

ENGLISH - NEWS - ST LUKE

OUR CHURCH IN OUR COMMUNITIES



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

March 2016

English Lutheran

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Medina, ND 58467
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St. Luke Lutheran

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Bryan Behm
English Council President

Clydell Dockter
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Our Mission:

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

To those of the Medina-Streeter Lutheran Parish who have received a faith as precious as ours through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

May grace and peace be yours in abundance in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

In last month's Pastor's Article we looked at the chapter of David Poling-Goldenne and L. Shannon Jung's book *Discovering Hope: Building Vitality in Rural Congregation* that dealt with Evangelism within vital and effective rural congregations. What we found is that, while there is no one right way for all churches to do evangelism, there is one thing they all share: sharing their faith openly with those around them.

However, in this next chapter, Poling-Goldenne and Jung, lay out a way that in the end may produce effective evangelism without being the goal from the get go. In chapter six the authors describe how many of the effective and vital congregations they researched had a common denominator of caring ministries; that is serving the community around them, both locally and globally, as Jesus served. These congregations see themselves as existing for the primary reason of serving others; acting out forms of caring service and social ministry to the community around them.

The ironic part is, however, that they are not doing these acts of caring service and social ministry for the exact purpose of evangelism; that is bringing new people into the church. As Poling-Goldenne and Jung state, "their motivation is to love others as Christ has loved them" (76). These vital and effective congregations don't participate in caring service and social ministry expecting a return for their service, like gaining new members, instead simply because this type of ministry and service needs to be done. As such, as the popular hymn puts it, "[All will then] know that we are Christians by our love." This type of service may produce such a reward like new members, since people tend to, as Poling-Goldenne and Jung say, be drawn into faith and community because of the charisma these congregations exude through genuinely caring for those around them (76).

While these acts of service and caring tend to focus primarily on the immediate area surrounding these effective and vital rural congregations, by meeting the immediate needs of the community, they also recognize that caring and providing service to their neighbors must reach farther communities as well; nationally and even globally. As the authors point out, "Vital rural congregations view both local and global efforts as important" (77). But whether the community being served is local, national, or global, one thing remains most important: to meet the needs that are relevant to each specific community. In our local community it would do us no good to build a well and provide clean water, since those things already exist here in our country. Likewise it would be no good for a community in a third world country to sponsor a safe environment to hold a post prom party if that specific community does not yet have a school in which to hold a prom.

English Lutheran February Council Meeting Minutes

The council meeting of English Lutheran Church was held on February 3, 2016

Members present were Bryan Behm, Janet Well, Austin Dockter, Tina Guthmiller, Darin Dockter, and Tammy Reis, along with Pastor Ryan.

President Bryan called the meeting to order with Pastor Ryan giving the opening devotions on Hospitality.

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

The Treasurer's report was presented. Discussion was held regarding counting Sunday offering when only one council member is present, recording the offering on the new form, and the amount needed each month to cover costs (\$6,846). Discussion was also held on the amounts for telephone and Verizon last month. A call was made to Janine for clarification on these two amounts. Tammy moved and Janet seconded a motion to approve the report. Motion carried.

Pastor Ryan presented his pastor's 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 were all tabled until spring.

Discussion was held on the Gary Reuer Memorial. Based on suggestions from the last council meeting, Pastor Ryan presented estimates for an ELC sign (to be put up as you enter Medina). Pastor Ryan and Bryan will visit with Leona Reuer next week to discuss their memorial wishes and ideas.

The first meeting of the ELC Endowment Fund Committee will be held February 7, 2016 at 1:00. The purpose of the meeting will be to decide if the money will be invested in the ELCA Pooled Trust, or with another investor. Pastor Ryan has the application to begin the process if the decision is to go with the ELCA Pooled Trust. As the Council representative, Tammy will report quarterly.

Discussion was held regarding ELC's Lutheran Social Service benevolence, which Pastor Ryan estimated to be \$600 annually. The question is if we want to designate where that money should go. Pastor Ryan will get a list of the options for designation and we can discuss further at next month's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

The smell in the church last weekend was caused by a faulty furnace in the basement. Ron Headland came to inspect it on Monday after Pastor Ryan contacted him. The whole assembly needs replacement and Ron was unsure of when he could get it. Pastor Ryan asked him to check the other furnaces, as well. Tina will make a follow-up call to Ron for an estimate to replace.

(con't on page 5)

Con't —ELC February Council meeting mintues

The Deacon list for 2016 was distributed.

An invoice for the 2016 church envelopes was received and will be put in Janine’s mailbox for payment.

Pastor Ryan received a call from Kathy Hieb as a reminder to make a copy of the ELC Constitution for all new council members. It was decided that all members will get a copy. Duties of council members were reviewed by Pastor Ryan.

To foster healthy leaders within the church, Pastor Ryan presented information on a Church Council Covenant. The purpose of the covenant is to make a promise to God, to one another, and the whole church community to guide in the mission and ministry of the church and its leaders. Council members are to review questions and give ideas for promises to develop this covenant. Further discussion will be held at the next meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a back-up organist or pianist, should Alice be unable or unavailable to play. Pastor Ryan has some ideas and will look into them further.

The WELCA gifts to senior high school students will be presented May 15, 2016.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Reis, English Lutheran Council Secretary

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English Lutheran WELCA

Pastor Ryan presented our Bible study lesson on February 18th. This was Session 5 in the Nine Session Bible Study of “The Wise & The Foolish.”. Our next General Meeting and Bible Study will be on March 17th at 7:00 pm. Julie Opp will have Offering meditation. Everyone is WELCOME to join us.

Jamestown Cluster Gathering will be held on April 16 @ Zion Lutheran in Kulm. More information in the April newsletter.

Pat, Secretary

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Correction of address for Anita Schmidt from February newsletter

(she is residing at Ave Maria, not Eventide)

Anita Schmidt
% Ava Maria
Dakota Lane Room 27
Jamestown, ND 58501

English Lutheran Annual Meeting Minutes

The annual meeting of English Lutheran Church was held January 31, 2016. Vice President, Jeff Morlock call the meeting to order.

Pastor Ryan gave his yearly pastor's report.

Scott presented minutes from last year's annual meeting. Renae Olson moved and Kathy Hieb seconded a motion to approve the minutes. Motion approved.

The yearly financial report was reviewed. Bill Well moved and Frank Reis seconded a motion to approve the financial report. Motion approved.

All other reports were reviewed by the congregation with Pastor Ryan explaining the Endowment fund, how it is going to work and the fund committee that was established.

Committee volunteers for 2016 are:

Julie Opp—Lutheran Social Services

Tina Guthmiller—Red Willow Bible Camp

Janet Well—Global Mission

Kathy Hieb—World Hunger

Brian Behm and Austin Dockter were nominated to fill the vacant seats on the church council. Bill Well moved and Julie Opp seconded the motion to cast a unanimous ballot for the nominees. Motion was approved.

Synod Assembly will be June 4-5, 2016 in Fargo. Bill Well moved and Julie Opp seconded a motion to have the Council find members to attend the assembly. Motion approved.

Church budget for 2016 was reviewed by the congregation. Frank Reis moved and Julie Opp seconded a motion to approve the 2016 budget. Motion approved.

No old business was brought before the meeting.

NEW Business

Jeff Morlock explained to the congregation the struggles church is facing with low offering receipts and encourage members to remember the church in their giving.

A motion was made by Tammy Reis to allow Pastor Ryan to use \$4,000.00 from his Pastor's salary to be used as a housing allowance for tax purposes. Bill seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

A short council meeting was held after the annual meeting to elect officers for 2016.

President—Brian Behm

Vice president—Darin Dockter

Secretary—Tammy Reis

Treasurer—Janine Hofmann

Recording Secretary—Tina Guthmiller

Submitted by Scott Dockter

St. Luke Church Council Minutes – February 21, 2016

Present: Tom Nienow, Clydell Dockter, Estee Nenow, Don Gienger, Lloyd Veil, Pastor Ryan and Robin Iszler.

Pastor's Update: He will be gone Sunday February 26 through March 1. He has people lined up to lead worship on the Sunday that he will be gone.

Pastor did talk to Todd Moos about the sound system estimate. There is not much that can be done to lower the cost of the system and installation. There is a large part of the estimate that is for labor costs. There are several unknowns for the installation process so even the estimate could change depending on what is discovered. The main problem with the system is the CD player does not work and the amplifier is also starting to act up. We will save money on speakers because we had received a donation of speakers from Bob Pestal. Discussion occurred regarding the need for a sound system, if we could use the speakers without the upgrade to the amplifier, and other options. It was decided to do more checking on sound system options including checking with Feist Electronic, Ekroth Music, and Ricks TV. Pastor will continue to check on this. The topic was tabled.

Old Business:

Streeter Fire Department purchased an AED to share among the Methodist and St. Luke churches. Council feels it could be housed over at the Methodist church since they have more wall space. Tom Nienow stated that the Methodists are planning to provide a donation and the Fire Department and Lyons are also planning to support the cost of the AED which was around \$1700 total. He asked if St. Luke would like to also provide a donation. Robin made a motion to provide a donation of \$300.00 towards the AED, motion was seconded by Tom. Motion Carried.

Flashing on the roof still needs to be checked on and Rich Schulz will be looking at that once the weather is warmer. Clydell will be in contact with Rich regarding the finding on the roof.

New Business:

Change in Janitor Duties was reviewed. Robin provided a summary on the changes. Groups that are using the church for meetings and activities including funerals, weddings etc, are asked to clean up after the activity and leave the church as it was found. Garbage should be placed in the dumpster outside after an activity. The thermostats should be set back to where they were before the activity. The duties will be hung up in the kitchen and should be provided to the women's group and others who use the church. Also there was discussion on annual church cleaning, this was on the previous duties sheet that the church together would do annual cleaning day, however this does not seem to be happening. No suggestions were made on the annual cleaning day. Motion was made by Tom and Seconded by Donny to approve the changes in duties. Motion Carried.

Kids Table – Robin stated that the kids table made from benches found at the church, had to be taken apart because room was needed for the recent funeral. There was no other way to move the table out of the fellowship hall to make room because the benches had been screwed together. Discussion was held on what we could purchase for a kids table so that it could be portable. Estee will check on tables that Menards has that are able to go up and down to different heights. These tables could then be used for other events.

Other new business was fire extinguishers. Estee said that someone told her recently that they need to be shaken up every month in order for them to work. No one from the fire department had heard of this.

No other business was reported. Margaret was not available for a treasures report update. Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Estee and seconded by Robin.

Submitted by Robin Iszler

St. Luke's God's Helpers News

Our WELCA Bible study and meeting was held on February 23rd at 1 pm, with Elsie giving the offering meditation. Pastor Ryan led our Bible study, Sessions 4 & 5.

Three Valentine's cards and a monetary gift for a treat was sent to our shut-ins.

A big **thank you** to everyone who donated bars and Jell-0 for Judith's funeral. Also, to the many people who helped serve lunch and with clean-up. We served approximately 165 people. It was so nice to have lots of help, including a few men in the kitchen. We need containers of various sizes for left-overs in the cupboard.

Thank you to Robin for donating variety buns and breads for Lent, Feb. 17th. Also, Elsie for making and donating Minestrone Soup. Twenty-two enjoyed the lunch. A new electric can opener was purchased.

After a fall on the ice, Olga is in Ave Maria Village, recuperating from a broken wrist and fractured pelvis. Our prayers are with her and a complete recovery. She was missed at our meeting and we look forward to her return home.

Our March thru May Bible study and meetings will begin at 1 pm. No meetings June-Aug. We will meet in September, for Bible study and meeting, and to discuss future plans for Bible study and meetings. We will continue to participate in our usual activities. Esther served refreshments. Lydia will give the offering meditation and serve refreshments at our March meeting.

Easter Lily's are welcome in the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday. If bringing to church before, leave in the kitchen. Leave a note with your name and if a memorial so Pastor will know for his announcements. Our WECA will have two Lily's for Easter Sunday.

Altar Guild members, there is water for the baptismal font behind the Lectern. Check to be sure there is at least 3" of water in the font at all times. If you run out of distilled water, tell Elsie or replace and charge at the store, signing the charge slip.

Elsie Goldsmith, secretary/treasurer

March Worship Times & Events

Sun, Mar 6, 2016

English
Sunday School @ English
St. Luke

MYG meeting @ English at 5:30 pm

Fourth Sunday in Lent

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

Wed, Mar 9, 2016

English

English council meeting to follow the service

Lenten Service

6:00 pm meal; 7:00 pm service

Sat, Mar 12, 2016

English

First Communion Class

1:00 pm

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

Sun, Mar 13, 2016

English
Sunday School @ English
St. Luke

Fifth Sunday in Lent

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

Tue, Mar 15, 2016

WELCA
Kids Bible Nite
Council meeting

Schedule at St. Luke's

1:00 pm
3:30 pm—5:00 pm
6:00 pm

Wed, Mar 16, 2016

St. Luke

Lenten Service

6:00 pm meal; 7:00 pm service

Thu, Mar 17, 2016

English

WELCA Bible Study

7:00 pm

Sun, Mar 20, 2016

English (First Communion)
Sunday School @ English
St. Luke

Palm Sunday

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

MOPS @ English @ 1:00 pm

Sun, Mar 27, 2016

MYG Sunrise Service @ English
English
No Sunday School @ English
St. Luke

Easter Sunday

7:00 am
9:00 am
11:00 am

Sun, Apr 3

English
Sunday School @ English
St. Luke

Second Sunday of Easter

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

English Lutheran Church
PO Box 515
Medina, ND 58467

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