

# ENGLISH - NEWS - ST LUKE

OUR CHURCH IN OUR COMMUNITIES



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

July 2015

## English Lutheran

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[www.medinastreeterparish.org](http://www.medinastreeterparish.org)



## Our Mission:

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

Greetings to the people of the Medina-Streeter Lutheran Parish, my brothers and sisters in our common faith in Christ Jesus our Savior.

As we begin the month of July we once again take an opportunity to celebrate freedom. Some of you may be heading to the lakes, others may be heading to see family, and still others may just be enjoying some time at home. But no matter where you are (or were) when the 4th of July rolls around, I am sure that you will undoubtedly be celebrating freedom in some form.

However, I can't help but wonder, in our celebrations of freedom, if we actually hold to be truth the freeing words that our forefathers wrote when declaring freedom from British rule. In the Declaration of Independence our forefathers wrote that, "All [people] are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." But do we actually believe that all people are created equal, and thus have the same right to freedom as everyone else?

With the events that have monopolized our news feeds over the last year and a half about Charleston, Baltimore, Ferguson, and others, I am beginning to think that we as a country say we believe in the equality of all people, but in reality our actions speak to the contrary. In a conversation that I had with a friend following the events in Charleston a few weeks ago I came to realize that this is a national issue, but it is also an issue right in our own communities as well. In our conversation this friend made the point that people in these communities do not think they are racist because they "allow [people of different races and color] live in their community." Upon further reflection of this statement I could not help but notice that this statement is in fact racist. Why do people of different color or race need to be allowed to live in the community? Shouldn't they just be welcomed? And not just welcomed, by trying to assimilate them into our customs, but by taking an interest in theirs?

This conversation got me thinking about how there are probably other comments that we make which we do not readily see as racist, but in fact they are. In an internet search on this topic I have come up with a couple such comments.

One such comment is one that I hear all the time: "I don't see race. I only see the human race."<sup>i</sup> While this sounds like a nice thing to hold to be true, it actually does more harm than good. The fact is we need to see race, because race exists. God has made each and every person unique and that includes their race, and God saw that it was good. To say you don't see race is to ignore the fact that racism exists, thus perpetuating the problem even further.

Another comment that I hear people say, especially if they spent time in a high school in a bigger city, or in a larger public university, is: "I'm not racist. I have black friends."<sup>ii</sup> It sounds good in our heads to applaud ourselves for saying that we have friends who are of a different color or race. But in reality a statement like this only adds to the false notion that people of color only exist as mere accessories.

There are many more examples of these sort of comments that people in every community around the country and around the world use to claim they are not racist, but in all reality the comments themselves are racist. There is really only one sure fire way to not be racist, and to not perpetuate racial injustice, even if it is unintentional. That sure fire way comes to us from God's Holy Word.

In Martin Luther's Large Catechism he explains the Eighth Commandment, "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor," in this way, "Therefore God will not have our neighbor deprived of his reputation, honor, and character any more than of his money and possessions." To say it more precisely, Martin Luther explains it this way in the Small Catechism, "We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light."

In Scripture we are given a clear example that our neighbor is not just the people who look like us, or who come from the same upbringing as us. No, in the parable of the Good Samaritan <sup>iii</sup>, Jesus makes the point that our neighbor is anyone who is in need of our help and support. Which coincidentally is all people, black, white, or anything else, rich or poor, well-educated or not. Jesus also tells us in Scripture that the second greatest commandment is that we are to love our neighbors as ourselves. And so the only real way to be sure that we are not aiding the spread of racial injustice is to speak of and act toward all people in the way that we speak of and act toward ourselves.

As children we learn the simple guideline that we are to do unto others we would want others to do on to us. In our time of racially motivated acts of violence this is the message that we as a community of Christian believers should be having a conversation about. As I said in my sermon on June 21st it is only through these conversations that these "storms" can be calmed. <sup>iv</sup> Consider the conversation started.

As always anyone who wants to talk to me about his issue or any other issue, my door is always open and my cell phone is always on.

In Christ,

Pastor Ryan

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<sup>i</sup><http://www.dailydot.com/opinion/clueless-things-white-people-say-racism/>

<sup>ii</sup><http://mic.com/articles/96144/11-things-white-people-should-stop-saying-to-black-people-immediately>

<sup>iii</sup>Luke 10:25-37

<sup>iv</sup>If you did not get a chance to hear this sermon you can listen to it on the parish website: [medinastreeterparish.org](http://medinastreeterparish.org)

# English Schedule

## Cleaning List

Thanks for helping to keep our church clean

- July 5: Tim & Renae Olson  
Isaac & Lisa Olson  
Daniel & Angela Olson  
Erica Olson
- July 12: Shirley Judin  
Julie & Jared Opp  
Patty & Sky Roemmich
- July 19: Renae Heinle  
Ethel Heinle  
Gary & Kathy Hieb
- July 26: Gil & Pat Everding  
Randy & Mindy Kapp  
Sherry & Randy Everding
- Aug 2  
' Jahleel & Ashley Opp  
Tyler & Brandi Eissinger  
Teresa Schelske
- Aug 9 Maynard & Adeline Link  
Jeff & Linda Morlock  
Gene & Brenda Guthmiller
- Aug 16 Bill & Janet Well  
Vicky Andres  
Wayne & Sue Reardon
- Aug 23 Scott & Melissa Dockter  
Arlyn & Sourey Schmidt  
Joe & Sherry Schmidt
- Aug 30 Del & Joey Guthmiller  
Tina Guthmiller  
Darin & Jodi Dockter

## Ushers List

### July

- Melissia Kleven (Head)  
Dennis & Sharon Behm  
Maddie Kleven  
Jaycee & Madi Moldenhauer  
Brett Christopherson  
Ron Headland

### August

- Vicky Andres (Head)  
Kaitlynn Andres  
Tina Guthmiller & Shawn  
Lachenmeier  
Joe & Sherry Schmidt  
Arlyn & Sourey Schmidt  
Jeff & Linda Morlock

## Lay Reader List

- July 5—Kathy Hieb  
July 12—Jacob Hofmann  
July 19—Caity Eissinger  
July 26—Vicky Andres
- Aug 2—Janine Hofmann  
Aug 9—Brandi Eissinger  
Aug 16—Betsy Ferwerda  
Aug 23—Jeff Morlock  
Aug 30—Melinda Kapp

**Quilters:** Please call Leona Morlock for dates and times.

# St. Luke Schedule

**July** 2015 Deacon— Elsie AG— Elsie

Filling of Candles: Elsie

<b>Usher List</b>	<b>Reader List</b>	<b>Communion Ass't</b>
<u>Head Usher—Elsie</u>		
5 JoAnn	Denise	Denise
12 Vi (Hunger off.)	Elsie	
19 Esther	Betsy	Elsie
26 Robin	Judith	

**August** 2015 Deacon— Margaret AG— Margaret

Filling of Candles: Margaret

<b>Usher List</b>	<b>Reader List</b>	<b>Communion Ass't</b>
<u>Head Usher—Margaret</u>		
2 Judith	JoAnn	Robin
9 Martha (Hunger off.)	Betsy	
16 Ruben	Esther	Margaret
23 Parish picnic @ English following the 11 am service. No services at St. Luke.		
30 Leroy	Robin	Robin

# VACATION

English Lutheran held their vacation bible school on May 29—30, with a program on May 31st. This year's theme was "Outback Rock", where they learned that "God is Always With Us! Believe It!". About 30 children attended.



# BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School was held in Streeter June 1—5, with a program on June 7. This year's theme was Camp Discovery, where the kids learned to discover God's work in their lives and the world. About 30 kids attended.



## English Lutheran June 10, 2015 Council Meeting Minutes

The June council meeting of the English Lutheran Church was called to order by Vice-president, Jeff Morlock. Member present were Tammy Reis, Janet Well, Tina Guthmiller, Scott Dockter and Pastor Ryan.

Pastor Ryan started the meeting with a prayer. Minutes from the May meeting were not available to be read.

Treasurer's report was presented. Janet moved, Tina seconded the motion to accept the report. Motion carried.

Pastor Ryan gave his report and spoke about this year's VBS, that was a huge success with 30 kids attending. Pastor Ryan also reported that 2 families with 2 kids will be attending Red Willow Bible camp this summer.

The parish picnic was discussed. We will plan on having it August 23rd in Medina.

### Old business:

There will be two trees planted on the boulevard in front of the parsonage to replace the ones that have been removed.

Pastor Ryan will talk to Olson Tree Trimmings about trimming tree branches in the church parking lot and also removing a dead tree on the south side of the church.

The Discovering Hope Conference is in Moorhead on June 27, 2015. Janet will be attending.

A date & projects will be found for God's Work, Our Hands Sunday.

### New business:

A new mailbox and post will be put up at the parsonage due to the old ones being damaged last year.

Boulevard will be reseeded at the parsonage after the new trees are planted.

MYG spaghetti dinner/silent auction will be June 24th. Financial support for youth going to Detroit was discussed. Janet moved to give \$50.00 to the parents of each youth that will be attending. Tina seconded, motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Scott Dockter, Council Secretary

# BIRTHDAYS

## July

Evan Ferwerda	July 3
Frank Reis	July 5
Dawn Salinas	July 7
Trevin Behm	July 10
Austin Dockter	July 11
Loraine Schlaht	July 14
Jonathan Juelfs	July 14
Pat Everding	July 16
Dylan Dockter	July 17
Paige Gefroh	July 18
Sally Guthmiller	July 19
Betsy Ferwerda	July 20
Phillip Hofmann	July 23
Gordon Christensen	July 24
Randy Kapp	July 24
Darin Dockter	July 25
Gary Hieb	July 26
Melissia Kleven	July 26
Kendra Behm	July 27
Dani Eissinger	July 28
Jacen Eissinger	July 28
Vergil Neumiller	July 28

## AUGUST

Sourey Schmidt	Aug 3
Ryan Eissinger	Aug 3
Shirley Judin	Aug 4
Elsie Goldsmith	Aug 5
Emma Kramlich	Aug 12
Corey Kapp	Aug 14
Matthew Kapp	Aug 14
Michael Kapp	Aug 14
Mary Dockter	Aug 17
Jared Opp	Aug 17
Esther H. Graf	Aug 21
Karrisa Kleven	Aug 21
Lisa Olson	Aug 21
Karson Schmidt	Aug 21
Janet Well	Aug 25
John Dong	Aug 30
Wayne Reardon	Aug 31

## Celebrating July/Aug. Anniversaries

Ryan & Becky Greer	July 1, 2006
Sky & Patty Roemmich	July 2, 2001
Gordon & Betty Christensen	July 6, 1974
Mike & Teresa Schleske	July 7, 2005
Bryan & Vicky Andres	July 9, 1988
Darin & Jodi Dockter	July 1, 1986
Don & Lila Gienger	July 5, 1967
Tyler & Brandi Eissinger	July 27, 1993





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