

# English Lutheran News

**OUR CHURCH IN OUR COMMUNITIES**



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

*God's work. Our hands.*

**April 2023**



## English Lutheran

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## *Holy Week Worship Services*

**Palm Sunday:** English at 11 am

**Holy Thursday (April 6):** Medina  
UCC At 7 pm

**Good Friday (April 7):** English at  
7 pm

**Easter Sunday:** English 11 am



**Our Mission:**

**Called to be shepherds, doing God's work, daily.**

## **Easter Message**

Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!" Mt. 27:54

Soldiers tell stories. This centurion and the detail of soldiers with him received the assignment of carrying out the execution of Jesus. They were present here at the moment of his death and they experienced the cries of creation at his passing. The curtain in the temple was split in two, although they would not have known that, or cared. They saw rocks split open. They felt the earth shake. They were terrified. Creation itself was crying out. Matthew paints a picture of fear and confusion for those who witnessed the death and resurrection of Jesus. The soldiers, the disciples, the women, the religious leaders: all were terrified by the things that they saw. In the midst of this fear, God continues to work to let Faith take root.

Jesus, dead, still hangs on the cross. The crowds gathered continue to watch. And as the dust drifts away and the earth settles down an amazing thing emerges: Faith. The centurion and soldiers confess Jesus as the son of God. Gentiles in the service of the Empire, who were not waiting for a messiah, found an invitation to believe. "Truly this man was God's Son!" As they returned to their barracks or tents that night, this contingent of soldiers would have told the stories of what they had seen and come to believe. They would have asked, "where were you about mid-afternoon? Did you feel the earthquake?" They would have checked in with other soldiers who would have been in the city or at the gates or returning from a patrol. "Did you feel it?" "You'll never guess where I was. I saw everything!" The stories started to circulate. We don't know how far the tremors of the earth traveled, but we do know that those soldiers eventually left Jerusalem and traveled elsewhere. They could have marched across North Africa or journeyed to the forested areas of Germany or Britain, or even back to Rome. Wherever they went, they would tell the story of that day when something extraordinary happened.

Our resurrection moment in Matthew's telling of the Gospel is brief. Jesus speaks just a few sentences first to the women on their way from the tomb on Easter morning and again to the gathered disciples in Galilee. Jesus tells the disciples to "Go to all nations baptizing themselves in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." On their way, they might have crossed paths with some of the soldiers who were there that day. The power of stories and of the testimony of the soldiers spread as well as the witness of the disciples.

We continue to tell the stories of the resurrection. In gatherings around the world celebratory greetings of "Happy Easter" will be shared. The terror of the first Holy Week has been replaced with the joy of living in the light of the Risen Christ. May this Easter Season sustain and encourage you. Jesus is not in the tomb- He has been raised. Alleluia!

Pastor Erik

# Christians in Action – Youth Ministry Events

Among the 8 congregations of the Christians in Action Partnership, there are approximately 220-240 youth in middle and high school.

## **The Circus will be in Jamestown Tuesday, April 11.**

Youth and adults who are available to help as part of the Christians in Action youth group will be able to earn \$30 each toward payments for the ELCA Youth Gathering (July 16-20, 2024), the Castaway Synod Retreat September 2023) or other youth ministry events closer to home.

Your responsibilities at the Circus will vary, but probably include selling toys, food, or helping as needed. Adults are likely to be asked to supervise a small team of youth.

You can have fun watching kids enjoy the circus and be part of the festivities at the same time. Your shift would be approximately from 4:00-8:00 pm Tuesday, April 11.

Watch Realm for a sign up link or contact Pastor Kristi Weber at [PastorKristi@NDChristiansAct.org](mailto:PastorKristi@NDChristiansAct.org)

## **Games and Tye-Dye Sunday, April 16**

Middle and High School Youth are invited to English Lutheran Church in Medina

Depart from St. John's at 12:15 in the van, return by 3:45 pm

Cost of \$12 covers a shirt, supplies, food and transportation.

Watch Realm for a sign up link or contact Pastor Stephanie Gossett at [PastorStephanie@NDChristiansAct.org](mailto:PastorStephanie@NDChristiansAct.org)

Although the snow kept youth from Zion, Kulm and English, Medina from traveling to Jamestown for the Bowling Event on March 5<sup>th</sup>, those who were able to attend enjoyed themselves.

Congregations participating in Christians in Action:

Atonement, Jamestown Christ the King, Ellendale Emmanuel,  
Gackle English, Medina Montpelier, Montpelier St. John's,  
Jamestown Trinity, Jamestown Zion, Kulm

“But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore it is said, ‘When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.’ The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people’s trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. *But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.*” Ephesians 4:7-8;11-16

\*\*\*Dear people of God – Grace and peace in the name of Jesus!

When I think of congregational ministry, this passage from Ephesians comes to mind. The Apostle Paul’s words remind me that congregational ministry is God’s work that belongs not only to the office of the pastor, but to the entire body of Christ in this place and time. Our congregation has a variety of gifts, most of which I am still in the process of learning about through observation, listening, and conversations. Part of my call as your pastor is to help identify your gifts and encourage you to use them. Paul reminds us that our gifts, given in Holy Baptism, are for the purpose of building up the body of Christ; which Christ joins together, just as ligaments, tendons, muscles, joints, and nerves all connect our physical body so the whole body knows what is going on. To catch a ball being tossed to us, our eye sends signals to our brain to tell our arms to move our hands to the right place and close our fingers at just the right time to catch the ball. In order for this to happen and for the catch to be successful, the communication must happen quickly and accurately; and all the body parts have to listen and respond in sequence. Similarly, in the body of Christ, communication is one of the keys to effective congregational ministry. Paul tells us that we do that by “speaking the truth in love”(Ep. 4:15) as we grow in faith and do ministry together.

On the surface, it may seem like speaking the truth in love for the sake of building up the body of Christ means that, ideally, we never say anything that will make someone else in the body upset. But you and I both know that this is not reality. Many times, speaking the truth in love means saying exactly what we mean and how we feel. Speaking the truth in love can only happen when we trust one another. And trust takes time to build through the gift of relationship, which happens through effective communication. As we continue to grow into serving in ministry **together**, I ask for you to speak the truth in love with one another and with me. This happens through direct communication and speaking directly to the person with whom we need to communicate; even when we think what we have to say might make the other person upset, because we are people who speak the truth in love.

As your pastor, called to help lead this congregation in God’s ministry,

I ask for direct communication, and will do my best to provide and invite it. This avoids triangulation and/ or “the assumption of knowledge” – assuming that because you or I know something that everyone else knows the same thing. Better to be sure we are all on the same page than make a fool of yourself and the other person. Direct communication also prevents the temptation to communicate anonymously. I rarely ever speak in absolutes, but I will for the sake of the body of Christ today: Anonymous communication never builds up the body of Christ and always sows division, because communication can only happen through relationship, and relationship only happens between people who know one another. As a leader, I will never use anonymous communication, and I do not and cannot respond to it. If a letter has no return address and is not signed, I shred it without reading it. If I receive an email from a hidden or random email address and it is not signed, I delete it without reading it. If you come to me and say, “Everybody’s (or a lot of people or a bunch of people are) saying that they want this or that, or is/are upset about this or that,” I will need to know who specifically these people are. The same goes if this communication method comes to or through congregational leaders or staff. It is not possible to respond to unknown persons in any sort of constructive manner that builds up the body of Christ. We will not be blown to and fro by anonymous opinions, requests, or trickery. We speak the truth in love in order to build up the body of Christ, as God has equipped and called us to do with our gifts.

With all of that being said, I also commit myself and the ministry of our congregation to being open to constructive criticism and even conflict. Constructive criticism is that which is given for the sake of building up - constructing. Conflict is inevitable, but conflict does not have to be destructive – in fact – conflict can lead to growth and change through listening to one another as we speak the truth in love.

I adopt this idea from colleagues who, every time they begin a new call, have written something very similar for the congregational newsletter. Setting expectations and boundaries helps prevent miscommunication and misunderstanding, and encourages open and direct communication within the body of Christ as we serve in ministry together. Because this body of Christ is blessed with many different gifts and abilities to serve in ministry. And just as our physical body cannot move forward without successful communication, the body of Christ we belong to also cannot move forward without direct, open, and accurate communication.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve in God’s ministry with you as we learn and explore one another’s gifts for building up the body of Christ and for serving God’s Church, this community, and the world, for the sake of the Gospel!

God’s peace,

Pastor Stephanie Gossett

Associate Pastor- St. John’s Lutheran Church and English Lutheran Church

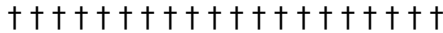
## Youth Event

## Games and Tye-Dye Sunday, April 16

Middle and High School Youth are invited to  
English Lutheran Church in Medina  
1:00 pm—3:00 pm

Cost of \$12 covers a shirt, supplies, food and transportation.

Watch Realm for a sign up link or contact Pastor Stephanie Gossett at [PastorStephanie@NDChristiansAct.org](mailto:PastorStephanie@NDChristiansAct.org)



# Faithful Food Pantry

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# English Lutheran Church

## Medina, ND

**Is seeking food donations to replenish the pantry.**

**A basket has been set up in the Narthex for your donations. If you are donating frozen items put them in the freezer in the fellowship hall right away.**

**Thank you and Blessings to you for your donation.**

**RESCHEDULED**

# WELCA JAMESTOWN CLUSTER MEETING

ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
210 WATER ST E, MEDINA, ND

Saturday May 6, 2023  
9:00 am - 1:30 pm

Theme: Think Spring  
A day of focusing on our  
thoughts and interactions

GUEST PRESENTER: LINDSEY VOELTZ

*Offering: EAND Synodical Women's Organization*

*Special Offering: Project Ignite*

*In Kind Donations: Project Ignite - Children's pajamas*

**RSVP TO JULIE BY APRIL 25  
IF PLANNING TO ATTEND  
701-320-3890**



*\*Unapproved minutes and are subject to change.*

## **English Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes** **– March 8, 2023 –**

**Members Present:** Phillip Hofmann, Kurt Hayes, Becky Greer, Ceph Dockter, Taylor Dockter, Pastor Stephanie Gossett and Pastor Erik Weber

**Members Absent:**

### **Pastor Report**

-Pastor Erik led with a devotion.

### **Past Minutes**

-February 8th Council minutes were read.

-Ceph moved to approve the minutes. Becky seconded. motion carried.

### **Treasure's Report**

-February's Reports were reviewed and discussed.

- Discussion if we can apply for tax exemption status for the parsonage.

- Kurt moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Ceph seconded. motion carried.

### **Old Business**

-Parsonage – will set up a time in the next couple weeks for garage door to be repaired. Will also look at list of minor fixes.

-Youth director – conducting zoom interviews for candidates. Have currently completed 5 interviews.

-Seminary placement – will know intern close to the end of March.

-Discussion about new member class, want to look at what has been done in the past, look at directory and contacts. Add community members to online system "Realm." This will be a great place to have contacts of church members.

-Parsonage agreement – reviewed and finalized agreement. Motion by Kurt to approve agreement. Ceph seconded. Motion carried.

### **New Business**

-Discussed needing a job description for pianist.

-NP out of Minot Health, has inquired about doing hyperbaric oxygen treatment. Would like to trial on Holy week (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday). Will update usage agreement of fellowship area. Taylor moved to approve the usage. Kurt second. Motion carried.

-Discussion on putting some money into a CD. This would be a 12-month CD. Kurt motion to give discretion to Brian to put up to \$75,000



- \* Present: Julie Opp, Renae Olson, Ethel Heinle & Jennifer Hayes
- \* Treasurer Report:
  - \* ~ \$2500 in checking account
  - \* bills to pay for Sunday School treats and Youth Day activity
  - \* donated to Post Prom & Music Trip for Medina students
    - \* World Day of Prayer (held at UCC) donations totaled \$112, to be sent in: good turn out by community
- \* Secretary Report:
  - \* minutes from meeting on February 12, 2023 were read
  - \* meal price for the WELCA Jamestown Cluster meeting has been set for \$12/person
  - \* RSVP has been adjusted to March 20<sup>th</sup> as deadline
- \* Cluster Meeting discussion
  - \* schedule set for the event, WELCA secretary to create the agenda for the event

(con't WELCA Meeting Minutes)

- \* Kennedy Behm will play the piano for the event (give a card for appreciation of her time)

- \* Lindsey Voeltz is the presenter – Thoughts and Interactions & 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:17 are the themes (card for appreciation for her time)

- \* registrations to use name tags that the church has

- \* pick up packets of seeds to have on tables & butterfly stickers for name tags

- \* donation of children's pajamas for Project Ignite from WELCA group – Julie to pick up

- \* plan for 50-60 people attending

- \* meal confirmed: lasagna, garlic bread, salad and dessert

- \* ask congregation to donate the 6 lbs of hamburger for the meal

- \* buy French bread to make the garlic bread/toast

- \* buy mixed salad greens and French dressing (have Ranch available already)

- \* dessert: no-bake cheese cake – need to purchase cream cheese, graham crackers, butter, jello and whipped topping (lemon, strawberry & peach jello)

- \* Use colored vinyl and lace table clothes on tables & decorations for spring as center pieces

- \* ask Karen/Brenda about decorations available at church

- \* Friday night prep and decorate for event

- \* Use the church's dinnerware for event

- \* Ask youth to help serve/table run (give a donation to the youth group for helping)

- \* Fundraising to support two voting members to attend the Triennial Convention in Phoenix in September

- \* Hold potluck in March and April to share fellowship and free will offering for WELCA members to attend convention

- \* March 26<sup>th</sup> after church first potluck, have one in April as well

- \* Support local individuals who have had hardship in lives

- \* discussion on how WELCA can support, more discussion needed

(con't WELCA Meeting Minutes)

- \* WELCA booklets need to be completed
  - \* jot down ideas to include in the booklets
- \* Confirmation day is April 16<sup>th</sup>
  - \* two students being confirmed
  - \* order flowers for the confirmands
- \* Good feedback on the Women's night in February
  - \* having in person connection and fellowship is important
    - \* hold another evening activity at end of April or beginning of May – maybe a Mother/Daughter theme?
    - \* plan one evening over the summer to keep it going – picnic idea, sing-sation, etc.
- \* closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by WELCA Secretary, Jennifer Hayes

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## EASTER LILY

If you have an Easter Lily you'd like to share for the Easter season,  
have to the church by Saturday, April 8.

Thank you!!!

# BIRTHDAYS

## April

Everett Hayes	Apr 1
Daniel Olson	Apr 2
Joey Guthmiller	Apr 2
Alex Irlmeier	Apr 3
Lindsay Hoffmann	Apr 4
Janine Hofmann	Apr 9
Ceph Dockter	Apr 9
Teddi Shay Dockter	Apr 9
McKenzy Dockter	Apr 13
Liam Shipley	Apr 15
Travis Guthmiller	Apr 20
Pr. Steph Gosssett	Apr 21
Dirk Otto	Apr 22
Kaden Schmidt	Apr 23
Bruce Dammell	Apr 30

## May

Ben Juelfs	May 1
Sharon Otto	May 3
Molly Harr	May 3
Luka Ann Dockter	May 4
Alice Opp	May 6
Ardis Hochhalter	May 7
Addison Hofmann	May 8
Mindy Kapp	May 10
Benjamin Juelfs	May 12
Micaiah Kliem	May 14
Katie Dewald	May 14
Jayme Andres	May 16
Eldroy Salinas	May 16
JaSondra Schmidt	May 18
Carley Kliem	May 18
Zachary Hofmann	May 21
Daven Dockter	May 25

## **Celebrating March/April Anniversaries**

Ben & Patrice Juelfs	Apr 18, 1980
Bryan & Kendra Behm	Apr 22, 2006
Eldroy & Dawn Salinas	May 17, 2003
Frank & Tammy Reis	May 21, 1982
Maynard & Adeline Link	May 26, 1963