

# English Lutheran News

## OUR CHURCH IN OUR COMMUNITIES



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

# March 2023



# English Lutheran

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# WELCA Spring Cluster Meeting

March 25, 2023 (@)

English Lutheran, Medina, ND

**RSVP to Julie by March 15 if  
planning to attend**

(see page 5 for details)

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## Fibers and Fellowship

Mondays in March @ 10 am  
 ELC Fellowship Hall

Bring any project you are working on and we'll visit as we work!

## Our Mission:

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

## **What Do You Notice?**

*“Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become Jesus’ disciples?”* John 9:27

When you read the Bible, what do you notice?

When you hear part of the Bible read to you, what do you notice?

When you see an image of a story from the Bible, what do you notice?

Jesus often used stories to teach and to help people remember what they heard. Some of these stories are called parables. Parables can be long or short. They often have a way of getting into your head with something unexpected. You notice the unexpected and it stays in your memory. The respected people who walk by the injured traveler in contrast to the outsider who stops to help. [Luke 10:25-37] Or the person who scatters seeds in places where they are unlikely to thrive (a path, rocky ground, among thorns, and then in good soil.) [Matthew 13:1-9]

John’s Gospel also uses stories to teach and to help people remember what they heard. These stories tell details about people who encounter Jesus and whose lives are changed by their experiences. A woman who meets Jesus at a well and tells her whole community that Jesus is the Messiah. [John 4:5-42] Or a man born blind whose sight is restored by Jesus and then tells his story again and again to people who don’t seem to believe him. [John 9:1-41]

During Lent, on Sundays listen to the gospel stories from John. Hear the different people who encounter Jesus. What do you notice about the people? How are they like you? How are they different from you? How does Jesus change their lives? How does Jesus change your life?

On Wednesdays at English Lutheran, confirmation students will present different stories from the Bible. They have made posters to tell their stories and will give two minute descriptions of each story. What do you notice when you hear these stories retold? How do the images on their posters help you see these stories in new ways? What details catch your attention?

On Wednesdays at Trinity and St. John’s, artwork from Lutheran Pastor Paul Oman will provide a focal image of different parables. Coloring sheets and art supplies will be provided for you to draw these parables for yourselves. What do you notice in the artwork that highlights a part of the parable you had not paid attention to in the past? During this season of Lent, let the stories of the Bible make a home in your mind’s eye. Let them linger. Invite the people of these stories to have a cup of coffee with you as you ask them to share their experiences with Jesus. Pay attention to what you notice. Let these weeks of Lent be a time to connect more closely with God.

In Peace, Pastor Kristi Weber

## **Christians in Action – Youth and Family Ministries**

Among the 8 congregations of the Christians in Action Partnership, there are approximately 220-240 youth in middle and high school. Upcoming events for youth include a Bowling Event on March 5<sup>th</sup> in Jamestown. So far, approximately 40 youth from 6 congregations plan to participate.

Looking farther ahead, a summer mission trip for up to 25 high school youth and 5 adult chaperones is being planned as part of the 100<sup>th</sup> celebration of Lutheran ministry in the Central African Republic and Cameroon. Two days of service work in Minneapolis and a celebration with international guests and participants from around the country are planned for early July.

Even farther ahead, middle school youth will participate in the Synod CastAway retreat in September 2023. High school youth will travel to New Orleans in July 2024 for the ELCA Youth Gathering.

All these events take coordination.

In November 2022, a position description was posted for a Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries. Applications were due in February.

The anticipated timeline for the search process to unfold looks like this:

**February 2023** – The search team will review applications.

**March 2023** – Initial interviews will be conducted via Zoom.

**Late March or April 2023** – In person interviews with finalists will be held.

**Spring 2023** – Once an offer is made to a candidate and they accept, then a start date can be determined.

**Summer 2023** – The Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries will begin serving in our communities to coordinate large group events such as those named above as well as coordinating local events for youth from our congregations.

Thank you to Carson Bayer, Julie Fischer, and Dana Kolden from Atonement and Brent Berry, Addison Mansavage, and Jay Oettle from Trinity for serving with Pastor Kristi Weber on the search team.

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

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

## **English Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes** **– 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023 –**

**Members Present:** Phillip Hofmann, Kurt Hayes, Ceph Dockter, Taylor Dockter, Becky Greer, and Pastor Eric Weber (Pastor Stephanie Gossett via telephone)

**Members Absent:**

**Guests:**

Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM by President Phillip Hofmann

### **Prayer / Devotion**

Pastor Eric ‘Welcoming’ the new Council Members, informing them of their responsibility, privilege, and accountability of serving/being on the Church Council.

### **Election of Officers**

President – Philip Hofmann (Kurt nominated and moved “To Cease Nominations with Unanimous Ballot,” Ceph seconded. **Motion Carried.**

Vice President – Kurt Hayes (Ceph nominated and Becky moved “To Cease Nominations with Unanimous Ballot,” Taylor seconded. **Motion Carried.**

Recording Secretary – Taylor Dockter (Becky nominated and Kurt moved “To Cease Nominations with Unanimous Ballot,” Ceph seconded. **Motion Carried.**

Financial Secretary – Ceph Dockter (Becky nominated and moved “To Cease Nominations with Unanimous Ballot,” Kurt seconded. **Motion Carried.**

### **Past Minutes**

4<sup>th</sup> January Council Meeting Minutes were read aloud, by Taylor.

Becky moved to approve the minutes as read. Ceph seconded. **motion carried.**

### **Treasure’s Report**

January Report was reviewed.

Discussion (inform new members of general bills).

Taylor moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Ceph seconded. **motion carried.**

### **Old Business**

Parsonage Repairs

East garage door

Pastor Stephanie has a list of repair items in which she is unable to do.

Youth Director Position – within the Christians in Action Group

Position to be shared other churches.

At least one applicant

Deadline extended to 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

Seminary Internship

Application has been submitted and received.

Waiting for the Committee to review

Survey – discussed to gather information.

Usher list

Cleaning list

Reader list

Need for “New Church Member”/ refresher course.

Server list – “Coffee Hour”

Up-date contact information with church (telephone numbers, address, e-mail address, etc.)

Pastor Eric and Pastor Stephanie will review.

Post Office Box Key.

Second key is missing/lost.

Needs replacing - \$14.

Parsonage Use Agreement

Copy distributed to Council Members

Members provide feedback.

### New Business

Lent Services

Ash Wednesday – 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 7:00 PM

Five Wednesday services starting 1<sup>st</sup> March.

Youth Activities

Bowling

Sledding – 26<sup>th</sup> February

Church Website

Discussion – up-dates and contents (newsletter & calendar)

Discussion – how want to look and what should be available

Pastor Eric proposed Items to “Think About”

Where is the church at socially?

Where do we see the church heading?

Where do want the church to go?

How can we build upon being the “Best Church” in Medina?

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM after the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Kurt A. Hayes

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Saturday March 25, 2023

9:00 am - 1:30 pm

Theme: Think Spring

A day of focusing on our  
thoughts and interactions

GUEST PRESENTER: LINDSEY VOELTZ

*Offering: E AND Synodical Women's Organization*

*Special Offering: Project Ignite*

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

**RSVP to Julie by March 15**

## Installation of English Council Members—Feb 12, 2023



L-R: Ceph Dockter, Phillip Hofmann, Pastor Erik Weber, Kurt Hayes and  
Bryan Behm (not present: Taylor Dockter and Becky Greer)

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## Women's Night @ English—Theme Recharge/Renew the Spirit





## A group of approximately 12 children are performing on a church stage. They are dressed in casual clothing, including jeans, t-shirts, and patterned pants. The children are arranged in a line, some with their hands raised in a gesture of praise or song. The background features a church altar with a cross and candles. The stage is carpeted in red. The children appear to be of various ages, from young children to teenagers.



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

## **English Lutheran Church January 29, 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes**

- The annual meeting of English Lutheran Church was held on January 29, 2023. (20 voting members present) Phillip called the meeting to order and Pastor Erik began with a word of prayer.

-Phillip Hofmann read the 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes. Karen Heinle motioned to approve the minutes as read and Bryan Behm seconded. Motion passed.

-Phillip Hofmann read the State of the Church for 2022.

-Pastor Erik gave highlights of the Pastor's Report.

-The congregation silently read the reports provided in the handout. Bryan Behm spoke about the Treasurers report and Discernment process. Janine Hofmann moved to accept the reports as written and Renae Olson seconded. Motion passed.

-No report for the Endowment Fund as there was no activity this past year. It is sitting at about \$70,000.

-Bryan Behm described the Christians in Action: we currently pay \$50 a month to be a part of this group. This group puts together schedules, etc. to be sure these churches involved are staffed for the church to be open on Sundays. This group meets one time per month. Bryan Behm is the representative from our church.

-Accounts have been moved back to Dakota Heritage: General fund, Savings, and Memorial account. The Parish account is in Steele and we are contributing money in that account to pay for Ethel's salary. The council will look into putting money into CDs. Our weekly offering has decreased this past year and a significant amount of money has been pulled out of savings to cover expenses.

-Julie Opp covered information from WELCA and the Alter Guild. WELCA is doing a bible study and they are considering starting up coffee hour before church again soon.

-Renae Olson and Jennifer Hayes are going to the Triennial convention in September in Arizona and we will hold something down the road to help raise money for their trip.

### **Old Business:**

-The Constitution revisions passed an initial "yes" vote on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022. This is a second ballot vote to accept the Constitution revisions (to include reducing council members to a minimum of 5 members and up to 7). This motion passed with 20-yes, 0-no

### **New Business:**

-The congregation reviewed the budget and discussed some items. Jacob Hofmann motioned to approve the budget and Melissia Kleven seconded. Motion passed.



( con't Annual meeting minutes)

-Phillip Hofmann opened up the floor for nominations for the three open council member positions. Michelle Lytle nominated Taylor Dockter. Karen Heinle nominated Ceph Dockter (both for 3 year terms). Sue Reardon nominated Julie Opp. Janine Hofmann motioned to cease nominations. Julie Opp declined her nomination. The floor was opened again for nominations and Kendra Behm nominated Becky Greer for council (2 year term). Jacob Hofmann motioned to cease nominations and cast a unanimous vote to elect these members to council. Kurt Hayes seconded. Motion passed.

-Projects at parsonage need to be considered in the next year(s): siding, painting, and possibly a new roof.

With no other new business, Melissia Kleven motioned to adjourn the meeting and Jacob Hofmann seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Michelle Lytle, ELC Council Secretary  
+++++

**WELCA & “Angels Among Us” Altar Guild**

Was great to see so many of you at our WELCA PROGRAM ON FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>! Michelle did a wonderful job and was great for the 25 ladies that could come together and share! We will have more gatherings that you can attend! Stay tuned!

**March 4<sup>th</sup> 2023**, World Day of Prayer at 2:00 , at the United Church of Christ.

**March 25<sup>th</sup>** at 9:00 Our Church will host our Spring Cluster Meeting. Would be great to have you join us. Registration at 9 and we should end about 1:30. We have Lindsey Voeltz from Jamestown as our guest Speaker. Registration and lunch is \$12.00 dollars, Hope to see many of you there. **RSVP to Julie by 03/15/2023.** If any of you want to help prepare on Friday evening or help on Saturday that would be appreciated.

We are planning to start coffee hour on Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup> at 10. Will be great to have some fellowship time.

**Altar Guild**

Altar Guild Meeting Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup> at 10. Sharon and Kendra will serve the month of March. Thankyou!

AS ALWAYS I APPRECIATE THE ANGELS AMONG US!  
God Bless You All, Julie

## English Lutheran Church WELCA Meeting Minutes 2-12-2023

\*Present: Julie Opp, Renae Olson, Jennifer Hayes, Ethel Heinle

\*Treasurer's report:

~ \$2900 in checking account

~ asked to support the Medina Post Prom - give \$50 this year

~ Medina Music Trip - giving \$100 to support

- ♦ Senior blankets - Janet Well to head this up (Kane Schmidt, Krysta Olson and Keisha Salinas are seniors), any others?
- ♦ UCC Church hosting World Day of Prayer on March 4th at 2 pm
- ♦ Dakota Heritage Bank donation to Food Bank at church (\$250). Presented to Bonnie and Madison/Kylie - what food items were purchased, cupboards are very sparse with food, need to restock the pantry
- ♦ **WELCA Regional Cluster Meeting to be hosted in Medina (March 25th)**

~ breakfast: muffins, fruit/ lunch: lasagna, garlic bread, side salad and dessert/ drinks: bottled water and coffee

~ price not determined on what to charge for lunch

~ Speaker for the event will be Lindsey Voeltz - donating her time to speak at event

~ WELCA to present Lindsey with a gift card in appreciation

~ Flyer to be created by WELCA secretary and distributed to the various clusters by Renae

~ Donations for event are to be new pajamas for kids (Project

Ignite)

~ special offering for Project Ignite due to their need

~ Have door prizes participation at event - garden seeds and spring/planting items

~ RSVP set for March 15th for the meeting

- ♦ **WELCA Women's Night - February 15th**

~ Michelle Lytle presenting/ presented with a gift card for presenting

~ Kennedy Behm to play piano for the event

□ Have heart cookies and chocolate dipped strawberries and candies

~ Buy some red napkins and small plates for event to use

~ Have water and coffee available

~ Had 27 women from the local churches attend and Pastor

Eric

Presented by WELCA Secretary, Jennifer Hayes

## BIRTHDAYS

March

Teresa Schleske	Mar 1
Tina Guthmiller	Mar 6
Morgan Irlmeier Perleberg	Mar 7
Starr Koble	Mar 7
Lillian Higdem	Mar 8
McCall Dockter	Mar 13
Beckett Dewald	Mar 15
Vicky Andres	Mar 17
Shawn Gefroh	Mar 22
Keisha Salinas	Mar 25
Shannon Moser Ford	Mar 25
Renae Heinle Schultz	Mar 28
Maddie Gefroh	Mar 30

**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 Gossett	Apr 21
Dirk Otto	Apr 22
Kaden Schmidt	Apr 23
Bruce Dammel	Apr 30

## Celebrating March/April Anniversaries

Kurt & Jennifer Hayes Mar 6, 2010

Ben & Patrice Juelfs                      Apr 18, 1980

Bryan & Kendra Behm Apr 22, 2006

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## **Fibers and Fellowship**

Mondays in March @ 10 am

## ELC Fellowship Hall

Bring any project you are working on and we'll visit as we work!

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## **Christians in Action Youth**

# Games and Tye-Dye

Sunday, April 2, 1-3 pm

English Lutheran Church—Medina, ND

Cost \$10.00 (covers shirt, supplies and food)

Look for a Registration Link or contact Pastor Stephanie



## *I'm a Lutheran: Alice Opp*

I grew up at the UCC church in Medina. It was a German congregation. I got married young, at 18. My husband Art was teased for marrying someone my age and he said, "I'm marrying a young one, so I can train her." Yeah, right! I'm a Lutheran because I married a Lutheran. My mother just about had a fit. She grew up Baptist. Well, I met Art at a dance, and later he asked me to a movie. He said that from the first time he saw me he knew, "That's the girl I'm going to marry." I sure didn't think that. It was a good marriage. We spent a year in Jamestown after we got married. In 1953, we attended St. John's where I went through W.W.A. Keller's adult confirmation class. After that we moved to the farm and I did the milking and field work. I spent 5 years working at the school as a teacher's aid. We started attending English Lutheran and I can tell you that I never thought that I'd be an organist there. I was teaching piano and at one time had 24 students. I don't have any idea how I did it. When we arrived the music teacher at the school was the organist, and he asked me 3 times to come and be the accompanist for the choir before I said yes. He said he would help me out if needed. That was in 1957. Well, he left Medina in 1958 and that's when I started to play. I took 4 months off to have a baby and we had an organ student for a year, but other than that I kept at it (until I fell last year). I struggle with walking now, but I'm not a complainer. I accept the way it is and go from there.

God has always been important to me. My faith grew when Art got bone cancer at age 41 and we dealt with his changing health. We were both able to live with the idea that whatever happens...happens. My number one priority continues to be my family. I believe that Jesus Christ came to save me even though I am a sinner. He always forgives us if we ask for it. I pray every day. I have a long list. It's in a notebook. In the morning I give thanks for protection through the night. I pray for my congregation, family, the pastors, for people I know and people I don't- like refugees and people in Ukraine. I wonder if our churches will ever be the same- since COVID so many people have left. My favorite bible story is the birth of Jesus- and the crucifixion. If it weren't for that, we wouldn't have and hope.

If I could change anything, I would be more active again with the church ladies. I'd love to play the organ again. For me music is relaxing. I love to just sit and play/hear the music. I love music and have for my whole life. When I was 8 or 9 I remember playing the piano. I like it all, except for hard rock. I'm not a traveler, after 2 days on the road, I'm ready to return home. I've visited California and Washington, and Texas when Art was in the service. And I've been as far east as Minneapolis.