

English Lutheran News

OUR CHURCH IN OUR COMMUNITIES



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

July 2023



English Lutheran

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

Pastor Stephanie Gossett
701-320-7856
pastorststephanie@ndchristiansact.org

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

Ethel Heinle
Parish Secretary
msp.sec.church@gmail.com

www.medinastreeterparish.org

Family Fun Night

July 12, 2023 @ 7:00 pm

Medina Park—North shelter

All are Welcome

(see pg. 6 for more details)

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Vacation Bible School

@ English Lutheran Church

July 14—16, 2023

(see pg. 7 for more details)

Our Mission:

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

Honoring the New and the Old in Parables

Jesus said, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of the household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.” Matthew 13:52

Our younger son, Oscar, is getting married in August. As Oscar and Jenna prepare for their wedding, I’ve been involved in lots of mother of the groom conversations. Several of those conversations have revolved around what will I wear that complements and does not clash with the members of the wedding party. One afternoon, I sat with my mother as we looked through the few pieces of jewelry she has that belonged to her mother and grandmother. I was looking for a pin or a necklace that I could wear with my dress that would have special meaning because it belonged to the great- or great-great-grandmother of our son. These pieces have far more sentimental value than monetary value, but treasures they are.

Jesus talks about “the master of the household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.” As I sat listening to my mother talk about the necklace that her grandmother wore for my mother’s wedding, it was clear that my mother should wear that one. The treasure was in the story itself, held dearly in my mother’s heart until an afternoon when we opened the wooden box and carefully unwrapped the tissue paper from around each piece until the necklace and its story were shared openly.

Throughout the month of July, we open the Bible and carefully unwrap parables. Each week, a familiar treasure that has been packed away in our hearts is shared openly and reveals something old and something new about the kingdom of heaven. A mustard seed. Yeast. A pearl of great value. Wheat and weeds growing together until the harvest. Seeds sown in rocky ground or good soil. At first, we may think these parables are tarnished and worn. But on closer inspection, we discover that they can sparkle in ways that bring light to our faith. Their meaning is more than sentimental. It is a treasure of faith from generations past that comes as a gift for generations to come.

The kingdom of heaven is far too expansive to be described in just one way. God’s love. God’s mercy. God’s welcome to ones who feel shut out or shoved aside. Each image waits to be carefully unwrapped and viewed from many different angles. When I hold up this parable and examine its contours, does it fit the same way it did the last time I looked at it? Perhaps it scratches my neck and I have to keep moving the clasp to keep my skin from being rubbed raw. Maybe it is like a bracelet that is now too loose for my wrist and I have to adjust to keep it from falling off.

Parables do not come to us as one size fits all. They ask for our attention in new and old ways so we can continue to encounter God’s welcome. God’s mercy. God’s love in Jesus Christ.

In Peace, Pastor Kristi Weber

Christians in Action

Summer Worship Schedule:

This summer the Christians in Action Partnership worked together to think about possible options for a fun Summer Worship opportunity for each congregation within the partnership. Early in the planning process we felt that each congregation should have autonomy to plan something fun that would work best in their own community. At that point we renamed ourselves, “The Summer Worship Empowerment Team”. The team took a survey and identified which Sundays worked best for each individual congregation. Here are the dates:

Sunday, July 9 at Atonement Lutheran in Jamestown

Sunday, July 16 at Montpelier Lutheran in Montpelier

Sunday, July 23 at Zion Lutheran in Kulm

Sunday, July 30 at Emmanuel Lutheran in Gackle

Sunday, August 6 at English Lutheran in Medina

Sunday, August 13 Campfire Worship at Red Willow Ministries in Binford, ND (organized by Trinity Lutheran and St. John’s Lutheran in Partnership with Red Willow Ministries.)

TBD - Christ the King in Ellendale

Each congregation will have more information available about their summer worship services. Stay tuned in August for more information about Campfire Worship at Red Willow Ministries!

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

Synod Assembly Snapshots 2023

Worship- Bishop Tessa preached at the opening worship service and lifted up Peter- the Rock upon which I will build my church.” She conveyed the point that Jesus tested Peter even though he denied Jesus 3 times before they day was done. Jesus is a forgiving “power.” He wants us to be the people who work together and realize they cannot independently achieve the results in ministry that they can by working together. Individual congregations that are working together can become a stronger force to serve the lord and spread the word. **Lynn Krueger**

Workshops- There were many different workshops offered as part of the Synod Assembly, including one about our Christians In Action partnership. At another workshop, Deacon Laura led an Equipped for Ministry workshop. She shared Information about the process for Seminary candidates. There was a question about the difference between a Pastor and a Deacon. The Deacon is of service and deployed to assist the Pastor. There also was information on the Minister call process. Lots of people have questions about how this process works at this time. **Pam Drugs**

Churchwide and Synod- We are one church with three expressions: Congregation, Synod, National Church. The Synod and Churchwide expressions of our life together are not “out there” somewhere- they are us in all of our variety and beauty and quirks. Bishop Tessa asked in her State of the Synod address, “How’s it going?” and “Why do we have a Synod?” Part of her answer was we have a synod to help congregations do what they do, better. That includes: helping congregations and pastoral leaders serve together, providing leadership and guidance for congregations that are beginning or closing, looking out for the good order of our legal (corporate) interests, and calling together various congregations for encouragement, celebration, and a sense of the breadth of God’s work in our communities. The national expression of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was shared by the churchwide representative Rev. Lamont Wells who shared how congregations from the whole country support ELCA Disaster Response, World Hunger, Ecumenical relations, and Directors of Evangelical Mission in each Synod. Together, we are church today. **Pastor Erik**

Equip Moments- At the Synod Assembly there were three “EQUIP” moments. One of the Equip experiences was the FAITH 5. Five steps to talk with your family every day for a short or long time. I like the every night idea. The five steps are to SHARE your highs and lows of the day, READ a bible verse or story every night, TALK about how the Bible reading relates to your highs and lows, PRAY for one another’s highs and lows, BLESS one another by using your finger on their forehead. We did this together at our tables and I thought this would work great with kids or adults to keep them more grounded. The last EQUIP experience was how to read the Bible with others to make it more meaningful. We read Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16. One person reads the verse and the others listen with their eyes closed. When done the reader asks what was one thing that stuck out to them that was good or bad and discuss. Everyone in the group gets a chance. **Char Freeberg.**

Food for All Block Party- Saturday evening of the Assembly, the synod Action and Advocacy team and Bethlehem Lutheran of Fargo hosted our evening dinner and activities in the form of a block party. Food trucks of flavors from around the world were lined up to fill out bellies with good food, and there were plenty of tables set up in the shade for conversation and conviviality. Pastor Lexy played the role of DJ and kept an energetic stream of tunes flowing across the area. The event was very family friendly. The most popular feature is a toss up between the dunking booth where folks could dunk a collection of synod staff and clergy; and the petting zoo featuring creatures from a deer to a kangaroo, and even a camel! It was ND hot, but God sent a breeze to keep us cool and the Holy Spirit to lift our spirits. Apart from fellowship, the main purpose of the evening was to raise awareness and funds for the hunger ministries in our synod and stuff the bishop’s car with food donations. The ministries set up booths to share information about their efforts, and it was delightful to hear their stories and feel their enthusiasm for reducing hunger in their areas. By the end of the evening, over \$3500 was raised and the bishop’s car was overflowing with bags of donations. This was a super successful event both in funds raised and fun times had by all. **Pastor Stephanie**



Wednesday, July 12, 2023

7 pm

Medina City Park

North Shelter

Mindfulness Activity led by
Michelle Lytle
& Fellowship for Adults

Activities & Ice Cream
sandwiches for the kids

ALL ARE WELCOME

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Fund raisers for attendees at the Triennial Convention in Phoenix, AR in September, 2023

Thank You

FOR YOUR SUPPORT, WE APPRECIATE IT!

*English Lutheran Church - WELCA
Renae Olson & Jennifer Hayes*





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

@

English Lutheran Church

Medina, ND

Friday, July 14, 2023: 5:30 pm—8:00 pm

Saturday, July 15, 2023: 5:30 pm—8:00 pm

Sunday, July 16, 2023: Bible School program @ 11:00 am

English WELCA Meeting June 25, 2023

WELCA Meeting Minutes June 25, 2023

- * Present: Julie Opp, Ethel Heinle, Renae Olson and Jennifer Hayes
- * Prayer and devotional to open the meeting led by Julie Opp
- * Read the WELCA Purpose Statement and the WELCA Mission Statement
- * Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved as read
- * Treasurer's Report
 - * The three fundraisers for the WELCA representatives to the Triennial Convention raised \$916.75 (\$458.34 to be available to each representative).
 - * Thrivent support helped cover almost all of the costs for the Breakfast/Brunch fundraiser
 - * Spring Cluster meeting the group received \$218.32 for the meals; others costs were covered by the Regional WELCA group - postage, copying, decorations on table
 - * Paid for flowers to confirmands from Don's House of Flowers: \$13.55; bought stamps to send cards to members as needed
 - * Received a donation from a community member to help support WELCA
 - * Sold \$144 worth of cards
 - * Kennedy Behm to attend the Global Missions in Minneapolis in July - give \$50 to help with this
 - * Recognize youth who helped during fundraisers so WELCA can contribute to their youth travel expenses (Keep track of individuals)
 - * Treasurer's report approved as read
- * July Family Fun Night in the Park - July 12th at 7 pm
 - * all are welcome and community members invited
 - * North Shelter reserved for event
 - * Michelle Lytle to lead the mindfulness activity for adults
 - * youth to provide supervision and games for young kids to do
 - * Renae to get youth to prepare ice cream sandwiches for the event - possibly Monday, July 10th in the evening
 - * have refreshments for all at the event
 - * flyer to be created for event - Jennifer to create to have distributed to community
- * Pastor Stephanie states dates for upcoming youth events are tentative as follows:
 - * Castaway Retreat - September 23-24
 - * National Convention in New Orleans, LA 2024 - sign up by Oct 15? To get a huge discount
 - * Looking at holding Advent and Lent Retreats for grades 3-6 - Pastor Stephanie to organize these
- * WELCA Booklet to review in July - members have the draft copy

Respectfully submitted by ELC WELCA Secretary, Jennifer Hayes

WELCA UPDATE

We are planning a get together at the park on July 12th at 7'clock. Please bring your families and have a fun time together! MICHELLE LYTLE will do a program for us! We will have a little lunch! We are extending this to the Community! We will have Youth there to help with your little ones! Please Plan to come and join us!

Also, we would love to have you come and join us on the 2nd Sunday of the month for our WELCA meeting at 10:00 am. We would like to have you come and have your input in our decisions!

THANKYOU TO Jennifer Hayes and her family for donating and planting the flowers by the church sign, Renae, Ashley, and girls for getting flowers and planting the pots! Thanks for making the church yard complete!

ALTAR GUILD UPDATE

Thank-You to Sharon for taking care of the month of June and for all the extras you do at the Church! Pat Everding and Kathy Hieb will do the month of July! We will have communion on Sunday July 2nd. Thanks to all of you! We will have our next meeting on Sunday August 6th at 10:00.

God Bless You all for all you do!!

Julie

Thank You

Thank you to all who save pop tops, used stamps, and used greeting cards/card fronts.

They are needed and being used.

It is appreciated.

Kathy Hieb

**Unapproved minutes and are subject to change.*

ELC Council Meeting Minutes—June 21, 2023

Members Present: Phillip Hofmann, Becky Greer, Ceph Dockter, Taylor Dockter, and Pastor Stephanie.

Members Absent: Kurt Hayes

Pastor Report

Past Minutes

-May meeting minutes were read.

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

Treasure's Report

-May's Reports were reviewed and discussed.

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

Old Business

- Parsonage – still waiting for garage door to be repaired and work on list of minor fixes.

-Haven't heard from Jim about working on garage door. Will contact him again to see when he can get out to do this.

-Mike Moser will do lights in parsonage.

- Prairie heating will be replacing furnace at the church, with the next couple weeks.

- Will check with Bill on status of writing grant.

-Ushering – leave as is, help fill in as needed, especially on Sundays with a larger congregation.

-Lawn mowing – Cameron has continued to do this. We can change as needed if other confirmands are interested.

-Youth Director – Tara Ulrich will be in the director position, she just moved to Jamestown. Tara will start on July 1st. We haven't heard if the other offer has been accepted for the other position yet.

- Continued discussion about moving pews that are in the front right. Will put announcement in bulletin.

New Business

-Vacation Bible School will be held July 14th – 16th.

-If anyone is interested in being an ambassador at Red Willow Bible camp, there is more information on the bulletin board.

-Update from the Eastern North Dakota Synod hung up on bulletin board.

-Question if we could help cover some costs for Kennedy for an upcoming Glocal mission trip. Reviewed budget options. Becky motion to offer Kennedy \$100 gift for mission trip. Ceph seconded. Motion carried.

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 2nd at 7:00 P.M.

Meeting adjourned after the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Taylor Dockter

BIRTHDAYS

July

Frank Reis	July 5
Dawn Salinas	July 7
Michelle Lytle	July 8
Trevin Behm	July 10
Austin Dockter	July 11
Jonathan Juelfs	July 14
Nicole Hayes	July 15
Pat Everding	July 16
Dylan Dockter	July 17
Matt Opsahl	July 17
Paige Gefroh	July 18
Phillip Hofmann	July 23
Gordon Christensen	July 24
Randy Kapp	July 24
Darin Dockter	July 25
Gary Hieb	July 26
Melissia Kleven	July 26
Kendra Behm	July 27
Serena Andres	July 30

August

Boden Yuncck	Aug 1
Briar Yuncck	Aug 1
Sourey Schmidt	Aug 3
Shirley Judin	Aug 4
Jordan Zillmer	Aug 10
Emma Kramlich	Aug 12
Easton Liebold	Aug 13
Michael Kapp	Aug 14
Matthew Kapp	Aug 14
Corey Kapp	Aug 14
Jared Opp	Aug 17
Karrisa Yuncck	Aug 21
Lisa Olson	Aug 21
Karson Schmidt	Aug 21
Janet Well	Aug 25
Dallas Opp	Aug 26
Genevieve Opp	Aug 27
John Dong	Aug 30
Wayne Reardon	Aug 31
Rob Ruff	Aug 31

Celebrating July/August Anniversaries

Ryan & Becky Greer	July 1, 2006
Sky & Patty Roemmich	July 2, 2010
Gordon & Betty Christensen	July 6, 1974
Mike & Teresa Schleske	July 7, 2005
Bryan & Vicky Andres	July 9, 1988
Ron & Starr Koble	July 11, 1975
Dylan & Taylor Dockter	July 26, 2014
Nick & Serena Andres	July 30, 2018
Darin & Jodi Dockter	Aug 1, 1986
Matt & Jenny (Hieb) Opsahl	Aug 4, 2018

2023-2024 Youth Trips

The end of September and especially next summer feel far away right now, yet it's time to register and start getting ready for both Castaway and the National Youth Gathering!

Middle Schoolers:

Castaway is an EAND Synod retreat for youth in middle school. It's always a favorite! We are planning to attend the second weekend: September 22-24. Registration is open now. Let us know if your youth will be going, so that we can get them signed up!



High Schoolers: It's time to save the dates and start planning for the ELCA National Youth Gathering (NYG)! This is an incredible event for high school youth that only happens every three years! **July 16-20, 2024**, Lutheran high schoolers and their adults from all over the country will converge in the city of **New Orleans, LA** to spend a week exploring their faith, making new friends, serving and worshipping God, and just having a blast! This will be NOLA's third time to serve as host city for the Gathering and they are thrilled to have us back! The NYG experience blows any other camp or mission trip out of the water, and is definitely one you don't want to miss!

The first registration window opens September 15 through November 15, so by **October 15**, your pastor leader needs the \$150 registration fee from you to secure your spot. There will be plenty of fundraising opportunities to earn the rest of the money for the trip, but the first deposit will be an out of pocket commitment. Why register early? This time around, the Gathering has adjusted things a bit to incentivize those who register early with a discounted price, priority hotel choice, and priority choice for the Accompaniment Day (formerly Service Learning), SO we definitely want to register as soon as possible.

Keep an eye out for upcoming opportunities to learn more about the Gathering, travel plans, and fundraising!

