

ENGLISH - NEWS - ST LUKE

OUR CHURCH IN OUR COMMUNITIES



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

November 2021

English Lutheran

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Happy Thanksgiving Day!!

*For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
for love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.
For flowers that bloom about our feet;
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;
For song of bird, and hum of bee;
For all things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!*

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Our Mission:

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

Taking Time

“And on the seventh day God finished the work that God had done, and God rested on the seventh day from all the work that God had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that God had done in creation.” Genesis 2:2-3

Recently I have been thinking a lot about Sabbath. In recent months the subject kept coming up; as I prepped for teaching this fall, during some time away with friends, in conversation with my family, and even at the fall Pastor’s retreat. In my experience when a topic keeps coming up it’s usually the Holy Spirit trying to get my attention. As I was teaching a lesson on the Ten Commandments I heard myself say, “Following these commandments helps us to be righteous. To be righteous means to be in ‘right relationship’. The commandments are all about relationships. So keeping the 3rd commandment, keeping the Sabbath helps us to be in right relationship with God and with each other.” Sometimes the lessons I prepare are the lesson I need to remember. How then can keeping the 3rd Commandment help us to care for our relationships, both with God and one another.

God of the Sabbath

In September when we gathered with other pastors in Detroit Lakes our speaker, Rev. Kara Root, spoke about how God meets us in times of Sabbath. She reminded us of a story from the 16th chapter of Exodus. In the desert the Israelites cried out to Moses saying, “you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” In response God provides Manna every morning for God’s people and quail every night. The people can only gather enough manna for the day ahead of them. Any extra that they gather will spoil. This is how they learn to trust God. Yet on the sixth day of the week they can gather enough for two days so that no one needs to gather food on the Sabbath.

I knew the story and I’ve told it many times. This time Rev. Kara Root said something I’d never thought of before. She acknowledged that this double gathering on the sixth day was so the people could rest. Then she said, “On the Sabbath God does not provide manna because even God rests on the Sabbath.” I had always known that God rested after creation, but I had never considered that God continues to rest each week on the Sabbath. For forty years God feeds the people in this way and each week God’s people AND God have Sabbath. This holy, set aside, day allows us to tend our relationship with God and God isn’t too busy to meet us because God is at rest with us.

Sabbath as care for relationships

I often think about Sabbath as a time to rest, to recharge my batteries. Often it isn't until I'm taking some Sabbath time that I realize how much Sabbath is about tending relationships. When I take time away from daily duties I frequently discover that I've neglected my relationships with people. I haven't had time to return a phone call from family or friends. I haven't made time to check-in with someone I love who's struggling. I haven't snuggled on the couch enough reading with my 7-year-old. There are so many ways that time away allows for all of that.

This is the time of year when we gather with family and friends. Yet in the busyness of the holidays it can be hard to find time to tend relationships. There's so much to plan and prepare. There's so much to do that time with the people we've come to be with is in short supply. Instead that time with those we love can feel stressful, instead of helping us tend our relationships.

Maybe this year can be different! Maybe this year you can plan some time to rest together and tend the relationships that mean the most to you. While you're nurturing those relationships you are also invited to intentionally engage in the life giving relationship you have with God. Here, in the final weeks of the year, may you speak important words, may you hear important stories and may you strengthen your relationships in the midst of Sabbath.

Blessings,

Pastor Susan Haukaas

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SCAMS

Reminder to be alert to scams. If you receive messages from someone you know through your phone, emails, texts, Facebook, etc and something does not seem right do not reply. Contact your local authorities with the info.

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THANK YOU

Thank you to all who have saved used stamps, cards and pop tops.

They are greatly appreciated by all. Items sent to: pop tops to Ronald McDonald house; cards to Open Door in Valley City and stamps to a Quilters group in Texas.

Keep saving, Kathy

Youth outing in Jamestown

Youth from Emmanuel in Gackle, Atonement in Jamestown and English Lutheran met on Oct 10th at Atonement for a fun day of games, worshipping and eating.



CONGRATULATIONS

Renae Olson

On her nomination on becoming the WELCA Cluster Representative for the Jamestown area.

She had to send in a resume and a faith statement to accompany it.

Following is the Faith statement she submitted.



FAITH STATEMENT

Where to begin. Faith for me is a completely blind trust. I am putting trust into something or someone I cannot see. It comes from the word and then a person makes the decision to believe in the word. Belief is definitely difficult at times.

I have been thinking about how to write my faith statement a lot lately. There are many different routes I could have gone, however after looking in my Bible this verse jumped out at me. “do NOT conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Roman 12:2” I found this verse in “The butterfly’s way from NIV GODS word for Gardeners Bible. To me just like many other things you may find in a garden the butterfly is a symbol of transformation.

I really do feel like a caterpillar most of the time. I feel like I might become a beautiful butterfly however, then I make a mistake by thinking the wrong way about a neighbor or a friend. I get mad, say harsh words or go down the wrong path. To me this is where the word FAITH comes in. Faith is what helps transform us into a beautiful butterfly.

Transformation is the word that helps change us from that caterpillar into that beautiful butterfly. God thru our faith helps transform us all.

I think about my grandchildren a lot and hope that they will find a way to trust in GOD and have faith in things they may not see. I see so many youth putting their faith into the things they can see like, Snapchat, Facebook, You Tube and other forms of social media. It is really hard for them to feel like a beautiful butterfly when they see all these other form of how they “should be”. I hope they can find that they are a beautiful butterfly without conforming to how everyone else believes they should be By having faith in God, they can transform from that caterpillar into the butterfly and renew their mind and have hope in the things they can’t see.

English Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes 10-06-2021

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

Pastor Report:

- Pastor Kristi began the meeting with a devotion.
- Pastor Kristi reviewed the October 3rd meeting between 8 congregations and ideas on how to move forward. There will be a zoom gathering on October 26th to continue the discussion. Anyone is welcome to participate in that meeting.
- reviewed the youth event on September 25th. 12 youth attended from English along with 3 from St. John's and 4 from Trinity.

*September minutes were read. Kurt moved to approve the minutes. Karen seconded, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Kurt motioned to accept the treasurer's report. Michelle seconded, motion carried.

Old Business:

- Door was replaced in the parsonage. Floor will be next.
- 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
- kitchen fridge needs to be checked and possibly replaced with the fridge in the hall by the food pantry
- The accounts are still at Choice Financial as of this month. Kurt motioned to wait until Dakota Heritage is in Medina and move all accounts there to keep business local. Brenda seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Fall Festival: good turnout at Ecumenical service and the youth served lunch.
- 100 year anniversary committee needs to be formed for the celebration in June 2022. A potluck will be October 10th after church to hear ideas and how our congregation can help plan this celebration.
- Ethel's sub-contract for St. John's Lutheran Church for 3 hours per week (to do bulletin and worship leader script) was signed.
- Cleaning services: it was mentioned to have the youth take turns cleaning for a fee, if first volunteer isn't available, to raise money for their youth rally next year.

- Snow removal: have a youth clean the sidewalks at the parsonage and church for an amount towards the rally.
- painting needs to happen behind the boxes on the new LED lights on the outside of the fellowship hall.

New Business:

- The youth will be going to the corn maze on October 10th.
- Domain name bill is coming due. Wordpress currently is our host. The website is free, but hosting is \$18 per year. Pastor Kristi is proposing that Weebly become our new host for \$20 per year, with the website being free. This host is more user friendly. This is for the domain medinastreeterparish.org. Kurt made a motion to move to Weebly. Karen seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Pastor Lucas will be moving. His last day at English will be October 17th.
- English Lutheran will host Trunk or Treat on October 31st. The Lion's club donated \$200.

With no further business, meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Lytle

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English Lutheran WELCA

WELCA held a meeting on Sunday, October 24 before Worship. The Fall Festival servings were a great success. THANK YOU everyone for baking , donations and working at the events.

Renae Olson is the new Cluster Rep for the Jamestown area. She was elected at the WELCA Synod Gathering at Park River on Sept. 18th. CONGRATULATIONS Renae on your new position.

WELCA bank account has been moved to Unison Bank in Jamestown. We are planning on new WELCA books for 2022.

We will give a donation to State Hospital for Christmas gifts.

Discussions were held on starting Bible studies, replacing a vacuum cleaner & Coffee Hour.

Pat, Secretary

BIRTHDAYS

November

Charlee Nenow	Nov 1
Brady Andres	Nov 3
Patty Roemmich	Nov 4
Trina Hayes	Nov 7
Troy Zillmer	Nov 7
Brent Kleven	Nov 11
Isayah Olson	Nov 11
Ron Headland	Nov 11
Virginia Jeanotte	Nov 11
Renae Olson	Nov 12
Bryan Andres	Nov 12
Jahleel Opp	Nov 19
Larry Junker	Nov 21
Angel Hayes	Nov 22
Erica Zillmer	Nov 25
Betty Christensen	Nov 26
Dennis Behm	Nov 27
Patrice Juelfs	Nov 28
William Juelfs	Nov 29
Doug Schmidt	Nov 30

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

Celebrating Oct/Nov Anniversaries

Clarence & Ethel Heinle	Nov 3, 1973
Mike & Robin Iszler	Nov 18, 1988
Rory & Kim Hoffmann	Nov 27, 1993
Clydell & Mary Dockter	Dec 1, 1973
Randy & Mindy Kapp	Dec 13, 1986