

SCANDIAN GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

County Rd. 52, St. Peter, MN (507) 246-5195

May 2018

Striving to Live, Love, Serve, all for the Glory of God.

MAY CLOTHING DRIVE

**Donate clothing, shoes, purses,
hats, belts, bedding and any
type of material!**

**Place in tall plastic
kitchen bags with drawstrings.**

Information about the drive:
Call Oather Martin at 320-583-9011.

**Africa Companionship
Clothing Drives for 2018 are
in May & October for 2018.**

Our Southwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA is partnered with the Southeastern Diocese of Southern Africa to walk together in ministry. Our Minnesota Valley Conference is paired with the Vryheid Circuit. Funds collected from the clothing drive will pay for the packaging and sending of nutritious meals to all congregations in Vryheid.

Next Partnership Meeting is May 17

The next meeting of the Minnesota Valley Conference mission partnership is 6-8 p.m. Thursday, May 17 at Zion Lutheran Church in Arlington. All are welcome. We start with a meal involving a free will offering. Come with your bags of clothes. A truck will be parked at Zion starting May 5. Ideas and questions about the ministry can go to co-chairs Pastor Grady St. Dennis (stdennis@gustavas.edu) and Mark Brandt (mbrandt0127@gmail.com).



MEMORIAL DAY

SERVICE & DINNER

MONDAY, MAY 28, 2018

AT

SCANDIAN GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH
County Road 52, Saint Peter, MN

10:45am - Church Service

11:45am - Gaylord Honor Guard Program

Meal follows program, serving until 1:30pm

Free Will Offering

★ ★ **MENU** ★ ★

Ham, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Fruit,
Rice Pudding, Buns, Desserts & Beverages.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



We would like to invite anyone interested in being a hostess for the Bridal Shower of Helena Langr to meet at church on Wednesday, May 9 at 6:30pm to help in the planning. Shower set-up at 6:30pm on June 22 and bridal shower on June 23 in the morning. Contact Rhonda Hermanson at 246-5335 for questions.

Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends in the Spirit of Christ,

As your interim pastor I divide my time between worship, administration of the interim process, and visitation. I have met with the Transition Team chairs, Maria Lokensgard and Kathryn Wolf a few times. The Transition Team began their work at the end of April. The Team includes you as a Congregation and the following members who have agreed to serve as leaders: Seth Lokensgard, Sarah Reyes, Kathryn Wolf, Maria Lokensgard, Garfield Ekberg, Theresa Bjorklund, Dale Bjorklund, Solveig Langr and Neal Anderson.

Following are a few highlighted opportunities for SGLC to gather as a Community:

SUNDAY, MAY 6

~ 11:00 – 12:30pm

Potluck Meal & Community Conversation #2

WHY WORSHIP MATTERS

Guided conversations based on questions formed by the Worship & Music Committee to help us think about why we worship, how we worship and when we worship.... If you have thoughts or questions about worship in the future be sure to join the conversation! Every voice makes a difference!



SUNDAY, MAY 12

~ 10:00am

Join your Mother in church Sunday!

SUNDAY, MAY 27

Graduate Recognition Sunday

Cake and coffee to follow worship.

SUNDAY, JUNE 10

~ 11:00 – 12:30

Meal & Community Conversation #3

MINISTRY SITE PROFILE (MSP)

Guided conversations based on questions

formed by the Transition Team to help us articulate “Who are we now?” and “where is the Spirit leading us?” Your voice matters to the Transition Team who will be preparing the document (MSP) that will be viewed by pastoral candidates interested in interviewing at Scandian Grove Lutheran Church.

Remember if you would like to visit with me please give me a call at 507 380-1536 or email me at prshelly3@gmail.com.

Interim Pastor Shelly

Thank You



Dick and I would like to thank our church family for all of your support as I heal from my fall on St. Patrick's Day. I fell off a kitchen chair cleaning my cupboards resulting in compression fractures in my third and fourth vertebrae and spent three days in the hospital. We are so grateful for the prayers, cards, food, emails, phone calls, flowers, plants, balloons, hugs, visits and even the loan of a single bed during my recovery at home. I am on medical leave from work until (at least) 4-30-2018 and Dick is taking very good care of me. A special thanks to Pastor Shelly for her visit, prayers and sharing communion with us. We are truly blessed to be a part of the Scandian Grove Congregation. Love and hugs to all. Beth

Miss

Gretta Ann Hokenson

was born on Tuesday, March 27, at ISJ Hospital in Mankato, MN

to Holly and Jered Hokenson with big brothers Henry and Arthur at home. She arrived at 9:39pm and weighed in at 8 pounds, 10 ounces and measured 23 inches. Proud grandparents are Wayne and Theresa Bjorklund.



The Interim Journey – How Does It Work?

Dear Friends in Christ,

Scandian Grove has five goals to work towards in preparation for calling your next “regularly called” pastor. Our work includes:

1. **Coming to terms with History**
2. **Discovering a New Identity**
3. **Equipping Leadership Changes during the Interim**
4. **Renewing Connections with the SW MN Synod**
5. **Committing to New Directions in Ministry**

~ COMING TO TERMS WITH HISTORY ~

(December 2017 - ongoing)

It is the hope of the Transition Team to visit with every household of this congregation when that is possible and desired. Our intention is learning how people feel connected and disconnected with this congregation and God, Understanding where we've come from and how we got here helps us better discern where the Spirit may be leading us.

How can you be a part of this goal? Contact Interim Pastor Shelly to set up a time to visit! You can call her at 507 380-1536 or email her at prshelly3@gmail.com (please do not use the church phone or email).

~ DISCOVERING A NEW IDENTITY ~

(March, April, May, June, July)

We've all heard it said, “*the more things change the more they stay the same.*” We recognize that the world is changing at an incredible pace, but God's love shown through Jesus is constant. So we will talk about who we are today in the midst of change. What do we value and how would we like to be known in the future? How is the Holy Spirit calling us to serve in our community in the present as individuals and a congregation?

In order to think about these questions we will meet in small groups and large groups and engage in what I like to call “Community Conversations” about such topics as property, stewardship, worship and Christian education, discipleship and mission.

~ EQUIPPING LEADERSHIP ~

(March, April, May, June, July)

When pastors are ordained we promise to faithfully “equip the saints for the work of the

church.” Are we at SGLC stewarding our talents and time wisely in the present day? Are members being asked to do things that fire them up or burn them out? Are we creating opportunities for everyone's voice to be heard?

A Transition Team has now been formed. This team will help assess how we are doing in various areas of ministry. **The Transition Team** may use some of the following strategies:

- interview various members of the surrounding community - educators, county social workers, and local leaders to discover the needs of the community and possible partners.
- access demographic studies supplied by the ELCA.
- visit or learn from other congregations in our neighborhood's.
- conduct a survey to assess the vitality of the congregation today.
- conduct Community Conversations/open forums/Bible studies.

The Transition Team will also be responsible for **compiling the Ministry Site Profile (MSP)**. **You can help by reading the draft proposal of the MSP and asking questions or offering suggestions to improve it.**

~ RENEWING CONNECTIONS WITH THE SOUTHWEST MN SYNOD OF ELCA ~

Call Committee formed in September?

The Ministry Site Profile (MSP) is a standardized form that congregations complete that helps define and describe the congregation's history, identity and vision as well as the context of the surrounding community. This form is helpful for our Synod leadership as they seek to find pastors who may be a good fit. The MSP is also released through the entire ELCA so that all pastors seeking a new call are able to read the MSP and decide whether they would like to submit their Rostered Leader Profile (resume) for consideration.

Once the MSP is complete Pastor Linda Pederson from our Synod office will visit with the Call Committee to facilitate the call process. Pastor Linda will notify the Call Committee if and when candidates are interested by presenting the pastor's resume which is called a Rostered Minister Profile. When the Call Committee is formed

they will communicate with the congregation regularly about the process. **You can participate now by praying for those seeking call, our Synod staff, SGLC Council, and our future Call Committee.**

~ COMMITTING TO NEW DIRECTIONS IN MINISTRY ~

(interviews possibly begin in October?)

The current reality is there often are fewer pastors seeking call than congregations seeking pastors. Scandian Grove Lutheran Church (SGLC) will need to be patient, persistent in prayer and stay hopeful.

The call process is unfamiliar to most – so below I have tried to describe a few ways it may progress.

Option A: Seminary graduates are assigned to Synods. If a *first call candidate* is recommended for an interview to SGLC by our Synod, that candidate will be interviewed and a yes or no decision must be made by the Call Committee before the Call Committee will be able to receive the names of other candidates.

Option B: Ordained pastor(s) seeking call who are interested in SGLC will notify SW MN Synod. Pastor Linda will bring the resumes of these pastor(s) to the Call Committee for consideration. The Call Committee can choose to interview candidate(s) or not.

Usually if the first interview goes well, there is a second interview. If it is a yes by the Call Committee they notify the candidate and if the candidate says yes then the Call Committee brings it to the congregation for a vote. However, as SGLC knows from the last call process, a candidate may decline the invitation to be considered for the call. If the congregation votes yes then the pastor has 30 days to accept the call or decline the call. Pastors (and families) usually need time to say farewell to their current congregation, move and rest before they begin a new ministry.

Option C: A member may recommend a name to our Synod that they would like to be invited to interview. Our Synod would then contact that pastor and see if they would like to review SGLC Ministry Site Profile.

Option D: Most interim pastor's contracts include the provision that the interim pastor will not be eligible to serve as the congregation's regularly called pastor. There are many good

reasons for this – mostly that it protects both the congregation and the interim pastor. However, our Synod, SGLC Council, and Interim Pastor Shelly agreed to remove that condition from our interim agreement. As a result this is the last option that may be available:

- If I, as your interim pastor, were to discern that SGLC might be a good fit for my gifts and continued leadership, I would notify the Synod office and Church Council president of my interest. At that time Pastor Linda Pederson would visit with the Council or Call Committee to discern if the congregation would benefit by interviewing me for the position and if an equitable compensation package could be offered.
- Upon notifying our Synod office and Council President of my interest and receiving their response, I would then submit my letter of resignation as interim pastor. The time I would remain as interim pastor would be determined based on the congregational leadership's response. My resignation would be necessary whether I was invited to interview or was not invited to interview. The end of the interim through resignation would provide healthy farewells and closure for pastor and congregation.
- After my last Sunday as the interim pastor, a new interim pastor would be contracted until the congregation voted to call their next pastor and that pastor accepted, whether that pastor were me or someone else.

In conclusion, the interim journey is a good time to be church and get to know God and each other in new and deep ways. Please save this letter for future reference regarding the process and please don't hesitate to ask questions of Interim Pastor Shelly, your Church Council, or Transition Team Chairs:

Maria Lokensgard at 317-0365

Kathryn Wolf at 304-5944

Last Sr. Choir Practice



The last practice is Wednesday, May 16, at 7:00pm at church. After practice, Sr. Choir folks will gather at Theresa Bjorklund's to celebrate the end of the year.

The Scandian Grove Lutheran Church Council meeting was called to order by President Bruce Norell at 6:40pm on Tuesday, April 10, 2018.



Present: Pam, Joni, Gordy, Wallace, Bruce, Heidi, Dick, Theresa, Marty, Solveig, and Doug

Excused: Pastor Shelly

Secretary's Report

Solveig made a motion to accept the secretary's report as is with no additions or corrections. Motion was seconded by Dick, motion passed.

Correspondence

Vicki Hermanson read two correspondences from local food shelves for our March Donations.

Financial Secretary's Report

Report was given by Marty. Pam made a motion to accept the report with no additions or corrections, motion seconded by Wallace, motion passed. Amendment to motion made by Marty, report should read February 28 not February 31.

Treasurers report

Report was given by Vicki Hermanson. Wallace made a motion to accept the report with no additions or corrections, seconded by Pam, motion passed.

Beginning Balance:	\$54,265.90
Total Deposits:	17,506.45
Total Expenses:	72,831.17
Ending Balance:	\$ -1,052.40
Family Medical Fund:	\$3,228.35
Improvement Fund:	\$8,455.36
Scholarship fund:	\$3,181.47
Memorial Fund:	\$4,995.08

Vicki explained Pastor Shelly's pay and benefits, discussion followed.

Vicki reported on the budget.

Old Business

Jill and Anna are keeping track of their training hours, when should they be paid? Half of March's pay was paid to Jill already. Anna will be paid April's salary, and the Council will deter-

mine what to pay Jill and Anna for March Hours when hours are turned in.

Newsletters were discussed. Bonnie will be invited to our next meeting to clear up questions and concerns the Council has pertaining to the newsletter.

Mowing bids were read. Dick made a motion to accept Seth Lokensgard's mowing bid for the church and parsonages lawn. Motion was seconded by Solveig, motion passed. Bruce will let Seth know.

New Business

Theresa made a motion to keep the church's CD in with the Cemetery Boards CD's in the Safety Deposit box at First National Bank in St. Peter. Motion was seconded by Pam, motion passed. Terry Pankratz is the main contact for the box currently.

AED pads and battery were last replaced in 2015. Jeff Allerson gave the Council pricing on new pads and battery. AED pads need to be replaced every two years and the battery needs to be replaced every four years. Theresa made a motion to have Jeff update the battery and pads, and have Jeff add S.G.L.C. to his rotation. Motion was seconded by Joni, motion passed. Training should be offered again for those who are interested. Bruce will follow up with Jeff about trainings, and replacement of equipment for AED.

Lutefisk sign-up sheets for a committee need to be put out soon.

Pastor's Report

The parsonage and finance discussion that was supposed to happen on April 8, will be held on April 15 after Church.

Pastor Shelly will be meeting with Anna Lokensgard, pertaining to the secretary's job.

Transition Team co-chairs Maria Lokensgard and Kathryn Wolf have had a meeting with Pastor Shelly on April 9, more meetings are coming up in the future.

The Council retreat was cancelled due to weather and member conflicts. It will be re-scheduled for some time after planting season.

Pastor Shelly has four continuing education opportunities coming up.

Pastor requested May 19-26 and June 11-16 off for vacation.

Committee Reports

Education Committee: VBS will be held at Trinity Sibley July 22-25.

Property: Septic System - currently are excepting bids. One bid has been received from Rodning Excavating.

Water Heater - Committee met and went over bids received on replacing the water heater and a valve on a urinal. Two bids were received Tim's Plumbing for \$3,036.99, and Ryan Plumbing and Heating \$3,689.00. The Property Committee suggested to go with Tim's Plumbing bid. They also suggested that while the valve and water heater are being fixed to have Tim fix the leaks in the parsonage at the same time. There is a leak in the water line above the water heater and in by the pressure tank in the parsonage. Doug made a motion to accept Tim's Plumbing bid to replace the valve on the urinal, replace the water heater, and fix the leaks in the parsonage, and be paid out of the improvement fund. Motion was seconded by Theresa, motion passed.

Stewardship: The Committee is writing a letter to be sent out for a Stewardship Drive to raise money for the septic system.

Worship and Music: A recommendation to have Sunday School and Adult Forum after the church service and move the service time to 9:00am. If it would happen it would happen in Fall 2018; further discussion will happen at a congregation round table gathering.

A suggestion to have smaller groups go up for communion so there would be more singing.

Another suggestion was to have the choir go up for communion first.

A suggestion to have one service for Easter Sunday instead of two or make the gap between the two services smaller.

Technology: Recordings of the Easter services were lost due to technology difficulties.

Dick made a motion to Adjourn the meeting, seconded by Solveig, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Scheurer
Church Council Secretary

The Congregation Is Invited



Open House Graduation Party

on Monday, May 28 from 4:00 to 7:00pm, to celebrate the high school graduation of **Annie Olson**. Annie is the daughter of Pastor Shelly and Erik Olson, 2208 Snowbird Lane, North Mankato, MN 56003.



31st Synodical Convention

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Southwestern Minnesota Synod

"Outlaw Christian"



Guest Speaker

Dr. Jacqueline Bussie
Author of "Outlaw Christian"

Bible Study Leader

Rev. Dr. Yolanda Denson-Byers
"Being a Citizen of the Kingdom of Love"

~ Four Workshop Options ~

Friday, June 29 thru Saturday, June 30

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
4310 County Road, St. Cloud, MN

It's A Boy



Master Mills Anthony Kramer

was born Wednesday, April 11, 2018 to the proud parents of Tony and Astyn Kramer. Mills Anthony weighed 9 pounds 11 ounces and measured 22 inches long. Proud grandparents are Wayne and Theresa Bjorklund.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

1	Daisy Johnson	15	Beth Kinkeade
	Lily Johnson	16	Tammy Fjermstad
2	Lydia Williams	18	Jodi Bushman
5	Haylee Williams	20	Arik Lokensgard
7	Sarah Bjorklund		Meagan Speiss
8	Tom Hanson	22	Gail Norell
	Tyler Hanson	24	Merlin Myhra
10	Andrew Hermanson		Sydney Schott
11	Marty Schott	27	Marilyn Bjorklund
13	Duane Fredrickson	28	Kelsey Anderson
	Charles Turnbull	29	Elna Rodning

	<u>May 2018</u>	<u>June 2018</u>
ALTAR GUILD	Karri Anderson & Anna Lokensgard	Karri Anderson & Anna Lokensgard
READERS	Joni Anderson	Paul Engle
USHERS	Tim & Seth Lokensgard Bill & Beth Kastens	Wallace & Kazuko Larson Lee Schott, Red Bushman
COUNCIL COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Heidi Scheurer Gordy Rodning	Wallace Larson Marty Schott
COUNCIL HOST	Gordy Rodning	Doug Schultz

THE SCANDIAN GROVE BOOK CLUB
invites you to join them in a discussion on...

The Stranger in the Woods

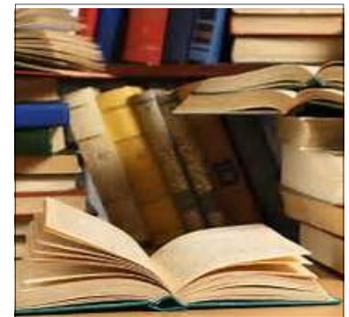
The Extraordinary Story of the Last True Hermit

by Michael Finkel

Sunday, May 20, 2018 at 4:00 pm

at the home of Maria Lokensgard
37980 State Highway 22, Saint Peter, MN 56082

Discussion leader: Maria



“Many people dream of escaping modern life, but most will never act on it. This is a true story of a man who lived alone in the woods of Maine for 27 years, making this dream a reality – not out of anger at the world, but simply because he preferred to live on his own. In 1986, a shy and intelligent twenty-year-old named Christopher Knight left his home in Massachusetts, drove to Maine, and disappeared into the forest. He would not have a conversation with another human being until nearly three decades later, when he was arrested for stealing food. Living in a tent even through brutal winters, he had survived by his wits and courage, developing ingenious ways to store edibles and water, and to avoid freezing to death. He broke into nearby cottages for food, clothing, reading material, and other provisions, taking only what he needed but terrifying a community never able to solve the mysterious burglaries.”

Book Description by Goodreads

Sr. Recognition Sunday, May 27 At Scandian Grove Lutheran Church

We recognize our graduating high school senior's and those completing a degree from college.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS:

Cole Pankratz - Son of Terry & Kelly Pankratz will graduate from Saint Peter High School. He will be attending South Central College of Mankato for welding.

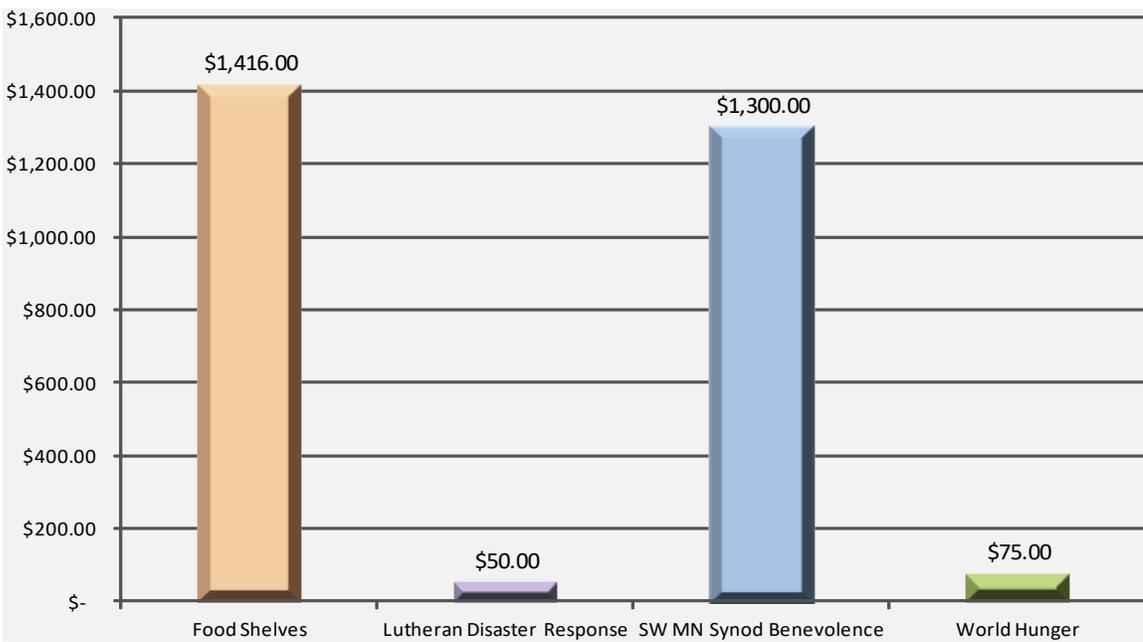
Annie Olson - Daughter of Pastor Shelly and Erik Olson, will graduate from Mankato West High School. She plans to attend Augustana University Sioux Falls to study biology and/or psychology.

Carrigan Miller - Daughter of Gary and Annie Miller will graduate from St. Peter High School.



COLLEGE GRADUATES: Bethany Anderson, Megan Eckberg, Brody Rodning, and Ben White.

SCANDIAN GROVE TOTAL GIVING



THANK YOU!

Your gifts make a difference in the congregation, community, and throughout God's world.

Any questions can be directed to:
Vicki Hermanson.

Total benevolence giving through March 31st 2018 — \$2,841.00

Financial Report-March 2018

Fund	Beginning Balance	Deposits/Transfers/ Increases	Expenditures/Transfers/ Decreases	Ending Balance
General/Checking Fund	54,265.90	17,506.45	72,831.17	-1,058.82
Checking Ending Balance Notation: The negative balance is only on paper. Food Shelf checks needed to be backdated to 3/31/18 to count for March. Checks mailed 4/3 and April bank deposits were done on 4/2.				
Checking/Sunday School Fund	-	6.42	-	6.42
NCB Credit Line	-	5,000.00	-	5,000.00
Improvement Fund	10,629.59	2.45	2,176.68	8,455.36
Memorial Fund	4,995.08	1.20	-	4,996.28
Scholarship Fund	3,180.61	0.86	-	3,181.47
Family Medical Fund	3,227.57	0.78	-	3,228.35
Historical Committee Acct	426.56	-	-	426.56
Mission Investment Fund	80,611.00	-	-	80,611.00
LPL Fund	27,917.30	5.60	639.47	27,283.43

NOTE: \$5,000. was drawn from the credit line in March to pay for operating expenses.

Scandian Grove Lutheran Church Calendar

May 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Clothes Drive Begins	2 7:00 pm Choir Practice	3 National Day of Prayer Pastor's Meeting at Redwood Falls, MN	4	5
6 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship & Communion Potluck Meal & Community Conversation #2	7	8 6:30 pm Council Meeting	9 6:30 pm Bridal Shower Planning Mtg. for Helena Langr 7:00 pm Choir Practice	10	11	12
13 Mother's Day 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	14	15 Newsletter Deadline <i>Don't Miss the DEADLINE!</i>	16 7:00 pm Last Choir Practice Choir Party at Theresa B. to follow	17	18	19 4:00 to 7:30 pm Norseland Luth Church's Syttende Mai Smorgasbord
20 Food Shelf Sunday 9:00 am Last Day of Sunday School 10:00 am Worship & Communion Baptism of Lia Dennis 4:00 pm Book Club at Maria L. 6:00 pm Norseland 4-H Club Meeting	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Graduates Recognized 10:00 am Worship	28 Memorial Day 10:45 am Worship 11:45 am Honor Guard Program Dinner to follow Serving to 1:30 4:00 to 7:00pm Open House Graduation for Annie Olson	29	30	31 Last Day of May Clothes Drive		

SCANDIAN GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH
42869 COUNTY ROAD #52
SAINT PETER MN 56082

STAMP



LABEL

DATED MATERIAL ENCLOSED

Return Service Requested

NewsLetter **DEADLINE** **May 15**

Norseland Lutheran Church's
Annual

Syttende Mai Smorgasbord

**Saturday, May 19, 2018
4:00 to 7:30pm**

Cost: \$13.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children ages 6-12, and under 5 eat free.

Tickets available at the door.

Menu:

Meatballs, Potatoes,
Ham, Cheese, Herring,
Baked Beans, Potato
Salad, Lefse, Fresh
Fruit, Dark Breads,
Rommegrot, Rice
Pudding, Yiftas &
Norwegian Cookies.



WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

April 1	6:30 am Sunrise	56
	10:00 am Easter	98
April 8		81
April 15	Cancelled, Snowstorm	
April 22		75