



# The Prairie Land Lutheran Parish Messenger

July 2017



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

Friends in Christ:

The other week, I saw a weird turtle. It was a softshell turtle, a kind I did not know existed. (It looks kind of like it has a snorkel for a nose.) I discovered it while it was slowly crossing a gravel road, and I “helped” it by scaring it into running the rest of the way. I didn’t know that turtles could be that interesting!

Becoming interested in turtles is just the latest result of my interest in birds. When you care about birds, you almost inevitably start to care about their “neighbors”: wildflowers, mushrooms, trees, squirrels, insects, deer, snakes (!)...and yes, turtles. If you hang out with people who like birds, you will find people who know at least a little about all of these things.

I sometimes wonder how that works for those of us who care about God. We can tend to do something similar.

We maybe start out being interested primarily in God. We read the Bible to learn more, we spend time in prayer to develop a relationship with the God we love, and we gather with other people who share our interest!

But if we are *really* interested in God, then it is only a matter of time before we start to become interested in the same things that *God* is interested in. If we *really* love God, how can we help but begin to love the things that God loves? Most of all, how can we help but love the *people* that God loves?

If we love God, who also loves us, then that spills over into us *also* loving *ourselves*. If God loves us enough to send Jesus to die for us, and if we love God, then how can we treat ourselves like garbage? So we start to realize that we are worthy of care.

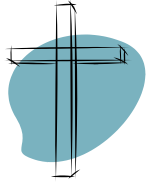
If we love God, who also loves our neighbors, then that spills over into us *also* loving our neighbors. We can’t help but care about our neighbors when we realize that the God who loves us—the God we love—also loves them.

If we love God, who also loves our whole world, then that spills over into us also loving our whole world. (Yes, that includes the birds, and the weird turtles, and even the snakes.)

I think that is why you will find Christians who are passionately committed to all of these different things: caring for ourselves, caring for our neighbors, caring for our whole world. So you find people who love God who teach about good self-care practices. Or you find people who love God who work to change policies and systems that harm our neighbors. Or you find people who love God who work to heal the world we live in. None of this is a replacement for our love of God. Instead, it is natural, inevitable result of our love for God!

God loves us. God loves our neighbors. God loves our world. That’s a lot of love. That’s enough love for all of us...even the turtles.

Pastor Sarah



## Vital Statistics

### Lake Hanska

May 21st at LaSalle	\$45.00
May 28th 46	\$1,814.38
June 4th at LaSalle	\$395.00
June 11th 16	\$412.93
June 18th at LaSalle	\$216.00

### La Salle

May 21st 26	\$868.00
May 28th at Lake Hanska	
June 4th 41	\$656.00
June 11th at Lake Hanska	
June 18th 30	\$690.00

### Zion

May 21st 43	\$720.00
Loose offering 57.11	
at the City Park	
May 28th 29	\$3,405.01
June 4th 21	
June 11th 54	\$2,658.00
June 18th 58	\$1,116.00

## July 2nd Joint Worship at the Lake



9:00a.m. Coffee, Juice and Rolls

10:00a.m. Worship

**Transportation down to the lake is available for those that can not walk down the hill.**  
**(Don't forget to bring a blanket or chairs to sit on)**  
**If it rains worship will be at Lake Hanska Church**

## July 2017 Worship

9:00a.m. Worship at LaSalle - July 16th and 30th

9:00a.m. Worship at Lake Hanska - July 9th and 23rd

10:30a.m. Worship at Zion

## Funeral in the PLLP

Lorraine Ellanson - Saturday May 27, 2017 at Zion Lutheran Church

## Baptisms in the PLLP

Kaytlin Marie Lilleodden - baptized Sunday May 28, 2017 at Lake Hanska  
Parents: Nancy and Andrew Lilleodden

Stella Ann Christenson - baptized Sunday June 4, 2017 at LaSalle  
Parents: Emily and Peter Christenson

**We welcome these children into God's family.**



*For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.*

Galatians 5:13

# Prairie Land Lutheran Parish Women of the ELCA

## LaSalle W-ELCA

**Altar Guild:** Bonnie Viland and Marie Christenson

**No PLLP W-ELCA Bible Study in July.**

## Lake Hanska W-ELCA

**Altar Guild:** Sue Stoesz, Lanna Raatz and Deb Koch

**No PLLP W-ELCA Bible Study in July.**

## Zion W-ELCA

**Altar Guild:** Carla Grams

**Communion:** Ingrid Bode and Darla Colebank

**Flowers:** Mary Circle

**No PLLP W-ELCA Bible Study in July.**

Thank you to all the kids that attended VBS - Mighty Fortress!! Thank you to all the helpers and teachers that pitched in. It was a great week with fun songs, cool art projects, new games and awesome snacks!



**Food for Friends - Salvation Army in Mankato - Saturday July 8, 2017.** If you would like to help please tell Pastor Sarah . We will leave from Zion Church at 10:00a.m.

## **Zion W-ELCA Guest Day**

Zion Lutheran Church  
Noon Luncheon  
Wednesday, August 2, 2017

Do you believe in second chances? We will be entertained by Marie Henriksen of Arco, MN. Her topic is "Walking thru the Bible with 12 Remarkable Women". She uses a quilt as her guide. The Symbolism of each block tells the story of their lives of faith in God.

Please R.S.V.P. by Friday, July 28, 2017 to Darlene Odegard, 439-6213, 439-6806 or 507-381-1909.

**Everyone Is Welcome!**

Prairie Land Lutheran Parish  
PO Box 65  
Hanska, MN 56041

Non– Profit Organization  
Permit 7  
Hanska, MN 56041

Address Service Requested

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Prairie Land Lutheran Parish  
Parsonage Office  
213 Summit Avenue  
PO Box 65  
Hanska, MN 56041  
Phone: 507-439-6270

**Sun. July 2nd Joint Worship at the Lake**

9:00a.m. Coffee, Juice and Rolls

10:00a.m. Worship

**Transportation down to the lake is available for those that can not walk down the hill.**

**(Don't forget to bring a blanket or chairs to sit on) and some bug spray!**

If it is raining worship will be held at Lake Hanska Church