

English Lutheran News

OUR CHURCH IN OUR COMMUNITIES



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

March 2024



English Lutheran

210 Water Street—Box 515
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Phillip Hofmann
English Council President
(701-320-9029)

Ethel Heinle
Parish Secretary
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www.medinastreeterparish.org

March events @ English

Sat, March 2— World Day of Prayer
10 am-12 pm

Sun, Mar 3—Mike & Teresa Fund
Raiser—Lunch 11 am to 1 pm

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Holy Week Schedule

See page 4 for
Worship Schedule

Our Mission:

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

Small Changes

When I was on Sabbatical in 2022 I read the book “Tiny Habits” by BJ Fogg called. It was all about making small changes to improve your life. The argument was that people make their goals too big, too demanding, and too strict. The key to success when you’re making changes is to set small, easy goals. Instead of saying, “I will floss twice a day everyday from now on” a better goal is, “I will floss one tooth once every day.” That goal is so possible that it’s easy to succeed (and hard to fail).

In the season of Lent we often set goals for ourselves. As a part of our Lenten discipline we choose to give something up or start doing something beneficial. This tradition comes from our understanding that Lent, as the invitation to Lent from the ELW (Evangelical Lutheran Worship) states, “is a time for self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love”. Somehow that often translated to giving up chocolate or caffeine or watching less TV. Yet the action without connection to our faith can make the action meaningless.

By the time this article is published we will be roughly 2 weeks into the season of Lent. Two weeks in, many of us have given up our Lenten disciplines. Maybe they were too difficult, too broad, or too easy to forget. Some of us never started anything. The good news is that it’s not too late to do something during this season that helps you to connect with God, helps you to deepen your faith, or to show your love for your neighbor. You could read one chapter of the book of Acts (or another book of the Bible) each day to better connect with our Lenten theme of being Altered by the Spirit (to make it easier you can listen using the free audioBibles on Bible Gateway.com). You could calculate the total of all your coffee (or other guilty pleasure) purchases in Lent and give that same sum to a food bank or favorite charity. You could pray every time you stop at a stoplight or every time you hear a siren. You could find small ways to show your love each day to the people in your life (a small note in a lunchbox or on the mirror for example). Choose to act or speak kindly to a stranger each day. You could give up some small convenience in order to benefit the earth (take a reusable shopping bag into the store or use a reusable straw instead of plastic).

Choose something small and easy to do. Choose to act with intention. Find ways to connect what you do to your faith. Then when the season is over, look back and reflect on how this new habit has changed you for the better. Perhaps you will choose to carry on! These small actions can help us to live out our gratitude for God’s grace. They can help us to live out our discipleship. Small changes can make us feel empowered to grow and change into the people God has called us to be. The invitation for “self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love” can extend beyond this Lenten season and into our daily lives. May you feel inspired to change in small ways that make a big difference in your life and in the world.

Blessings,

Pr. Susan Haukaas

Christians in Action Ministry

What is happening in the background?

Now that all 8 congregations have approved the incorporation of Christians in Action Ministry as a separate non-profit corporation, our congregations are entering a time of filing the appropriate paperwork.

- 1) Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are being filed with the Secretary of State of North Dakota. These are the documents approved by the congregations at annual meetings.
- 2) Applying for a Tax ID number with the IRS. This number will allow Christians in Action Ministry to open financial accounts in its own name and have an identity that is separate from individual member congregations.
- 3) Applying to be part of the Group Non-profit Exemption of the ELCA. Each of the individual member congregations is already part of this group exemption. The founding documents have been set up in a way that should make this step less complicated.

What is happening in the foreground?

1) A leadership retreat is being planned for members of the councils, board, and existing call committees (Atonement and South: Zion, Montpelier, Christ the King, and Emmanuel) along with the ministers serving these congregations. The retreat seeks to

build relationships among the lay leaders and to help increase the number of people who have an updated working knowledge of the goals we share. More than half of the current council members are new in their roles since the discernment process began in November 2021. Three new staff members (Pastor Stephanie Gossett, Deacon Tara Longden, and Vicar Andrew Stephens) have also joined Christians in Action Ministry.

2) Worship during Lent explores the theme: Altered by the Spirit. Each congregation has an approach to this theme on Sundays and/or Wednesdays that is appropriate for their setting. Daily devotion resources are available at NDChristiansAct.org so people can explore this theme more deeply on their own.

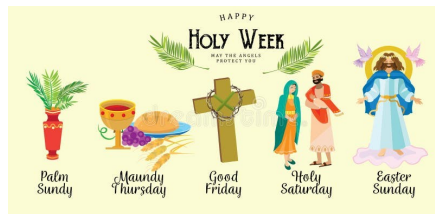
3) Monthly events for youth are planned for March 10 and April 26. Deacon Tara Longden (who got married January 26th!) is working with the seniors from Jamestown High School who are planning their Baccalaureate service for May 15th. Youth who are attending the ELCA Youth Gathering also meet monthly to prepare for this experience together.

Congregations participating in Christians in Action Ministry:
Atonement, Jamestown Christ the King, Ellendale Emmanuel,
Gackle English, Medina Montpelier, Montpelier St. John's,
Jamestown Trinity, Jamestown Zion, Kulm

Autumn Josette Hoffmann

Sponsors: Lindsay Hoffmann
Taylor Anderson

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Palm Sunday: 11:00 am

Maunday Thursday: 7:30 pm

Good Friday: 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday: 11:00 am

Bold Women's Day

Celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Some women are bold in their unceasing prayers. Other women are bold in their service to those in need. Still other women are bold in their advocacy or through their hospitality. Whether we live out our bold story of faith in the workplace, family home or community, our faith compels us to make a difference in the lives of others. It's all about living out our baptismal call, about being a disciple of Christ.

Are you bold?



In honor of the bold women in our Parish, WELCA presented them with a card and magnetic book mark.

Blessings to all!

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Prayer Chain @ English Lutheran

We have had a number of calls on the prayer chain in the last few weeks. Thanks to everyone who agrees to pray for these individuals. Your prayers are powerful and effective. They may not be answered in the way we wish, but they are heard.

If you would like to have a prayer request sent call:

Janet Well 701-368-9523 or
Karen Heinle 701-320-7301

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Baby Baptism Quilts @ English Lutheran

WELCA continues the project of giving every child a quilt and Bible Story book when they are baptized.

The fabric for the quilts are donated by Sara Sunderlin and Patty Well. Janet Well sews the quilts together and hand quilts them.

Thank you all for your help in keeping this project going.

**Unapproved minutes and are subject to change.*

ELC Council Meeting Minutes –February 7, 2024

Members Present: Jacob Hofmann, Kurt Hayes, Becky Greer, Ceph Dockter, Taylor Dockter, Pastor Stephanie, and

Members Absent: Pastor Erik

Called to Order: 7:04 PM

Pastor Devotion and Report – Pastor Stephanie

Devotion – embracing change.

Starting a bible study on February 21st, this will be every Wednesday during lent at 5:30 pm.

Past Minutes

January 3rd meeting minutes were read by Taylor.

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

Treasure's Report

January's Report was reviewed and discussed.

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

Old Business .

Parsonage repairs –

Will need to look at possible repair to roof this spring.
Pipe coming from downstairs, there's no cover on this,
can a mesh style cover be placed on this?

AED Grant – still in progress. Taylor will check in with Renae about the status of this.

Christians in Action (CiA) – on February 24th CiA is hosting an all-council member invite retreat. This will be from 10:3 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.

Youth gathering funds – standing item.

Toilet – still having some various issues with these.

Ash Wednesday service – February 14th at 6:30 PM – arrangements have been made.

New Business

New board election:

President – Becky nominated Jacob Hofmann. Ceph seconded.
Motion carried.

Vice President – Becky nominated Kurt Hayes. Ceph seconded.
Motion carried.

Secretary – Becky nominated Taylor Dockter. Ceph seconded.
Motion carried.

Treasurer – Brian Behm

Financial reporter – Becky nominated Ceph Dockter. Taylor seconded. Motion carried.

Fellowship hall reservation for benefit on March 3rd. This was approved by council.

Discussion on insurance claim for church.

Youth Activities:

Adding this section for standing item on minutes with new activities and updates from youth director.

Raffle tickets – selling tickets for calendar raffle for the month of April. This will be for a New Orleans fundraiser.

Had a gathering for everyone that is going on the trip. Trip will be a little more expensive than what they were thinking for each person. This is due to train tickets.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 6th, 2024 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 7:46 P.M.

Submitted by Taylor Dockter

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ELC WELCA February 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes

- > Present: Julie Opp, Renae Olson, Ethel Heinle & Jennifer Hayes
- > Devotional and prayer led by Julie Opp
- > **Secretary's Report** - Minutes from January 28, 2024 meeting; change to date for Schelske fundraiser; approved with changes
- > **Treasurer's Report** - nothing new since last meeting; no expenses paid

New Business:

- > Will be ordering the confirmands gifts for confirmation and purchase corsages for the 7 on April 14th
- > Will be supporting the youth group members - Ethel to give the amount to Bryan Behm to add to each youth's totals they have fundraised. Giving \$50 per youth (9 youth).
- > Question on what to do with monies that have been raised for specific purposes that weren't spent? Possibly have Bryan (church treasurer) keep an item line for this or have an account set up for this. So these monies are available to others who might go to the events in the future
- > Discussion on donating to Kristen Ganser to help with her expenses and to see if she wants a prayer shawl
- > Post Prom requested a donation - agreed to donate to the group
- > Prayer shawl was given to Mike Schleske

Old Business:

- > World Day of Prayer - March 2nd
- > Julie to ask community churches to have an active part in the service
 - > Have service at 10 am; 11 am meal - citrus fruit, egg bakes, caramel rolls, pita bread, humus, jellies with juice and coffee
 - > Julie and Jenn to make an egg bake; Julie to make caramel rolls; Renae to make humus & bring jellies
 - > Pastor Stephanie to do the message/mediation for the service
- > Schelske Benefit - March 3rd
- > Have BBQ, Chips, pickles, salads, desserts
 - > Call members for work groups to ask to bring a salad or bars/dessert, to help serve or a donation to purchase items for event
 - > help can be done Saturday (March 2nd) at noon or on Sunday (March 3rd)
 - > April 20th at Riverbend (south of Valley City) a Quilter's Workshop - more information to come

Respectfully submitted by ELC WELCA Secretary, Jennifer Hayes

Story of Impact- Community Support and Hospitality

A collapsed roof is never something we want to face. This is especially true when that roof covers a building used daily to provide a place of respite and learning for over 50 individuals. Unfortunately, at the end of January, this was the situation the people of Triumph Inc. had to face. There was no way they could continue business as usual in their building until the roof was fixed.

Triumph Inc. is a local organization in Jamestown that works with people with a variety of disabilities. Their mission is to assist individuals in achieving their personal goals through career development, residential and day development. Most individuals come to Triumph during the morning to get ready for their work day. Then they return in the afternoon to hang out until it is time to head home for the day. Many of the members have found good friends at Triumph, and enjoy having a safe place to spend time together during the week.

When the roof collapsed, the director of Triumph reached out to St John's Lutheran Church requesting space, and St John's was happy to offer their fellowship hall. The arrangement has worked out nicely. It is unusual to have so many people coming in and out of the church building on a regular basis, but definitely a welcome change of pace. We pray that their roof repairs go smoothly, so their life can return to its normal rhythm soon, but are thrilled to host the people of Triumph until that time. Current repair estimates are for mid-March.

[illegible]

English Youth Circus Fundraiser

I am writing to let you know of a fundraising opportunity that has come our way. The Shrine Circus will be in town on Tuesday April 16th. They are looking for individuals to help sell hot dogs, make sno cones, etc. Each person who works will receive \$30. This can be used towards Castaway, youth events or the National Youth Gathering. Volunteers are to be at the civic center by 4 pm that Tuesday. **Please RSVP to Deacon Tara by Sunday March 10th** to secure your spot. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. Hope you are enjoying this beautiful day!

Deacon Tara