

English Lutheran News

OUR CHURCH IN OUR COMMUNITIES



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

November 2023



English Lutheran

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Trunk or Treat

Tues, October 31, 2023

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**English Lutheran Church
5:30—8ish**

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Hunter and Veterans Breakfast

November 11 - 7 am to 1 pm

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The Farmstead
Medina, ND

Proceeds to Support Medina Youth
heading to 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering
in New Orleans

Our Mission:

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

Your First Bible

Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the Ethiopian court official reading the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The court official replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in the chariot and sit beside him. Acts 8:30-31

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

What do you remember about receiving your first Bible?

Who helped you understand that the Bible is special?

I recently asked these questions and was inspired by the stories I heard. Some people remembered receiving Bibles as third or fifth graders. Others told of confirmation Bibles or being shown a special family Bible.

Several people told about the wonder and joy of being encouraged to underline or highlight special passages in their own Bible or to take notes about questions they had.

Names of Sunday School teachers, parents, grandparents and others came to mind as we shared stories of the people who have come alongside us like Philip and the Ethiopian court official to help us understand what we are reading. God's Word revealed to us in the Bible teaches us, corrects us, and equips us to lead lives of faith.

When you read the Bible, do you return again and again to familiar passages that bring you comfort or inspiration? Do you wrestle with passages that challenge you? Do you have a devotion booklet such as *Christ in Our Home* or *The Word in Season* or another resource that guides you to explore a new passage of the Bible each day? Does a Bible verse come to your phone or computer each day? Do you have a Bible Buddy or study group that you connect with regularly to explore the depth and breadth of God's love for you shared in the Bible.

As you continue your journey of faith in Jesus Christ, may the wonder and joy, the questions and the companionship of the Bible guide you each day.

In Peace,

Pastor Kristi Weber

Christians in Action

The Christians in Action Partnership has been working together in new ways for more than a year. One of the Goals for Christians in Action was to Expand Area Outreach. Some of the comments heard from different congregations reflect the different experiences in each of our communities.

“Many people in small communities know people from other communities. It has been interesting to see how we know the names of lots of people. Perhaps we have met them or worked with them before. This can strengthen those relationships and help people be comfortable working together.”

“In our congregation, there is no pastor living in town. The mental image is that we are a congregation without a pastor. We need to educate people that our congregation has several pastors who care about our community. They just don’t happen to live in town.”

“The congregation is adjusting to hearing multiple preachers each month and appreciates the teamwork. However, members are concerned about losing our identity.”

“Questions are asked about who is serving each congregation and what the difference is between what lay leaders and pastors can do.”

“It can be enjoyable to have other preachers and musicians at worship services. It shakes things up a little in a good way.”

“We promote special events among the partner congregations. This links us together.”

Not everything has easy answers, but this partnership encourages us to keep trying. Together we can share God's good news with our communities. We have support and encouragement. We trust that the Holy Spirit will guide us in all we do in Jesus' name.

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

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Christmas Decorating of English & Caroling

Sunday, December 3—Family decorating of the church for Christmas @ 2 pm.
Potluck lunch after the decorating followed by caroling.

Everyone is welcome to join in getting ready for Christmas.



I Am Lutheran by Kurt Hayes (English Lutheran)

Congregations that I have been a part of: My family and I have been attending English Lutheran Church for the past eight years, ever since we moved to Medina. Prior to Medina, My family would have been members of the Munich Lutheran Church in Munich, ND. My home church and congregation would be Ascension Lutheran Church in Emerado, ND, where I was confirmed in May 1981.

Occupation: Presently, I drive a school bus route for the Medina Public School District and substitute teach.

I found my faith: In all honesty, I found my faith in my Savior when I went through my personal “16-months of hell.”

My first son with Jenn, Ian Carter, was diagnosed with CDH – Congenital Diaphragmic Hernia – in November. Ian would have to go full term in order to determine if anything could be medically done for him. In December, my youngest daughter of my first marriage was diagnosed with Ewings Sarcoma, a form of cancer. In April Ian was born and succumbed to his birth defect. In July my mother, Loretta, succumbed to her cancer. And, in the following May, my daughter succumbed to her cancer, being days before her sixteenth birthday.

An issue I’m fighting for is: I am presently attempting to do some work for under privilege children. I am a present member of the Jamestown Masons and working towards membership with the Jamestown Shriners. In addition to this, I have assisted with some other charitable activities – Schafer COED Softball Tourney (funds for children to participate in extracurricular activities) and McQuad Softball Tourney (funds to assist cancer research and expenses).

My favorite Bible story is: My favorite Bible story is about Zacchaeus, being the public figure whom Jesus asks to go with him.

I believe that: I believe that Jesus Christ died to save me and anyone else who believes in him.

I pray: I pray for people to have both a satisfactory and happy life with internal peace.

I struggle with: I struggle with people being dishonest and/or lying. It is one of my pet peeves.

People are surprised that I: My parents were surprised that I followed through with my goal to become a teacher, as they were even more surprised when I became a secondary principal. Most people who don’t really know me are surprised that I do enjoy listening to classical music and instrumental music. I do not play an instrument myself. Classical/instrumental music helps to sooth the inner beast and provide a sense of calmness.

(con't I Am Lutheran)

I'm a Lutheran because: I am a Lutheran because that is the way that I was raised. Both my maternal grandparents and parents attended church regularly. I have attended either Lutheran or Evangelical churches in my lifetime with my families.

Traveling and/or living abroad has taught me: I lived abroad for approximately the first year of my life, as I was born on a US Army Base in Okinawa, Japan, before the US Air Force was determined to be a separate military branch. I have never lived outside of the United States. Furthermore, I have never lived outside the region of North Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

Serving on the council opened my eyes to: Being a member of the English Lutheran Church Council, I have grown to see more of the operations of the church. As with most things, people do not necessarily realize the events and/or actions that occur on Monday to Saturday. People have a general idea of the activities on Sundays. Serving on the Council has allowed me to step back and view the whole operation of the church.

ELC WELCA meeting mintues– October 8, 2023

* Present: Julie Opp, Renae Olson, Ethel Heinle, Jennifer Hayes, Brittney Dockter & Taylor Dockter

* Secretaries Report:

Change the date for Chili feed for youth fundraiser - October 29th after service

Approved with corrections

* Treasurers Report:

- ◆ new cards are out and can be purchased from card display area
- ◆ need to order check blanks, waiting to get check blanks to support youth who attended Castaway Retreat
- ◆ charities to support this year - Renae made a motion to donate \$50 per charity that Ethel listed, Jennifer seconded the motion, motion passed
- ◆ order small crosses to have in church for members to have when needed - free for crosses, cost for shipping them out - Ethel to look into ordering some
- * Coffee hour still going - having coffee and treats available for whoever attends - no set schedule for people to work it, if it hasn't been made, then someone can make in the small coffee maker
- * WELCA Booklets to be updated with individuals not listed already
- * Bible Study to start up 3rd Sunday in January during fellowship time (10am)
- * Cleaning of the church will be a general cleaning - cleaning list will be posted in Narthex and Fellowship Hall
 - *sign up for a task to help clean the church
- * Prayer Chain - all should go through Janet to coordinate sending texts and making phone calls
- * Katie's Fund - a national WELCA charity that is seeking to raise \$1 million to ensure the fund is self-funding at that point. Many Lutheran charities it supports.
- * Trunk-or-Treat - youth are to help with the set up, running and clean up of the event on Halloween night. Renae to contact Bonnie to coordinate.

Respectfully submitted by ELC WELCA Secretary, Jennifer Hayes

WELCA Twelfth Triennial Convention

English Lutheran Church sent two voting delegates (Renae Olson and Jennifer Hayes) to the Twelfth Triennial Convention held in Phoenix, AZ on September 19-21. There were 9 voting members from the Eastern North Dakota Synod. In total there were 252 voting members at the convention. The voting members elected a new executive board on the national level, elected the national board members and voted on memorials and proposals to the WELCA constitution and by-laws for the next three years.

After the Convention, there was the Gathering (September 21-24). This was a time of fellowship and learning all relating to the theme of the conference, Just Love. Attendees were able to attend the main speakers each of the days and to attend break-out sessions on topics of their choice. There were many booths set up with presenters speaking on different topics.

**Unapproved minutes and are subject to change.*

English Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

October 4th, 2023–

Members Present: Kurt Hayes, Becky Greer, Taylor Dockter, and Pastor Stephanie.

Members Absent: Phillip Hofmann, Ceph Dockter, Pastor Erik

Pastor Report

- Pastor Stephanie lead with devotion.
- Was able to attend a Sunday school which was fun to see.
- Chili feed coming up
- Working on finishing T-shirts from tie-dye event

Past Minutes

- September meeting minutes were read.
- Becky moved to approve the minutes. Taylor seconded. Motion carried.

Treasure's Report

- September's Reports were reviewed and discussed.
- Taylor moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Becky seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business

- Parsonage –
 - Pastor Stephanie's dad was able to help with some of the electrical things (hood above range, put up a new fixture and 2 ceiling fans).
 - Still working on the garage door situation
- AED grant still in progress.
- Castaway – 9 kids went, sounds like it went well.
- Couple pews left to go in the front. Will check with the ones that still have names assigned on them. Will start spacing out pews a little more evenly.
- Will check on progress of building CD's.
- Christians in action – survey has been sent out, please have completed within next couple weeks.

New Business

Last creative worship series this weekend.

Sunday October 29th, flyer going out to invite other community members to the events that day.

Michelle unable to do VBS summer of 2024. There is a VBS option at Crystal Springs if we would like to explore that as an option. Pastor Stephanie will look into this more.

Melissa is retiring from Sunday School on October 29th. Karissa Yunch will be able to help when she can. We would take more volunteers for Sunday school. If interested, reach out to Michelle Lytle.

Trunk or treat – Pastor Stephanie planning on having a trunk.

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 1st at 7:00 P.M.

Meeting adjourned after the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Taylor Dockter

BIRTHDAYS

November

Brady Andres	Nov 3
Patty Roemmich	Nov 4
Trina Hayes	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
Pastor Erik Weber	Nov 18
Jahleel Opp	Nov 19
Larry Junker	Nov 21
Angel Hayes	Nov 22
Betty Christensen	Nov 26
Dennis Behm	Nov 27
Patrice Juelfs	Nov 28
William Juelfs	Nov 29
Doug Schmidt	Nov 30

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

Celebrating November/December Anniversaries

Clarence & Ethel Heinle	Nov 3, 1973
Rory & Kim Hoffmann	Nov 27, 1993
Randy & Mindy Kapp	Dec 13, 1986

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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.