

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Medina, Streeter, and beyond: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you were to be asked what the key component of a vital church would be, what would you say? Would it be worship? Would it be Evangelism? How about a stable budget?

While all of these components are important to a strong and healthy church, they are not the key component of a vital church, at least not according to David Poling-Goldenne and L. Shannon Jung, the authors of our current book of focus *Discovering Hope: Building Vitality in Rural Congregations*. No, according to Poling-Goldenne and Jung, the most important component to a vital congregation is Prayer. In the second chapter of *Discovering Hope*, the first chapter to actually speak about components of a vital church, their thesis is “Prayer is a crucial ingredient for effectiveness in congregational mission and ministry” (32).

Poling-Goldenne and Jung give multiple examples of congregations around the country who have been very intentional about their prayer lives which in turn has led them to a revitalization of their church community. When talking about one such church in the town of Verona, New York, they wrote “They prayed and studied the Bible; they listened, let go, and ultimately let God guide and direct their ministry focus and priorities” (26). In these instances prayer is seen as the source when it comes to tapping into God’s power and God’s intent for our lives individually and our life as a church community (27).

This got me to thinking, how many times when it comes to ministry do I focus too much on my own agenda, and the way I think ministry should be carried out, and forget about turning to God in order to discern what God’s agenda might be for that particular ministry? In asking myself that question I had to be quite honest and say not too often. As a broken, sinful human being, too often do I rely on my own agenda and plan instead of seeking out the wisdom and guidance of God when it comes to ministry.

This question that I asked myself is one that we should all be asking ourselves, especially if you have been called to be a leader of this church community in one way or another. How often do you spend time in daily prayer, seeking God’s guidance, not only for your personal life, but for the vitality of our church community? While some, I am sure, will be able to truthfully answer by saying a lot of time, there will also be those of you who would have to honestly answer like I did, and say not enough time.

In the Gospels of Luke and Matthew our Lord lays out for us the ultimate model of prayer: recognizing who it is that we are praying to and has the power to answer prayer, admitting that we should be seeking God's will instead of our own, asking God for the things we need, seeking God's forgiveness in the places where we have sinned against God and our neighbor, and imploring God to bring us through every time of trial that arises in our lives. Jesus then goes on to explain that when we are persistent in our prayer, our Father, who is good and gracious, will answer our prayer according to God's will.

This is all to say that if we want our church community to be vital and strong then prayer should be the central focus. We, all of us together, should be praying regularly and intentionally for the vitality of our church. When we pray regularly and intentionally we allow ourselves to get out of the way and let God in for God's will to be done through our ministry.

So what would that look like for us as a community to focus on prayer as a way to have a vital church community? That question is going to be answered differently by everyone who takes the time to prayerfully consider that question. For me personally it means that I need to spend more time every day in prayer. I have made myself a goal to spend 5 minutes every day I am in the office, praying for the people in this church community and the role they play in its ministry. It also means that I will be more intentional about encouraging all of you to spend more time in prayer as well as giving you more opportunities to let your prayer requests be known. Most importantly this will mean beginning every gathering that takes place within the church or for the church in prayer; asking specifically for God's will and intention for its ministry to be made known.

As Poling-Goldenne and Jung point out, "A praying church is a vital church. A vital church is a church meeting the needs of its members and a church in mission to its neighbors" (32). Let us focus on prayer and let God revitalize our mission to our neighbors and to our world.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit!

Pastor Ryan

English Lutheran October Council Meeting Minutes

The council meeting the English Lutheran Church was held on October 7th @ 8:00 pm. Members present were Tammy, Janet, Tina, Jacob, Scott & Pastor Ryan. Renae Olson was also present.

Pastor Ryan gave opening devotions.

Minutes from last months meeting were presented. Janet moved and Tina seconded to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was presented. Tammy moved and Janet seconded to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Pastor Ryan gave his pastor's report on a successful Rally Sunday/ Service project day.

Old business:

Tammy will look into buying two trees for the parsonage boulevard to be planted this fall. The grass will also be planted at that time.

Renae brought to the council's attention the problem with moisture and mold in the church basement. It was decided to purchase a new dehumidifier for the basement and also to repair the leaking outdoor faucet.

Other basement concerns were the leaking and plugged sink in the women's bathroom and that there are no electrical outlets in the basement kitchen for the stove and refrigerator.

New business:

The council approved a request by Pastor Ryan to purchase a new TV, DVD player and wall mount bracket from Best Buy to be used in the fellowship hall for youth classes. Janet moved and Tina seconded the motion for the purchases. Motion carried.

The pastor and his families health insurance plan was reviewed and discussed. Council agreed to keep pastor's current health plan. St. Luke's council will also look over the health plan and the final decision will be made at the November Joint Council meeting.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next council meeting will be November 4th at 8:00 pm

Council secretary,

Scott Dockter.

St. Luke's God's Helpers News

Our WELCA Bible study and meeting was held on October 20th at 2 pm. Offering meditation was "Cell Phone." Pastor Ryan led our Bible study beginning with the first lesson of nine on Jesus' Discipleship Parables "The Wise & The Foolish."

The new hostess sheet thru February and the monthly treasurer's report passed out. Minutes of the Sept. meeting were read and approved. Correction in the Sept. treasurer report was explained. Our monthly special offering for fuel, will now be kept in our general fund marked "Church Needs Fund" and not necessarily for fuel.

We served for Martha Dewald's auction at the Memorial Hall on Oct. 24th. Martha moved into an apartment in Streeter. Beside BBQ and hotdogs, we had Taco Salad or Walking Tacos. This was a last minute addition, with all ingredients donated by Estee Nenow. We used BBQ for the tacos, selling at least 29. Thank you, Estee. Brian & Jackie Krefth donated 30# of hamburger for BBQ. Both donations were greatly appreciated. Thank you to those donating bars, worked and helped in any way. We made a profit of \$683.68.

Attention all St. Luke ladies! Reminder: On Friday, Nov. 6th, in conjunction with the council's 2nd Hunter Breakfast, we will have a bake sale, sell dish cloths and assorted all-occasion cards. Both begin 8am until 11am. Those donating bake sale items, please have at the church on Thursday, Nov. 5th, unless you'll be there before 8 am on the 6th.

JoAnn had a birthday cake for Judith for refreshments. Due to other commitments, neither were in attendance. Cake was delicious and leftover given to Judith. Next meeting is Tues. Nov. 17th, 2 pm. Lydia will have the offering meditation and serve refreshments.

Elsie Goldsmith, secretary/treasurer



YOU'RE INVITED



Mr. & Mrs. Jayme Andres

Jayme Andres, son of Bryan and Vicky Andres was united in marriage to Lisa Jandt of Fargo, ND on September 8, 2015 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

A wedding reception for the couple will be held on Friday, November 13, 2015 @ Hennessey's Irish Pub 4393 45th Street South, Fargo, ND starting at 6:00 P.M.

ALL AGES WELCOME.

Please RSVP by November 6th to 486-3339 or 320-2328. Well wishes to the couple may be sent to Jayme and Lisa Andres 4201 33rd Ave. SW #201, Fargo, ND 58401.

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Medina Youth Group

Upcoming Events:

Nov 8th: Youth Council meeting-open to all youth following Youth Bible Study.

Nov 14th: Kid's Against Hunger Food Packing

**Youth Bible Study is held on Sundays @ 5:00 pm in the English Lutheran Fellowship Hall.



Operation Christmas Shoebox

We received a thank you from one of our recipients of our Shoeboxes that we sent out last year.

He is from Uganda – Stephen Mulungi. He was very happy to receive the gift. He is 10 yrs. old and in Primary three. He plays the keyboard, football and loves riding his bike. He requests that we keep him in our prayers for his studies, salvation and serving the Lord.

Here is his contact information if you wish to contact him:

email- apostlestephenmirembe@yahoo.com

Mailing address: Stephen K. Mulungi
Child Vision Ministry
PO Box 15253
Clock Tower – Kampala
Uganda – EA.



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WELCA Child Sponsorship through World Vision

Anamika is now 4 years old. She is still too young to attend school but she helps out at home as much as possible. World Vision India has constructed a toilet in their home, which means a better sanitation system for the family.

WELCA is still sponsoring this child. The sponsorship is \$35.00 per month. If anyone would like help with this sponsorship, whether it be \$1.00 or more. You can mark the donation accordingly and put in the offertory basket or give to Ethel Heinle.

Thank you for your continued support of the English Lutheran WELCA.

English Lutheran Church
PO Box 515
Medina, ND 58467

OUR CHURCH IN OUR COMMUNITIES

ST LUKE - NEWS - ENGLISH



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

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