

# *English Lutheran News*

**OUR CHURCH IN OUR COMMUNITIES**



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

**December 2023**



## **English Lutheran**

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**Join the English Lutheran  
Sunday School as they  
perform**



*"The Last Dress  
Rehearsal of the First  
Christmas"*

December 17th at 11:00 AM  
spaghetti feed to follow  
All are Welcome

**Our Mission:**

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

## **Stories of Faith in Action**

On November 5th, members of Christ the King Lutheran in Ellendale gathered after worship to make cards for migrants who will be in detention centers during the Christmas season. Joan Hoffman coordinated the card making and had bilingual greetings prepared for the card makers. Cards will all be sent together for distribution..

Fourteen people listened to Deb Elhard offer a description of the US-Mexican boarder from her recent trip to Tucson and Nogales. She described the for-profit detention centers that house migrants as well as groups that provide humanitarian support to people in need on their journey. Physical safety from violence and cartels are a major contributor to the decision to seek a new life. These people can claim asylum to escape the threats to their lives, but the process can be long and uncertain. Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) coordinates the program that gives cards to immigrants. Sometimes families are split apart as they flee for their safety, sometimes parents don't survive the journey, and sometimes children flee alone. LIRS pays particular attention to providing a safe and welcoming environment for unaccompanied children detained in immigration centers. LIRS operates Welcome Centers to ensure that asylum seekers and refugees have access to local services and support.

**(see page 5 for group picture of making the cards)**

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## **Collection of Used Stamps**

The program is being discontinued at the end of 2023. You can still turn in any you have and Kathy will still send them before Christmas.

Thank you to all that saved them over the years.

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## **New WELCA books available**

Our WELCA book has been updated for 2024 and will either be mailed to you or put in your church mailbox. If you don't receive one and would like one there will be extras on the table in the Narthex

# **Christians in Action**

## **Devotional Resource for Advent, Christmas, and the Day of Epiphany**

Advent begins on December 3<sup>rd</sup> this year. Members of the partner congregations have written reflections for each day from December 3 (First Sunday of Advent) to January 6 (Epiphany.) Each congregation will make copies to distribute to members and friends. An electronic version of this daily devotional is also available on [NDChristiansAct.org](http://NDChristiansAct.org) for anyone to read.

Each week of Advent and the week of Christmas leading to Epiphany will have a theme.

Keep Awake! What are you watching for?  
Do Not be Afraid! What do you need to stop fearing?  
Prepare! What are you preparing for?  
My Soul Magnifies the Lord! What are you praising God for?  
Rejoice! What Are You Hopeful For?

Each day will include a Bible verse and a reflection.

May this devotional resource be a welcome companion for you throughout this season.

## **Worship on December 24 and December 25**

Because December 24 falls on a Sunday this year, it is both the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve. Among 9 ELCA congregations, there are 20 worship services planned between 8:30 am on Sunday, December 24 and 10:00 am on Monday, December 25. Everyone is welcome at any or all of these worship services as we anticipate and celebrate the birth of Christ.

### **Advent 4 Sunday, December 24**

8:30 am Trinity, Jamestown  
9:00 am Atonement and St. John's, Jamestown; Montpelier; Zion, Kulm  
10:30 am Emmanuel, Gackle Immanuel, Jamestown

### **Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24**

10:45 am Trinity, Jamestown  
2:30 pm St. John's, Jamestown  
3:00 pm Atonement, Jamestown; Trinity, Jamestown  
4:00 pm Emmanuel, Gackle  
4:30 pm Christ the King, Ellendale; Immanuel and St. John's, Jamestown  
7:00 pm English, Medina; Montpelier; Zion, Kulm  
10:00 pm Trinity, Jamestown

### **Christmas Day, Monday, December 25**

10:00 am St. John's, Jamestown

»»» **Mark your calendars!** «««

# Spaghetti Feed

**DECEMBER 17 AT NOON  
ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**FREE WILL DONATION TO  
SUPPORT THE YOUTH  
GOING TO NEW ORLEANS**



As we are entering the New Church Year, we will begin the year with Advent, which is the time we remember the life of JESUS CHRIST. The color blue is symbolic of this season. Advent is the season of preparation. We are given hope and look forward to the coming of Christ at Christmas, to his coming into our hearts today and to his coming a second time at the end of the age. The Christmas season follows the Advent Season which is the color white which symbolizes gladness, purity, light and joy in Christ as we celebrate Christ's Birth.

May God Bless YOU this Christmas Season! Julie

**Sunday School singing on November 19,**



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**Card Making on November 5, 2023**  
**@**  
**Christ the King Lutheran in Ellendale**



## **ELC WELCA meeting minutes– November 12, 2023**

- Present: Julie Opp, Renae Olson, Jennifer Hayes, Ethel Heinle, Brittney Dockter
- Devotional & prayer to begin meeting
- Purpose & Mission Statement read aloud
- Secretary's Report - read and approved as read
- Treasurer's Report - \$405 given to youth from ELC to support going to Castaway this fall; have some bills and supplies to purchase; about \$5000 in account
- Old Business:
  - Angel Tree - Julie to get these done - 2 youth (boy & girl) aged 14+; ~\$50/each youth
  - State Hospital - give \$50 donation to buy needed items for Christmas
  - Church cleaning - put a reminder to text people to complete this; not much left to do
  - WELCA Booklet - meet to go over the list of numbers to ensure the list is up to date
- New Business:
  - ELC was asked to help with the Medina Hometown Christmas on December 2nd at the Hall
    - Need one worker for each shift: 9am - 11 am, 11 am - 1pm, 1pm - 3pm & 3pm - 5pm
    - Asked to donate 2 pans of bars
  - Large coffee maker not working properly - look into how much to purchase from the food service store in Bismarck
  - Sharon to look into cost of new coffee carafes for use on tables (ones we have are very old and don't keep coffee warm)
  - Ask Bonnie about the ones she uses at the Farmstead - kept coffee warm and were easy clean
  - Red box for card purchase in Fellowship Hall is missing; not sure where it is or if it was placed in a different location
  - Flowers are in the sanctuary from Vern Jeannotte's funeral.

Respectfully submitted by ELC WELCA Secretary, Jennifer Hayes

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***You're Invited***

***December 3rd, Congregational singing of carols at  
Grace Emmanuel Church in Medina @ 6:30 pm***

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

## **ELC Council Meeting Minutes –November 1, 2023**

**Members Present:** Kurt Hayes, Becky Greer, Ceph Dockter, Pastor Stephanie, and Pastor Erik

**Members Absent:** Phillip Hofmann & Taylor Dockter

**Called to Order:** 7:09 PM

**Pastor Devotion** – Pastor Stephanie

Advocate theme – John 14: 16-17

“*What has the Counselor clarified for you?*”

Discussion and members shared experiences

**Past Minutes**

October (4<sup>th</sup> October 2023) meeting minutes were read by Kurt.

Ceph moved to approve the minutes. Becky seconded. Motion carried.

**Treasure’s Report**

October’s Report was reviewed and discussed with nothing unusual.

Ceph moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Becky seconded. Motion carried.

**Old Business**

Parsonage

Garage door – still needs attention.

A ‘walk-through,’ per the rental agreement, would like to be conducted in the next month.

AED Grant – Will check with Bill and Renae on grant progress.

Building Account CD – purchased.

Christians in Action (CIA) – survey results are being compiled.

Trunk or Treat – Successful.

Season of Creation Worship – Successful, as it expanded the worship process with some differences.

**New Business**

2024 Annual Meeting – Kurt motioned to approve the date for the 2024 Annual Meeting. Becky seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting Date – Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024, after the Church service.

‘Fall-Back’ Date, if needed – Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024, after the Church service.

2023 Christmas Eve Service - Becky motioned to approve only one service at 7:00 PM on Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> December 2023. (*There will be NO morning service.*) Ceph seconded. Motion carried.

2024 Budget Information – Pastor Erik present information.

Copy of the current Agreement for Pastoral Services, with both discussion and explanation of the contract.

Budget Number – projected expenses from St. John of ‘Medina’s Share’ for Pastor Stephanie.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7 PM.  
Meeting adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer at 8:21 PM.  
Submitted by Kurt A. Hayes

# BIRTHDAYS

## December

Kaitlynn Andres	Dec 5
Sharon Behm	Dec 6
Taya Schleske	Dec 6
Mayson Dockter	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
Irene Otto	Dec 28
Arlyn Schmidt	Dec 29
Bill Lytle	Dec 30

## January

Ardella Rau	Jan 5
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
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 December/January Anniversaries**

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

