



# The Prairie Land Lutheran Parish Messenger

June 2017



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

Friends in Christ:

When I'm talking about baptism, I often mention that, unlike many Lutheran Christians, I was not baptized as an infant. What I don't always talk about is how that affected my own understanding of the practice of infant baptism.

We moved to Ohio when my sister and I were starting first grade. The church we had attended in North Carolina belonged to a tradition that did not baptize infants, so we were not baptized. There was no church from that tradition in our new town, though, so we had to look around. We eventually found an ELCA Lutheran church. (We didn't know that the ELCA had formed only the year before!)

When we joined that church, First Lutheran Church in Springfield, Ohio, Erin and I were baptized. (We were adorable in our little plaid dresses.) Our younger brother, a toddler at that time, was baptized a few years later. At that time, our parents were okay with baptizing children, but they still felt we should be able to say "yes" for ourselves.



I still remember writing a paper in Confirmation class, comparing the practice of infant dedication and youth/adult baptism with the practice of infant baptism and youth Confirmation. At the time I figured both practices were equally good.

After my first year of college, I became a camp counselor serving day camps in southern Ohio. My very first week of camp was at New Life Lutheran Church in Gallipolis, Ohio. On the very first day of that very first week, our lesson was on Jesus' baptism. I had the "difficult" fifth and sixth grade class. One of the students asked me about baptizing infants. Why do some churches baptize babies? Babies can't do anything! Babies can't believe. Babies can't say "yes".

I remember stumbling through an answer. "Well," I said, "I think...it's because we believe that baptism is about what *God* does, not about what we do."

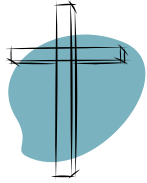
Afterwards, the pastoral intern at that congregation told me that my answer was exactly right. I was proud and relieved! But more than that, I realized that I *believed* what I was teaching those "difficult" kids. I believed that baptism really is God's gift for us. It's about what God does, not about what we do. It's about God *giving* us forgiveness and freedom and salvation and a place in God's family. We don't even have to say "yes".

Do you give gifts to babies who are too young to know what they are receiving? *Of course you do!* We give the very best gifts to our children, as soon as we can. We don't wait for them to be able to reach for them themselves. So of course baptism, the greatest of gifts, is for everyone!

That doesn't mean it's wrong if you were baptized later. Baptism is a gift for *all* people of *all* ages! It does mean that baptism of infants is absolutely okay, and in fact, it's kind of wonderful. It's so wonderful that my infant niece, my sister's daughter, Althea Grace (Thea), will be baptized this month. Because God says "yes" to her.

And God says "yes" to you, whenever you were baptized.

Pastor Sarah



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## Vital Statistics

### Lake Hanska

April 23rd 21 \$353.00

April 30th at LaSalle \$280.00

May 7th 50 \$7,234.66

May 14th at LaSalle \$252.00

### La Salle

April 23rd at Lake Hanska

April 30th 27 \$580.00

May 7th at Lake Hanska

May 14th 32 \$1,076.00

### Zion

April 23rd 43 \$1,607.00

April 30th 45 \$1,043.00  
Loose \$186.90 to the Library

May 7th 48 \$653.00

May 14th 37 \$1,354.00

## Sunday June Worship Schedule

9:00a.m. Worship at LaSalle - Sunday June 4th and 18th

9:00a.m. Worship at Lake Hanska - Sunday June 11th and 25th

10:30a.m. Worship at Zion

VBS Program at Zion - Sunday June 18th



## Vacation Bible School 2017

### Hear ye! Hear ye!

Join us at Mighty Fortress Vacation Bible School

June 12-16, 2017 - 8a.m. - 12p.m.

at Zion Lutheran Church in Hanska

Register your child online at <https://vbsmate.com/zionvbs2017>

or pick up a paper registration at your nearest Prairie Land Lutheran Parish church and send to P.O. Box 65, Hanska, MN 56041.

### Everyone is Welcome!!

## Happy Father's Day



A father of the righteous will greatly rejoice;  
he who begets a wise son will be glad in him.



## Funerals in our Parish

Inez Schmiesing - Monday May 1, 2017 at Lake Hanska Church

Janice Awes - Tuesday May 16, 2017 at LaSalle Church



# Prairie Land Lutheran Parish Women of the ELCA

## LaSalle W-ELCA

**Altar Guild:** Bonnie Viland  
and Bev Olson

### **Note Change of date**

**Thursday June 15th PLLP Joint  
W-ELCA Bible Study 9:30a.m.  
at Zion Church**

## Lake Hanska W-ELCA

**Altar Guild:** Pam Kjelshus  
and Jane Ahlness

### **Note Change of date**

**Thursday June 15th PLLP Joint  
W-ELCA Bible Study 9:30a.m.  
at Zion Church**

## Zion W-ELCA

**Altar Guild:** Darlene Nelson

**Communion:** Brenda Blackstad  
and Ingrid Bode

**Flowers:** Dorcas Circle

**Note Change of date  
Thursday June 15th PLLP Joint  
W-ELCA Bible Study 9:30a.m.  
at Zion Church - General  
meeting to follow Bible Study**

## 125th Albion Lutheran Church Bazaar - Saturday June 17, 2017

Serving of food and craft sale begins at 12:00 (noon) - Auction starts at 1:30p.m.

## Synod Assembly 2017

### **We Are Church TOGETHER**

The assembly will be held June 9-10 on the campus of Gustavus Adolphus College in St Peter, MN. Please keep all those that attend in your prayers.

Food For Friends has been changed from June 17th to July 8th. We will also be serving Aug 19th. Please consider helping serve food at the Salvation Army on one of these dates.

## Confirmation

Sunday May 7th

At Lake Hanska Church  
Tori Raatz and Lexi Neslon

At Zion Church  
Madeline Nelson



God's Blessings

Prairie Land Lutheran Parish  
PO Box 65  
Hanska, MN 56041

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Hanska, MN 56041

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

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