

# ENGLISH - NEWS - ST LUKE

OUR CHURCH IN OUR COMMUNITIES



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

December 2021

## English Lutheran

210 Water Street—Box 515  
Medina, ND 58467  
701-486-3112

## St. Luke Lutheran

300 1st Ave NE—Box 8:  
Streeter, ND 58483  
701-424-3383

Phillip Hofmann  
English Council President  
(701-320-9029)

Denise Wittmeier  
St. Luke Council President

Ethel Heinle  
Parish Secretary  
[msp.sec.church@gmail.com](mailto:msp.sec.church@gmail.com)

[www.medinastreeterparish.org](http://www.medinastreeterparish.org)

## English Lutheran Sunday School

### Christmas Program

Medina, ND  
December 19, 2021  
@  
11:00 am  
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## Community Christmas Program

Streeter, ND  
December 21, 2021  
@  
6:00 pm  
at Ebenezer Methodist Church  
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## Christmas Eve Service

English Lutheran Church  
@  
7:00 pm

## Our Mission:

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

## Advent

### *Prayerful Waiting: Patient Action, Hopeful Caution, Urgent Waiting, Mindful Faith*

This Advent Season we join with our neighboring congregations in the Advent Theme of Patient Waiting. Common elements of worship in the participating congregations include use of a special Advent Theme Song composed by Pastor Nathan Wicks from Emmanuel Lutheran in Gackle. Our weekly themes tie into various dimensions of Prayerful Waiting. We expect something to happen when we pray, but are mindful of the need for patience. We place our trust in God fully, yet do not always see the signs of God's action. We lift up the immediate needs that we see, and find it difficult to not see fast results. We hear the call to be faithful, even in the midst of distractions that would turn us away from God.

Prayerful Waiting is more than just a theme for the Advent Season, it is also a description of how our congregations are approaching the next several months of our life together. For the past ten months, English has been in a partnership with St. John's and Trinity in Jamestown. During that same time, St. Luke has been in a partnership with Emmanuel in Gackle. For the previous more than thirty years, St. Luke and English were in a partnership together as the Medina-Streeter Parish.

Some elements of that parish partnership such as this newsletter and the shared website have continued during the past ten months. Other elements, most noticeably the shared pastoral leadership, have not continued. From a Sunday morning and emergency response perspective, nothing is changing for the time being. St. Luke and Emmanuel will continue their partnership at least through January when the members of St. Luke will take time during their annual meeting to decide how they can best respond to how God is leading them.

On November 7, the members of English offered their support and blessing for participating in a discernment process with 7 other ELCA congregations in South Central North Dakota. Bryan Behm and Phillip Hofmann will be part of the Planning Team from English. Please see the information about the Discernment Process later in this newsletter.

For both St. Luke and for English, this season of Prayerful Waiting will be a time of listening for how God is leading. In the words of the song that will fill our heart this season: Urgently, patiently we wait.

May the promise of Christ's coming live with us in our prayerful waiting.

In Peace,  
Pastor Kristi Weber  
with significant inspiration from Pastor Nathan Wicks and Pastor Erik Weber

## **South Central North Dakota Area Discernment Process**

From the Covenant prepared by Rev. Peter Soli, Facilitator

### **General Description**

This discernment process will be Spirit-led and will focus on answering the question for individual congregations as well as for the group, “Where is God leading us in the next chapters of our ministry together?” A second question will be, “What can we do better together than on our own?” Rev. Peter Soli of Dialog Works will facilitate the work of a Planning Team.

The goal of the process is to produce a recommendation (or recommendations) for area ministry that provides for the long-term vitality and sustainability of ministry in the South Central North Dakota Area. After the discernment process, each of the participating congregations will have the opportunity to vote to accept or reject the recommendation(s).

### **Participating Congregations**

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

### **Process Overview**

This process is expected to take place over six months, with the possibility of extending if needed. Planning Team members will meet monthly by Zoom and be able to provide written summaries as well as verbal report to the congregation throughout the process. Discussions with the congregation members to determine if members support particular ideas is part of the process. Factors which are central to the process include:

- <Getting to know each other and building and deepening relationship between participating churches and members.
- <Clarifying the current situation(s) for the congregations and the area, reviewing the sustainability and mission trends.
- <A comprehensive disclosure and examination of the finances of all participating congregations.
- <A survey of local ministry and mission outreach of the congregations.
- <Work on the critical areas which call for attention and action. The Planning Team members will determine these.

The discernment process will end with a written recommendation or recommendations that the participating congregations will vote on and implement if approved.

Please hold in your heart an attitude of Prayerful Waiting through these next months. Pray for Phillip Hofmann, Bryan Behm, other Planning Team members, and the area congregations, including English and St. Luke. May God lead us all in our next chapters of ministry together.

**English Lutheran Sunday School Program**

**December 19, 2021 @ 11:00 am**



The Sunday School Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 19th at the 11:00 church service.

If anyone in the congregation wants to share their talents by doing a reading, singing, or playing an instrument please contact Michelle Lytle at 701-388-9450.

Join the Sunday School students as they report The Nazareth Evening News:

The town of Bethlehem is on the verge of a world changing event, the birth of our Savior. A young couple expecting a baby has traveled to Bethlehem to be counted as part of the Roman census. Mary's baby is about to be born and Joseph looks for a place for them to stay. The audience will get to experience the events of the night through the reporting of the Nazareth Evening news. In addition, field reporters will bring breaking news updates, interview eyewitnesses who saw the choir of angels, and report on the census "debacle." Shepherds, Wisemen, and even Mary and Joseph are interviewed by eager reporters excited to get the story out. This version of the nativity story creatively and humorously mixes biblical truths with present day elements.

## Trunk or Treat 2021 at English was a success!

THANK YOU to the youth group, Pastor Eric, and parents who made this event so amazing.



## English Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes 11-03-2021

Members Present: Michelle Lytle, Karen Heinle, Kurt Hayes, Lynda Mayher, Brenda Guthmiller, and Pastor Kristi Weber Members absent: Austin Dockter, Phillip Hofmann

### **Pastor Report:**

- Pastor Kristi began the meeting with a devotion and spoke about the upcoming All Saints service.
- During Pastor Kristi's time out here for office hours, she tries to make 3 phone calls to congregation members.

\*October minutes were read. Kurt moved to approve the minutes. Lynda seconded, motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Karen motioned to accept the treasurer's report. Lynda seconded, motion carried.

### **Old Business:**

- Floor will be replaced in the parsonage in December.
- new sign is in the works
- Maranatha came up with a bid for \$8,000-10,000 for a live feed for the fellowship hall to include screen and ability to stream online. Looking for a second bid from Dakota Sound.
- Steeple: waiting on Westward
- Karen will contact Bruce Leibold about kitchen fridge with the temperature so he can assess.
- The accounts are still at Choice Financial as of this month. The council approved moving the account once the new bank comes to town.
- 100 year anniversary committee needs to be formed for the celebration in June 2022. Dates are June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Some members are in the process of doing invites. Some ideas include a program and catered supper on Saturday night with live music to follow, church service on Sunday with a meal to follow served by the youth group. Need to schedule another group meeting before the new year.
- Cleaning services: continue with volunteer rotation until a person is hired.
- Snow removal: Brenda will inquire with someone to clean the lot.
- painting needs to happen behind the boxes on the new LED lights on the outside of the fellowship hall.
- Discernment Process: Phillip Hofmann and Bryan Behm will be the two members who will represent English Lutheran over the next 6 months. Congregations would work with a team under Dialog Works to look at

strengths, challenges, and needs going forward. There will be cost shared amongst the participating congregations. The congregation will hear about this on Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> and get permission to participate in the process. Kurt motioned to recommend to the congregation to participate in this process. Brenda seconded. Motion carried.

-Trunk or Treat was a success. There were over 100 people who participated.

- Sunday School program will be during church on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:00.
- Christmas Eve Service: Pastor Erik would be able to do a 7:00 PM service. Regular church service that Sunday.
- Annual meeting will be January 23<sup>rd</sup>
- The Public Health Clinic would like to use English Lutheran next Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup> to provide COVID vaccinations. Lynda made a motion to approve this, and Karen seconded. Motion carried.
- The community is having a tree lighting December 4<sup>th</sup>. Each church is to bring 2 pans of bars. Volunteers needed to start the caroling.

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Our Altar Guild met on November 7<sup>th</sup>, with 6 members present. We talked about Advent and the Christmas season. We will do our annual Family Christmas decorating and caroling on Sunday December 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 PM and caroling around 4:45PM. We will have a potluck lunch after decorating and before caroling.

We will purchase 2 poinsettias for the Church and encourage anyone who would like to share one to bring it after Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.

Our next meeting will be after church on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, to take down the Christmas decorations.

God bless you all and for all you do to prepare for our services. Julie



# BIRTHDAYS

## DECEMBER

Gentry Nenow	Dec 3
Richard Nenow	Dec 4
Kaitlynn Andres	Dec 5
Sharon Behm	Dec 6
Taya Schelske	Dec 6
Gertrude Neumiller	Dec 10
Mayson Dockter	Dec 13
Theodore Zillmer	Dec 13
Randy Everding	Dec 14
Cyerra Schmidt	Dec 16
Sue Reardon	Dec 17
Jodi Dockter	Dec 17
Joe Schmidt	Dec 18
Karen Heinle	Dec 23
Mike Iszler	Dec 25
Denise Wittmier	Dec 27
Irene Otto	Dec 28
Arlyn Schmidt	Dec 29
Bill Lytle	Dec 30

## January

Rory Hoffmann	Jan 6
Haven Gefroh	Jan 9
Katy Reis Ruff	Jan 10
Julie Opp	Jan 12
Dwight Hofmann	Jan 13
Tim Olson	Jan 14
JoAnn Wieland	Jan 19
Jacob Hofmann	Jan 19
Kennedy Behm	Jan 19
Ethel Heinle	Jan 26
Jacob Juelfs	Jan 26
Ryan Andres	Jan 27
Daryl Olson	Jan 28
Bonnie Hofmann	Jan 28
Katie Schmidt	Jan 30

## Celebrating Nov/Dec Anniversaries

Clydell & Mary Dockter	Dec 1, 1973
Randy & Mindy Kapp	Dec 13, 1986
Brent & Missy Kleven	Jan 5, 1998
Gil & Pat Everding	Jan 7, 1961
Jeremy & Shannon Ford	Jan 14, 2017
Randy & Sherry Everding	Jan 26, 2008
Arlynn & Sourey Schmidt	Jan 30, 1964

## Winter Weather Plan

<Pastors are scheduled to lead worship each Sunday at 11:00 am

< If there are Sundays when I-94 is closed or when travel is not advised, please plan to participate in worship through one of the radio or online worship services.

8:30 am from Trinity Lutheran AM 1400 or FM 107.1

9:00 am from St. John's Lutheran AM 600 or online [st-johnslutheran.org](http://st-johnslutheran.org)

10:45 am from Trinity Lutheran online [trintyjamestown.com](http://trintyjamestown.com)

Either of the online worship services can also be accessed throughout the following week at the same website as above.