; Vacation 1 day and 1 Sunday; Baptism 1.

Audit Report: Final Audit of 2019 will be Jan. 5, at 6:00 p.m. Bev Zachrison Coordinates this for our church.

Youth & Family: Wapo Retreat for Confirmation will be Jan. 4 & 5 - includes Tim Team. Caroling with Confirmation and Tim Team Students on Dec. 15.

Evangelical/Stewardship: These two Committees met to plan our New Member Dinner on Feb. 4, 2020.

Dec. 9, 2019 they will Label and organize our Offering Envelopes for our Congregation to pick up at church.

Feb. 18, will be our next new member class

Property: Steve will contact Gustafson's for Clarification of our Sanding/Shoveling part of our Contract.

We have a few more lights to replace in the basement. Steve and Justin will try to schedule a day and time before Christmas to complete this project. We also discussed the possibility of raising funds to change all the lighting to LED's. It would save some money on our electrical bill and they would last longer. This would be for future planning.

Social Ministry: 8 pounds of warm hats, scarves and mittens were donated to the Food Shelves. This project will continue through the winter months.

Thrivent: Participants in the "Choice Dollars" met to review and discuss the current needs of our Church. It was decided that we would pay up to \$4000 for the repair of our Retaining Wall near the Basement Entrance. Confirmation Crosses were not needed for this year's upcoming class.

WELCA: Decorating our Fellowship Tables for Advent; Donated 7 quilts to First Lutheran of St. Paul for programs in their church to address needs in their community. Pastor Connie Warner and his wife, Sue came to pick up the quilts. Completed our Annual Report

Worship & Music: Advent Service going well. Preparations for the Cantata for Dec. 22. Prep for Christmas Service at 4:00 is close to being done.

II. Special Reports:

Communication: Annual Report continues to be our focus. Postcards inviting our community to our Christmas Services are printed. These will be delivered by our volunteers to the Ad boxes in the next couple of weeks.

Year of Renewal team: Phase 2, Getting to know our Community. Initial ideas reviewed with Council for this phase. Setting up a process to "Listen to our Community."

Nominating Committee: Working on the Upcoming Ballot for Annual Meeting. Inviting members to share their gifts of leadership with our congregation.

Old Business:

Budget discussion: Finalize our Budget Proposal prior to Jan. 12 presentation.

Designated Giving catalog review and approved.

Scholarship review. Review and award Scholarships in Jan.

3rd Sunday Serving during Coffee Hour. Develop a plan and calendar to meet the need each month.

New Business:

Prep for Annual Meeting on Jan. 26, and Budget Information meeting on Jan. 12.

Potluck will be following our Annual Meeting. We will ask for Volunteers Set up and Clean up following the meal.

Christmas advertising: \$56 approved for Advertising in the local paper for our Christmas Services.

Resignation of Deb Robinson was received. The council thanks her for her service paid and volunteer, to the congregation, and will continue praying for her and her family as they grieve the passing of her father.

Affirmations: Sharon Petit Leadership in Decorating our Tables for Advent. Judy & Alden Nelson, for their leadership in decorating for Thanksgiving and Advent for our Church. LaDonna for work on our 2020 Budget. For Shelley Lustig and Amy Johnson to become Money Counters in 2020. For all the 2019 Money Counters: Rick and Deb Lofboom, Cindy Blesener, Joel and Katie Santjer, Nancy Hoffman, Julie Osborne, Laurie Knutson, Mary Street, and Arnie Ricke. To the Social Ministry Committee for work on the Warm Clothing Collections.

Close w/ Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted: Barb Sauer

Let us Pray for...

Those in our midst fighting cancer: Mary, Nancy, Connie, Carol, Beth, Barb, Jim, Rebecca, Julie and Jordan.

Our service men and women including: Sami and Tim

Injured and ill: Ronnie, Lois, Carol and Jean and Ruby

Partner congregation – Wasa congregation in Tanzania

Those preparing for or recovering from surgery: Kelli, Bev. Catherine, George and Tom

Those who have recently passed away: Al Blesener, Renee (Steve Mettling's niece)

ANNUAL MEETING:

Fish Lake Lutheran,

Thank you so much for your generosity, prayers and thoughts. I felt so supported and up lifted I know that is why this cancer has had such a positive outcome. Your gift of money was used to cover medical bills that have accumulated over the last few months. I really do love this church and each and everyone of you!

God Bless!

Beth Jones

WELCA Coffee Serving Schedule for 2020

Thank you to all members of WELCA for serving coffee the forth Sunday of each month this past year. A special thank you to the women who organized their “teams” for serving. Each Team decides what to serve with coffee. The 3-4 women set up, and clean up after coffee. It works out that each woman serves only once in a calendar year.

We hope that asking for volunteers and setting up a monthly schedule will encourage all age groups to work together, get to know each other better, and give new members a chance to meet other members. If you were not asked to serve in 2019 please be willing to help when asked this year. If you have a month that works best for you to serv contact me or the monthly leader and we will gladly add your name to the list.

Below is a list of women who have offered to serve as coffee organizers and the months they are serving. February and June have their teams “set up”. All other months need volunteers to help serve and would appreciate your help.

January 26 - Annual meeting with pot luck. The council will be organizing the set up, serving and clean up. A sign up sheet will be sent around for volunteers.

February 23- Carol Cimbura, Mary Bryson, Jan Pape, Wanda Ahlman

March 22 –Shelly Lustig

April 26– Kathy Lodin

May 24-Barb Sauer

June 28 –Marcie Whitman, Jane Chapman, Judy Nelson, Marilyn Putz

July 26-Deb Lofboom

August 23-Nancy Bengtson

September 27-Candy McColley

October 25-Cindy Blesener

November 22-Mary Kay Linder

December 27-Sharon Petit

The money that WELCA receives at the coffee table on the 4th Sunday is donated to the area food Shelves. Your donation benefits so many people in our community. Also, WELCA asks you to consider bringing in food shelves.

If you have questions, concerns or ideas about serving please let me know.

Thank You, Deb Lofboom

Dear WELCA Quilting Group,
Many thanks for the donation for the gorgeous quilt for our Gala/Silent Auction! The proceeds from the quilt will help facilitate supporting children in Foster Care and also adoptions near and far. Kind deeds change lives!
Thank You Sharon Saver, Event Coordinator

Fish Lake Google Calendar!!

Fish Lake now has a Google calendar! You can subscribe to it on your Google account, or you can find it on fishlakelutheran.org on the “calendar” tab.

The Google calendar is the “official” church calendar—if there is a discrepancy, assume the Google calendar is correct.



Vine and Branches Articles are due by the 15th of every month

Please submit by or before the 15th of each to ensure a highlighted spot in the Newsletter. You can email your messages (articles preferably in **Word doc**) to: office@fishlakelutheran.org or by calling the church office at 651-674-4252.

Dear ladies of Fish Lake Lutheran,

Thank you so very much for your generous donation of weighted blankets to Fairview Hospice, where I work as a social worker. I am beyond grateful as this gift will be a blessing to many during their transition from this life to the next. The blankets are a way we can help folks who are very anxious, restless, or agitated as it is a non-pharmaceutical way to help people relax/calm. Research also shows that these blankets can help with insomnia which we also see in many of the folks we work with. I work in several nursing homes in the north that have folks with no family/primary caregivers and have very little financial resources so they would have never had the opportunity to experience the gentle calming (similar to a hug) that these blankets can provide. You will be getting a thank you from our whole department/volunteer coordinator, but I wanted to thank each of you myself.

You are all a blessing.

Nicole Linder

Winter is Coming...

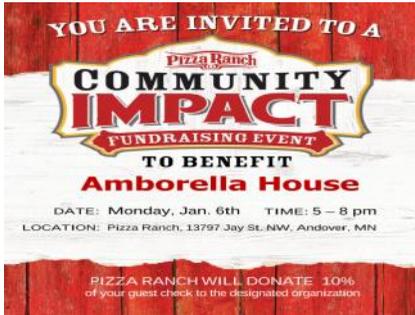
Some of our older members have trouble shoveling out after the large snow storms we get here through the winter. If you would be willing to help shoveling for some of our members through the winter months, please call the office and we will share your name with those who might be in need of help. Or, if you would like help with snow removal this season, you can call the office as well.



2019 FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP AT FISH LAKE LUTHERAN				
Date	Actual Offering	Budgeted Offering	Percent	Above/ Below Budget
November 24th	4,718.42	3,395.00	100%	1,323.42
December 1	2755.00	3,395.00	81%	(640/00)
December 8	2,981.10	3,395.00	88%	(413.00)
December 15	7,431.25	3,395.00	100%	4036.25
December 22	8,042.00	3,395.00	100%	4,647.77
2019 YEAR TO DATE	161,687.38	173,145.00	93%	(11,457.62)

All who contributed to these funds:

- **Cemetery Fund—\$5,568.00** was given so far this year in support of maintaining our Cemetery.
- **Building Fund—\$8,342.32** was given so far this year in support of maintaining our building and grounds.
- **General Fund through Simply Giving—\$15,250.00** was given so far this year through electronic giving.



Mark you Calendar:

Amborella House Annual Fundraising Banquet

RENEWING HOPE

Tuesday, April 28th, 2020 6:30 Vadnais Heights Commons
(More information to come)

Fish Lake Lutheran Church Women of the ECLA,
Thank you for your gift of \$1,000.00 on Oct. 9, 2019 to the Allina Health Hospice Foundation designated to the TLC Fund. Your gift offers comfort and compassion to hospice patients and families in the 34 Minnesota and Wisconsin counties we serve.

As a generous donor, you have made it possible for hospice patients and families to have access to programs and services that provide physical, emotional and spiritual comfort during a very difficult time. Programs like massage and music therapy or bereavement counseling are not reimbursed by Medicare or private insurance. But because of you, a hospice patient received that extra special care that often provides a remarkable level of peace and comfort.

Your generosity is humbling. On behalf of the Allina Health Hospice Foundation, all the caregivers at Allina Health Hospice and the patients and families who benefit from your generosity, thank you.

Laurie Hennen
Foundation Director

Announcement: Li'l Farm has been operating for the past 24 years, providing a home for more than 400 children.

We started the Li'l Farm with a prayer and a few dollars in 1995. Li'l Farm Children's Home, Inc. is now recognized as the most sought after foster home in Isanti County.

With much discussion we have decided to retire later in 2020. While reviewing this situation, the board has decided to sell the property, hopefully to another non-profit who will also serve the community, but probably serving in a different way.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to you with a promise of continued prayer for you and your generosity for so many years!

Sisters Margaret and Francette



*The poinsettias around the
altar are given...*

In memory of:

Parents & Grandparents – Noel & Sharon Petit

Orville & Lorraine Anderson- Pam West

Frances & Grant Blomster – Galen Blomster

Joan Plotz (mother of Kelli Klein) - Daniel & Kelli Klein

Benjamin Klein Sr. (father of Dan Klein)-Daniel & Kelli Klein

Eileen Klein (mother of Dan Klein)- Daniel & Kelli Klein

Benjamin Klein Jr. (brother of Dan Klein)- Daniel & Kelli Klein

Dan and Dorothy Hoffman- Nancy Hoffman

Deanna Applehans – Grant and Amanda Applehans

Jerry Ahlman – Craig & Wanda Ahlman

Ione Ahlman – Craig & Wanda Ahlman

In honor of:

Family & Friends – Sharon and Noel Petit

US Military Branches and all who serve – Daniel & Kelli Klein

Our Grandchildren, Brecken and Sequoia – Mark & Laurie Knutson

GROW

At Fish Lake Lutheran Church

43353 Cedarcrest Trail
Harris, MN 55032
Phone: 651-674-4252
Fax: 651-237-1190
Online: www.fishlakelutheran.org
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
and Friday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
Tuesday By Appointment

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Fish Lake Lutheran Leadership & Staff

Pastor Rev. Amanda Applehans
Office Administrator Denise Steinberg
Parish Deaconess Sister LaDonna Olson
Pianist Cindy Blesener
Custodians Robin Graham & Tom Anderson

Church Council Members

Kelli Klein
Candy McColley
Clay Wilking
Bev Zachrisson
Barb Sauer
Steve Mettling
Justin Ricke
Gaylen Yates