

English Lutheran News

OUR CHURCH IN OUR COMMUNITIES



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

December 2022



English Lutheran

210 Water Street—Box 515
Medina, ND 58467
701-486-3112

Phillip Hofmann
English Council President
(701-320-9029)

Ethel Heinle
Parish Secretary
msp.sec.church@gmail.com
www.medinastreeterparish.org

Reminder

Special Congregational meeting

December 4, 2022

following 11 am worship

See page 11 for more details!



Our Mission:

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

Waiting for Jesus

When John [the Baptist] heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"

Matthew 11:2-3

Waiting comes with a wide variety of emotions. Waiting for something you want to have happen, like the birth of a baby or Christmas morning might bring feelings of excitement, anticipation, joy, perhaps mixed with uncertainty about what to expect, or even anxiety about what might happen. Waiting for something you don't want to have happen, like the results of a serious medical test or sentence after a trial, might bring feelings of dread, fear, sadness, or perhaps the possibility of relief.

John the Baptist sends his followers to ask Jesus a question. John has been waiting in prison. The kind of waiting he is doing is difficult and keeps him away from what he feels called to do in life. But John hears about what Jesus is doing and he has a question. His question starts from a recognition that we've been waiting for a long time for God to make changes in our world that will bring hope and new life to people who are stretched thin by their experiences. "Are you the one God has sent, or are we to wait for another?"

Jesus replies, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." [Matthew 11:4-5] Jesus says, the changes God is making bring good news to people who are exhausted by the challenges they face every day. Jesus says, God has already started to make these changes. You can hear them and see them, even if you've never heard or seen anything like this before.

Advent is the season of waiting. Four Sundays before Christmas, we wait for Christ to come. Sometimes this waiting brings anticipation and joy. Sometimes this waiting brings dread or fear. A song for Advent worship written by John Helgen repeats the phrase, "We are waiting for Jesus. Jesus brings peace."

In the times we feel exhausted by the challenges we face every day, in the times the waiting seems to last so very long, repeat this phrase. "We are waiting for Jesus. Jesus brings peace."

The promise of Christmas is that God has come into our world in Jesus. God has already started to make changes that are unlike anything we've heard or seen before. God's changes bring good news in the birth of Jesus. Yes, there are times for waiting. But we are waiting for Jesus. Jesus brings peace.

In Peace,
Pastor Kristi Weber

Christians in Action - Year in Review

Christians in Action is a partnership of eight ELCA congregations working toward a first set of common goals. Highlights from 2022 include:

November 2022 - Welcoming Pastor Stephanie Gossett as Associate Pastor of English and St. John's. Pastor Stephanie was ordained November 13, 2022.

Posting of a position description for a Director of Youth and Family Ministries. Applications are being accepted through January 15, 2023. The position is posted at NDChristiansAct.org and on the ELCA Youth Ministry Network.

October 2022 - Discussing the possibility of inviting a pastoral intern to learn and serve in the partnership for the 2023-24 academic year. The application to host an intern is due at the end of January so each congregation council has time to consider how they would like to be part of the internship process.

Creating a shared Google Workspace to enhance communication among congregation leaders. When this is complete, each congregation will have access to shared documents, calendars, and resources. A shared website with links to individual congregation websites is located at NDChristiansAct.org

September 2022 - Season of Creation worship series. A shared preaching and worship series invited all the congregations to celebrate God as creator. A preaching schedule through February 19 is being developed to ensure that each of the congregations has appropriate worship and preaching leadership ready for each Sunday whether or not a called pastor is serving the congregation.

August 2022 - Lutheran Pastor Paul Oman visited Jamestown and Kulm to create artwork that is owned by the congregations and brings the Bible stories of the Feeding of the 5000 and Jesus Blessing the Children to life. This was an extension of the Lenten worship series *Drawn to the Word and a painting event for confirmation youth and adults in May*.

November 2021- June 2022 - Following a discernment process, our congregations chose common goals to support ministry in our communities. Goals address the areas of Core Personnel, Sharing Resources, Recruiting and Equipping Lay Leaders, Marketing, Administration and Support, and Expanding Area Outreach.

Congregations participating in Christians in Action:
Atonement, Jamestown; Christ the King, Ellendale; Emmanuel, Gackle;
English, Medina; Montpelier, Montpelier; St. John's, Jamestown;
Trinity, Jamestown; Zion, Kulm

English Lutheran WELCA Meeting 11-13-2022

- ◇ Present Julie Opp, Renae Olson, Ethel Heinle, and Jennifer Hayes
- ◇ Started meeting with the reading of the Purpose Statement and the Mission Statement
- ◇ a devotional reading and prayer led by Julie Opp
- ◇ A Thank Offering will be set up for November and December – donations will go to support the WELCA Thank Offering recipients – located in the Narthex
- ◇ **Secretary's Report** read from Oct 9th meeting – correction to amount church council will pay for the confirmand's expenses – Church Council will pay the entire amount for this expense. – approved with corrections
- ◇ **Treasurer's Report** presented by Ethel Heinle.
 - ◇ about \$2700 in the checking account
 - ◇ 5 Bibles were purchased from Hurley's in Fargo: Send a thank you note to Julia (nee Trautman) for picking these up to save on postage
 - ◇ WELCA check to reimburse ELC WELCA for conference has not come in yet – treasurer says it was sent
 - ◇ Angel Tree – Julie to head this up – pick teen boy and teen girl to give to
 - ◇ Executive Decision made on supporting attendees to Castaway Retreat - \$25/person reimbursement
 - ◇ large yarn purchase made by community member – send a thank you card
 - ◇ church fellowship rental agreement to be updated – no fee for church members and non-members \$50 (reimbursable if no damage).
 - ◇ calendar posted on bulletin board by pastor's office – look for bookings there
 - ◇ non-members need to have a member present at event
 - ◇ discussion on purchasing a computer for WELCA secretary – won't always have Ethel and access to WELCA files she has on the church computer. Secretary of WELCA to possibly take on activities Ethel has done for WELCA.
 - ◇ Look at deals for a laptop (price up to \$1000) or if available a good used one

Trunk or Treat @ English Lutheran
October 31, 2022



**Unapproved minutes and are subject to change.*

English Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
November 2nd, 2022 –

Members Present: Phillip Hofmann, Kurt Hayes, Michelle Lytle, Brenda Guthmiller, Karen Heinle and Pastor Kristi Weber
Members Absent:

Pastor Report

-Pastor Kristi led with a devotion.

Past Minutes

-October 5th Council minutes were read.

-Kurt moved to approve the minutes. Pastor Kristi seconded. motion carried.

Treasure's Report

-October's Reports were reviewed and discussed.

-Kurt moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, noting that October 30th offering will need to be added. Brenda seconded. motion carried.

Old Business

-Gene Guthmiller is going to fabricate a frame for the new sign to be put on the road coming into town.

-Church Constitution

-The council reviewed proposed changes/additions/deletions.

Michelle motioned to present the discussed amendments to the Constitution to the congregation on December 4th, 2022 for the 1st vote. (The 2nd vote for accepting the revised Constitution will be at the annual meeting on January 29th, 2023)

-Sunday School Christmas program will be Sunday, December 18th— Soup, Sandwiches and Social to follow.

-Members reviewed the 'member and non-member agreement for use of the church'

-council recommends that there is no rental fee, non-members asked for a \$50 refundable deposit with baptisms and funerals exempt for deposits. Michelle made a motion to revise the form. Kurt seconded, motion carried.

-Myron Gunderson will stretch the carpet over at the parsonage. A crew will get together to tidy the house and garage before Stephanie Gossett moves into the parsonage.

