



# The Prairie Land Lutheran Parish Messenger

October 2019



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

Friends in Christ:

*"Now concerning the collection for the saints..." 1 Corinthians 16:1*

Now we come to what can be one of the more puzzling parts of our worship life: the collection of the offering. Why is the offering part of a worship service, anyway? It can seem like it's just an exercise in fund-raising, purely for the self-interest of the congregation (we need to pay the bills, after all).

Although the exact forms have changed over the centuries, some kind of gathering and sharing of material resources has been a part of the life of the church since at least Acts chapter 2 ("they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need"). The idea that those with the means to do so would use them to support Jesus' mission goes back even further—Luke 8:1-3 describes how Mary Magdalene, Susanna, Joanna, and other women made it possible for Jesus and his disciples to travel the countryside, preaching and teaching.

In the earliest days of the church, the people would share, not just taste of bread and wine, but a full meal. After eating, the gathered Christians would take the leftover food to share with people nearby who needed it.

We also know from the appeals in Paul's letters (e.g. 1 Corinthians 16) that Christians in one community would send resources to Christians in other communities who were in greater need.

We connect to this ancient practice whenever we collect an offering. By making that offering part of the actual worship service, we recognize that sharing our resources is not just something we do out of a sense of obligation, because it is necessary.

**Offering is itself an act of worship. It's part of how we recognize and respond to the gifts that God has given us.**

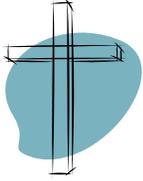
In a full service of Holy Communion, the offering is a bridge between the prayers and the meal. After we pray for the church, the world, and all people in any need, we become part of the answer to our own prayers. We commit the gifts that we have received from God to serve God's mission.

So, for instance, we might pray for the church to have wise leaders; through the mission support dollars we send to our synod, then, our offering helps to equip and train leaders. Or we might pray for the hungry to be fed; then our congregation, out of its budget, gives financial support to the local food shelf, which is doing that work in our community.

Then, by bringing the gifts that we collect forward to the altar during worship, we symbolically recognize that they aren't really ours to give in the first place—**everything that we have comes from God, and belongs to God**. Whether we have a little or a lot, whatever we can contribute is valued. (Since this is a symbolic gesture, it also encompasses gifts that are not literally present in the offering plate, such as those that are made directly through the bank, or in-kind contributions such as donations of time during the week.)

We then proceed to receive the even greater gift that God is offering to us—the gift of Jesus' own body and blood, his presence here with us, his promise of salvation, grace, and forgiveness.

Pastor Sarah Taylor



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## Vital Statistics

### Lake Hanska

Aug. 18	215	\$2,025.00
Aug. 25	21	\$1,300.00
Sept. 1	20	\$888.00
Sept. 8	20	\$752.00
Sept. 15	Harvest Fest.	
	62	\$1,025.00

### Zion

Aug. 18	15
Aug 25	16
offering for 18 & 25 \$1,728.00	
Sept 1	15
Sept 8	38
offering for 1 & 8 & 1,702.00	
Sept 15 Harvest Fest. at LH	

The confirmation students will be collecting food for the Food Shelf **Wed. October 30th.** If you live in the country and would like to donate food please leave it in the porch of the Parsonage (Pastor Sarah's house in Hanska)

## October Worship Schedule

**9:00a.m.** Worship at Lake Hanska Lutheran Church

**10:30a.m.** Worship at Zion Lutheran Church

Sunday School during church at Zion the 1st and 3rd Sundays



### **'Settlers' Service at Lake Hanska'**

In commemoration of those early settlers who built a building to worship, educate, and gather, Lake Hanska Lutheran Church will celebrate worship, accompanied with Communion, in the School House across the road from the church at **9:00 AM on Sunday, October 6th.**

Coffee and cookies will be served following the service. A few yard games will be set up outside to enjoy also.

**Everyone is welcome to come join us for this service.**

**Option:** Feel free to come dressed as you think the settlers of 1873 might have come (bonnets, flowing dresses, aprons, bibs, flannel shirts, straw hats or farmers caps, etc.

There are 3 pews and 40+ wooden chairs and a bench for children to sit on.

## Zion's Lutefisk Supper

**Saturday October 26th - 4:00 - 7:30p.m.**

**at Zion Lutheran Church**

**Menu:** Meatballs, lutefisk, mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, gravy, lefse, cranberries, beverage and dessert served family style

**Price: \$18- Adult, \$8- 6-12, children under 5 free**

**Anyone that would like to help call Sonja S. at 439-6401**

## Wedding

**Becky (Newberg) and Ben Christensen**

**Married Saturday September 7, 2019 at Lake Hanska Church**



# Prairie Land Lutheran Parish Women of the ELCA

## Lake Hanska W-ELCA

**Altar Guild:** Beth Kral, Bonnie Lilleodden  
and Nancy Lilleodden

**Wednesday Oct. 2nd** - 9:30a.m. Quilting,  
10:30a.m. Coffee for all the women of Lake  
Hanska Church

## Zion W-ELCA

**Altar Guild:** Carla Grams

**Communion:** Carla Grams and  
Kay Grams

**Flowers:** Dorcas Circle

THANK YOU' to everyone for sharing the Harvest Festival on Sunday, the 15th. Although the crops in the fields were still a bit green for harvest, the evening was ripe with beauty as we enjoyed worshipping outside. A Special Thank You to the farmers for bringing such a nice variety of equipment to make the evening even more remarkable. God bless each of you with safety and trouble free harvest as you proceed with the harvest. We hope to see you all again next September.

## **Zion Ushers for October :**

Dallas Larson, Delman Larson, Don Grams  
and DuWayne Redmond

**Council member of the month:** Sarah M.

## **Watonwan River Conference Fall Gathering**

October 5, 2019

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

719 6<sup>TH</sup> AVE S, ST JAMES MN 56081

Registration and Coffee at 9:00a.m. Meeting and Program at 9:30a.m.

Cost is \$7.00

Program- "MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD"

By ROSINE HERMODSON-OLSEN

Offering - 1/2 to the Synod and 1/2 Luther Disaster Relief



Lake Hanska Lutheran Church would like to extend a "Hearty THANK YOU" to **EVERYONE** that helped in any way to plan, prepare and assist with the **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on August 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>**. Many hours of planning and work went into a beautiful day of celebration. There are so many people to thank for willingly pitching in to make this such a memorable occasion that we could not possibly name everyone, however; know that your help was very much appreciated. Special thank you to the Blekestad Sisters and Garrett Freeman for your lovely music, Pastors Sarah Taylor, Stephen Norby, and Paul Burows for their participation in the Celebration Service, the bell ringers, scripture readers, the serving ladies for an excellent job, Grant and Joshua Sletta, Peter Goblirsch, and Korene Altmann for their photography, and to each of you that joined us for our celebration in body and prayer. Blessings from Lake Hanska Lutheran Church

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: 507-439-6201

