

ENGLISH - NEWS - ST LUKE

OUR CHURCH IN OUR COMMUNITIES



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

April 2016

English Lutheran

210 Water Street
Medina, ND 58467
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St. Luke Lutheran

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Bryan Behm
English Council President

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Our Mission:

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

Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us from God the Father, and from the living Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, through the truth and love made known to us in God's Holy Spirit.

Over the last few months we have been discovering together ways in which we, as a rural, multi-point parish, can build vitality and find hope for our future in spreading the gospel message. In doing so, we have looked at some key areas of vital ministry of rural congregations; prayer, worship, evangelism, and caring ministries, following the chapters in the book *Discovering Hope: Building Vitality in Rural Congregations* (2001) by David Poling-Goldenne and L. Shannon Jung. This month we look to begin to tie all of these ministries together.

In order for all of these ministries to happen within a vital rural congregation, there is one underlying need that is of utmost importance. It may be obvious to some people what that need is, but maybe not in the way that one would expect. In order for these ministries to occur and bring vitality to a rural congregations, or any congregation for that matter, there needs to be a strong sense of leadership. Now, when many congregations, and according to authors Poling-Goldenne and Jung, think about strong leadership, they generally think of the one person who has historically been seen as the primary leader; that is the pastor. Fifty some years ago that was the way things were done, especially in small rural congregations; the pastor was the one "driving the tractor," borrowing language from Poling-Goldenne and Jung. And to tell the truth, this is still found in some churches to this day. In fact when I first got to Medina and Streeter almost three years ago, I remember hearing language like this, "Oh Pastor, it is whatever you want to do."

However, what the study done, that this book is the byproduct of, found out is that the congregations that found themselves as vital rural congregations where viewing leadership in a different way than this top down approach where it is the "Pastor Show," and the church just follows suit. What these congregations came to realize is that when they shifted their style of leadership to a more team approach, they were able to move away from just being able to maintain the church to being able to do ministry as a church. As Poling-Goldenne and Jung state, "Leadership is like a dance in which someone can take the lead sometimes and follow at other times;" and again, "In this model of shared leadership, people pass the baton of leadership back and forth to each other" (85).

Now, it is not like these churches just pulled this idea randomly out of thin air and ran with it. No, they came to this model of leadership by looking to Scripture and learning from the model of leadership that Jesus himself demonstrated. This pattern of leadership is modeled on Jesus and his ministry and thus seek his will in their ministries through prayer, Bible Study, worship, preaching, and committees or ministry teams, the very thing vital congregations are trying to do. "These congregations embrace images of Jesus as servant leader. Jesus loved others in life-transforming ways. Trained others by employing a multitude of creative teaching strategies" (86).

When leadership is done in this way, as these congregations found out, effective leaders where then able to cast a vision of mission that others

English Lutheran March Council Meeting Minutes

The council meeting of English Lutheran Church was held on March 2, 2016.

Members present were Bryan Behm, Janet Well, Tina Guthmiller, Darin Dockter and Pastor Ryan.

Minutes from the February meeting were read and there was a clarification to the minutes. The \$600 to Lutheran Social Services was discussed during the annual meeting. The minutes were then approved by Darin and seconded by Janet.

Treasurer's Report was discussed. Approved by Janet, seconded by Tina.

Pastor Ryan gave his report.

Old business:

Tree trimming at the church, fixing the gap in the gutters above the south door, replacing the parsonage mailbox and reseeding the parsonage boulevard will all be done in the spring.

Pastor Ryan and Bryan met with Leona Reuer to discuss the memorial for Gary Reuer.

New business:

Tina contacted Medina Plumbing and Heating for an estimate to fix the furnace in the basement. They will no longer be doing business at this time. Tina also contacted Prairie Heating about an estimate. They met at the church, looked it over and sent us an estimate. Discussion was held on the estimate. We will also be getting another estimate to compare costs.

We are reaching out for Youth Group leaders. Pastor Ryan has been in contact with the Pastorial Committee regarding how we would like to move forward.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be April 6th @ 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Tina Guthmiller

St. Luke Church Council Minutes – March 15, 2016

1. We are still waiting for estimates from two Bismarck companies concerning our sound system. We held a discussion on the necessity of the system at this time. The project was put on hold for now but we will still look at the next estimates.
2. The board will head up a church cleaning April 9th at 10:00. We would like to clean the inside and outside of the church. We ask Everyone to come and help with this project. Bring cleaning supplies.
3. The flashing on the roof has been fixed. Tom will talk to Rick to see if there are more things that need to be done on the roof.
4. Estee will do some checking on adjustable tables for the Kids Bible Night.
5. One of the chairs on the chair lift will need to be fixed and the trustees are working on that.
6. Estee will check with someone she knows about the front doors on the church to see if there is a way to fix them. They do not close correctly when the wind is blowing.
7. We donated \$50.00 to the Gackle-Streeter After Prom party and \$100.00 to the Jacob Hoffman family to help with medical expenses for their son.
8. We will take an extra offering several times a year to cover the expenses of paper for our bulletins and wine for communion.

We wish to express our deep gratitude to the Jerry Zins family for the donation of fuel to the church.

The Williams family donated \$2,700.00 in memory of their mother Judy and \$320.00 was donated to the Memorial Fund in memory of Judy.

The meeting was adjourned. We closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Denise Wittmier

St. Luke's God's Helpers News

Our WELCA Bible study and meeting was held on March 16th at 1 pm, with Lydia giving the offering meditation. Pastor Ryan led our Bible study, Session 7.

Thank you notes were written to those giving a memorial for Judy to our WELCA. Judy was our president for many years, and she is missed. Thank you note was sent to the Williams family for their donation for serving Judy's funeral.

Thank you to Estee and Esther H. for the Hamburger Soup and breads for Lent, March 2nd. Twenty-three people were served. To Margaret and Mickie for the Chicken Wild Rice Soup & breads on March 16th. Fifteen were served. Thank you to all who donated and/or helped serve during our Lent evenings. Also thank you to those who came and enjoyed soup and fellowship.

Two Easter Lilies have been ordered.

The Jamestown Cluster will be in Kulm on April 16th. Please let Elsie know if you'd like to go.

Our April and May Bible study and meetings will begin at 1 pm. Each one received a list of our 2016 designated offerings, paid last September. Bring your suggestions for **2017** recipients for donations to our April meeting. We'll vote in May, and pay before the September meeting. No meetings June-Aug. Lydia served refreshments.

Elsie will give the offering meditation and serve refreshments at our April meeting.

Elsie Goldsmith, secretary/treasurer

April Worship Times & Events

Sun, Apr 3

English
Sunday School @ English
St. Luke

Oliver Hofmann Benefit @ Medina Public School 10:30 am to 2:00 pm

Wed, Apr 6

English

Sat, Apr 9

St. Luke's beginning @ 10:00 am

Sun, Apr 10

English
Sunday School @ English
St. Luke

*Streeter Lions Brunch 10 am-1:30 pm @ Streeter City Hall

*Evening of gospel music w/"Chosen" @ 7 pm @ Gackle UCC

Wed, Apr 13

English Lutheran

Sat, Apr 16

Zion Lutheran @ Kulm

Sun, Apr 17

English
Sunday School @ English
St. Luke

*Brunch @ Medina Café at 10:30 am in honor of Ardis Hochhalter & Anita Schmidt

*MOPS @ English at 1:00 pm

Tues, Apr 19

WELCA Bible Study
Council Meeting

Thurs, Apr 21

WELCA Bible Study

Sun, Apr 24

Joint parish worship @ 11:00 at English Lutheran

Tues, Apr 26

St. Luke

Second Sunday of Easter

9:00 am
10:00 am
11:00 am

Council Meeting

8:00 pm

Church Cleaning

Third Sunday of Easter

9:00 am
10:00 am
11:00 am

Confirmation resumes

6:30 pm—8:30 pm

Jamestown Cluster Gathering

9:00 am-3:00 pm

Fourth Sunday of Easter

9:00 am
10:00 am
11:00 am

St. Luke's

1:00 pm
Time??

English Lutheran

7:00 pm

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Kid's Bible Nite

3:30 pm– 5:00 pm

WORSHIP SERVICES CHANGE

Sun, May 1

St. Luke
Sunday School @ English
English

Sixth Sunday of Easter

9:00 am
10:00 am
11:00 am

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Medina, ND 58467

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