

ENGLISH - NEWS - ST LUKE

OUR CHURCH IN OUR COMMUNITIES



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

December 2015

English Lutheran

210 Water Street
Medina, ND 58467
701-486-3112

St. Luke Lutheran

300 1st Ave NE
Streeter, ND 58483
701-424-3383

Pastor Ryan Ferwerda
701-486-3234 (parsonage)
701-269-9617 (cell)
mspmpastor@gmail.com

Jacob Hofmann
English Council President

Clydell Dockter
St. Luke Council President

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

www.medinastreeterparish.org



English Lutheran Christmas Program
Sunday, December 20, 2015
@ 11:00 am

Sunday School will be collecting
Christmas gift donations for the
Salvation Army—see page 3 for more
info.

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Streeter Community
Christmas Program
Wed, December 23, 2015
@ 7:30 pm
at United Methodist Church-Streeter

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Worship Service Time Change
January 3, 2016
English Lutheran- 9:00 am
St. Luke—11:00 am

Our Mission:

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

To the churches of Medina and Streeter in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace and Peace to you.

Over the last few months we have been exploring what it means to have a vital congregation/parish and to discover hope for our future. As I write to you this month, I do so at the beginning of the season of Hope, which is quite fitting seeing as though the focus for this month is the chapter about building community and hope from our book of focus *Discovering Hope: Building Vitality in Rural Congregations* by David Poling-Goldenne and L. Shannon Jung.

When I think of the main setting in which the mission of the church gets carried out, there is one particular setting that raises above all others. If you were to ask yourself in what way does the church mainly go about being the church, I am sure that this one setting would come to your mind as well. Yes, you guessed it: worship. When we gather for worship it is the time when the most people of our church community come together to carry out our mission as God's shepherds doing God's work daily. This really should not come as any surprise since as this chapter of the book points out in various places, for most if not all churches worship is a high priority for the people's life together (36), since it is the time when the greatest number of people gather for Christian Education (39), and to be lifted up in spirit and encouraged on their journey of faith (40).

As I read through this Chapter about Worship as a way to Build Community and Hope in vital rural congregations I could not help but reflect on our own worship practices here in Streeter and Medina. I could not help but read our own congregations into the stories that were shared in this chapter. There was one statement made that particularly made me say to myself, "Hey, that is us!" The statement reads, "Almost all of the congregations in the research study offer worship services patterned on the rubrics of their denomination's primary hymnal, but often with a great deal of freedom in the choices of liturgy and song" (37). If you were to compare our worship service with that of the services laid out in our hymnals you would find a great deal of similarity. But you will also find that as the seasons of the church year change, so does the language of our liturgy. We do this to ensure that our worship remains accessible to people who come to worship as well as keeping our worship services alive and full of life.

The truth is when it comes to people looking for a primary place for spiritual growth, the worship service is what the deciding factor is often. Now some churches will go to great extents to make sure that they have the best worship services around, by offering the best music, the best sermons, and the most entertaining worship experience.

English Lutheran November Council Meeting Minutes

The English Lutheran Church Council meeting was held Nov. 4, 2015. Members present were Janet Well, Jeff Morlock, Jacob Hofmann, Scott Dockter and Pastor Ryan.

President Jacob Hofmann called the meeting to order with Pasotr Ryan giving opening devotions.

Minutes from last meeting were read. Jeff moved and Janet seconded a motion to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

No treasurer's report was available at time of meeting.

Jacob informed the council that Janine would like approval to withdraw funds from building savings fund to cover monthly expenses. Janet moved and Jeff seconded a motion to give authorization to Janine to withdraw funds when necessary to cover monthly expenses for the remainder of the year. Motion was approved.

Pastor Ryan presented he Pastor's report to the council.

Old business:

The trees to be planted at the parsonage have arrived. Trees and grass will be planted at the same time in the near future.

Olson Tree Trimming will trim branches on the tree on the west side of the parking lot.

Outside faucet has been replaced.

St. Luke's council has agreed to the pastor's health plan and will be voted on by both parishes at the next Joint Council meeting.

New business:

A very generous gift to the church was given by Donna Gieseke. She would like it to be used as a memorial for her late husband, Lester Gieseke.

Water heater at parsonage was replaced by Ron Headland.

Pastor Ryan informed the council that the parish is looking for a new parish treasurer.

The council will be working on the 2016 budget at the December meeting.

Out going council members will be finding replacements for their council seats.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be held on December 2nd.

Scott Dockter, Council Secretary

St. Luke's God's Helpers News

Our WELCA Bible study and meeting was held on November 17th at 2 pm. Pastor Ryan led our Bible study with five ladies present.

Thank you for the wonderful donations of goodies for our bake sale. We had two tables with goodies, brooms, dish cloths and assorted cards. We had a third table with a variety for 'pick and choose' baked items and candy. People could make their own variety plates. This worked very well. Our profit was \$699.72. Thank you to Estee for including our bake sale in selling her brooms, to help our general fund.

Thank you, Esther E. for cleaning the communion vessels. Esther will get help in cleaning all the brass candle holders.

We will join English in collecting Christmas gifts for the state hospital. A box will be set up in the Narthex, deadline Nov. 29th.

The first Advent service will be at St. Luke on Dec. 2nd. Soup and sandwiches will be served at 6 pm. Judy and Olga will make soup. Mary will make sandwiches. Service at 7 pm. Thank you for volunteering.

Lydia served refreshments. Our December meeting will be on the 15th, beginning with a noon lunch. Our regular meeting to follow. Esther and Judy will each make 2 dozen cookies, for lunch and for Kids Bible Nite at 3:30 pm. Lydia, Olga and Elsie will bring lunch and we will all bring holiday pot-luck goodies to share.

Judy was at our meeting and resigned as president of our WELCA. We thank Judy for many years as our president and group leader. Our prayers are with her. Margaret and Elsie will be Care and Share Co-Chairman in the future.

Elsie Goldsmith, secretary/treasurer

FYI: Beginning with 2016, we will no longer keep records for offerings. If you would like a copy of the quarterly recording form for your own use, contact Elsie for one. Please note: donations and memorials should be sent to the church or Margaret Williams. WELCA donations should be sent to Elsie Goldsmith.

We are always looking for additional people to fill the roles of head usher, ushers, readers and communion assistants. If you would like to be added to the 2016 list, please contact Elsie at goldtkg@daktel.com or 424-3476 by December 14th. The new list should be in your church mail boxes by Dec. 20th.

BIRTHDAYS

December

Frieda Hauf	Dec 1
Kaitlynn Andres	Dec 5
Pastor Ryan Ferwerda	Dec 6
Taya Schleske	Dec 6
Sharon Behm	Dec 6
Gertrude Neumiller	Dec 10
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
Arlynn Schmidt	Dec 29
Tyler Eissinger	Dec 29

January

Rory Hoffmann	Jan 6
Haven Gefroh	Jan 9
Katy Reis	Jan 10
Julie Opp	Jan 12
Dwight Hofmann	Jan 13
Tim Olson	Jan 14
JoAnn Wieland	Jan 19
Jacob Hofmann	Jan 19
Kennedy Behm	Jan 19
Ethel Heinle	Jan 26
Jacob Juelfs	Jan 26
Daryl Olson	Jan 28
Bonnie Hofmann	Jan 28
Katie Schmidt	Jan 30

Celebrating Dec/Jan Anniversaries

Clydell & Mary Dockter	Dec 1, 1973
Tim & Karen Heinle	Dec 7, 2014
Randy & Mindy Kapp	Dec 13, ?
Brent & Missy Kleven	Jan 5, 1998
Gil & Pat Everding	Jan 7, 1961
Randy & Sherry Everding	Jan 26, 2008
Arlynn & Sourey Schmidt	Jan 30, 1964

December Worship Times & Events

Sun, Dec 6	Second Sunday of Advent
St. Luke	9:00 am
Sunday School Christmas Practice @ English	10:00 am
English	11:00 am
Wed, Dec 9	Advent Service
English	7:00 pm
Soup & Sandwiches	6:00 pm
Sun, Dec 13	Third Sunday of Advent
St. Luke	9:00 am
Sunday School Christmas Practice @ English	10:00 am
English	11:00 am
Tue, Dec 15	Events
St. Luke Bible Study beginning w/lunch @	12:00 noon
Kids Bible Nite @ St. Luke's	3:30-5:00 pm
St. Luke Council Meeting	6:30 pm
Wed, Dec 16	Advent Service
St. Luke	7:00 pm
Soup & Sandwiches	6:00 pm
Parish Council Meeting following the Service	
Thurs, Dec 17	Bible Study & Potluck
English	beginning @ 5:30 pm w/potluck
Sun, Dec 20	Fourth Sunday of Advent
St. Luke	9:00 am
English- Christmas Program	11:00 am
Wed, Dec 23	Streeter Community Christmas Program
United Methodist Church—Streeter	7:30 pm
Thurs, Dec 24	Christmas Eve Services
St. Luke	4:30 pm
English	6:30 pm
Sun, Dec 27	First Sunday of Christmas
St. Luke	9:00 am
No Sunday School @ English	
English	11:00 am

Worship Service Times Change

Sun, Jan 3, 2016	Second Sunday of Christmas
English	9:00 am
Sunday School @ English	10:00 am
St. Luke	11:00 am

English Lutheran Church
PO Box 515
Medina, ND 58467

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