

# ENGLISH - NEWS - ST LUKE

OUR CHURCH IN OUR COMMUNITIES



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

February 2022

## English Lutheran

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**Our Mission:**

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

## NRSVue

Every week I read the bible. I read in preparation of a sermon. I read in public worship. I read in devotional moments. I care deeply about God's word and pay attention to the Bibles that I use. Yes, Bibles. Not all translations of the Bible are the same. All translations convey a part of the theology and world view of the ones making the translation. So, I use different bibles at different times. Sometimes I even read different translations side by side to listen to the different ways that God's word is brought to life.

In worship, we most often use the New Revised Standard Version translation of the Bible which was first published in 1989. Over the decades, small changes have been made to the text, a tweak here, a revision there. But after over 30 years, the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. (NCC) commissioned the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) to review and update the *NRSV*. The October 14 press release from the NCC says that the update "follows in the tradition of the King James Bible, making changes that were warranted on the basis of accuracy, clarity, euphony, and current English usage."

The new updated edition is so significantly different that it calls for a new name. And because the *New New Revised Standard Version* seems a bit silly, we now have the *NRSVue* (updated edition). The *NRSVue* is available today as an ebook and we will soon see printed translations become available. It will take time for the new translation to work its way into our worship and devotional lives, but it is coming.

Translations change because language changes. Translations change because our awareness of how language reflects and shapes attitudes change. I watch some of the old shows on MeTV and often cringe at the jokes or portrayal of women, people with disabilities, or people of color. I try to speak with and to people as I would want them to speak to me. Updated translations offer us a new way to hear God speaking to us in the language of our day.

You can easily search online for some examples of specific changes if you are interested. Or like me, you could wait and encounter God's word as it comes, possibly in an unexpected way, when you least expect it. There is nothing wrong with our existing *NRSV*'s and they will be around on shelves for years to come (as evidenced by the remnant of the *RSV*'s on various shelves around St. John's). As you encounter some of the language that is familiar, but maybe a little different, ask yourself, is God's voice entering the world in a new way for the next generation to hear it. How is God's Word heard anew this day?

Listening for God's Word,

Pastor Erik Weber

# **Discernment Process among South Central North Dakota ELCA Congregations**

## **Overview**

At its second meeting, the Area Ministry Planning Team worked toward coming to an agreement on where to focus their energies and where to begin. Their work on developing this focus was rooted in what they had already talked about at the first meeting and in an honest assessment of the current realities facing them.

## **Current Realities**

It is worth noting that the strength of the team is seen in the variety and diversity of experience amongst its members. It also is found in a willingness to work together and a commitment to the church. At the same time, the team is limited and challenged by time constraints, the reality of burnout, and the hesitancy to speak without first consulting the congregation.

The team expects that together our congregations will be stronger, spark participation, reduce stress, and be more stable. However, going forward and being successful could result in some members leaving, stretching pastors thin, and confusion (in particular around technology).

## **Focus Questions**

The team began to work on identifying the questions they need to address. The questions they came up with fall into six general areas:

1. The role of the pastor
2. What is available for pastoral services and the needs of congregations
3. A vision for success - what it looks like, how much time is needed, and what is church?
4. The options for change - understanding what can and can not and what should and should not change
5. Finances

Alignment – how can we work with varying congregations depending upon our needs

## **Next Meeting**

The team expressed their interest in seeing and understanding the pastor situation in the area. They would like to review the current pool of pastoral leaders, where they are located, how they are committed or called. With this, there will also be a review of the current pastoral and staffing needs across all of the congregations. This would include needs related to worship, pastoral care, education, and general leadership. Pastor Soli will gather this data in preparation for the next meeting which is January 18th.

**(con't page 4)**



**English Lutheran Church  
Medina, ND**



You are invited to English Lutheran Church in Medina to celebrate 100 years of gathering.

**Saturday, June 11, 2022**

4:00 pm Social hour

5:00 pm Meal and program (adults \$20/plate, kids 12 and under \$5/plate)

7:00 pm Live music to sit and enjoy

**Sunday, June 12, 2022**

11:00 am Church service

12:00 pm Sausage and pancake meal (free will offering)

\*\*Two ways to RSVP for the Saturday meal:

MedinaStreeterparish.org, click on registration link and complete information  
**OR**

Return bottom portion of this letter

We look forward to seeing you and celebrating this joyous milestone with you!

Your English Lutheran family

RSVP for Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> meal

# of adults \_\_\_\_\_

# of kids \_\_\_\_\_

Return address:

English Lutheran Church  
PO Box 515  
Medina, ND 58467-0515

## **English Lutheran Church Council Meeting minutes – 1/5/20212**

Members Present: Michelle Lytle, Brenda Guthmiller, Kurt Hayes, Lynda Mayher, Phillip Hofmann, and Pastor Kristi Weber

Members absent: Karen Heinle and Austin Dockter

### **Pastor Report:**

-Pastor Kristi began the meeting with a devotion.

-Pastor Kristi has a congregation report for the ELCA that the council helped fill out

-December minutes were read. Lynda moved to approve the minutes. Kurt seconded, motion carried.

-Treasure's Report: Kurt motioned to accept the treasure's report. Brenda seconded, motion carried.

### **Old Business:**

-Parsonage: The floor has been completed. There is a door handle missing on a basement door. The moisture under the panel in the upstairs bathroom was just condensation.

-No change with Maranatha. No bid from Dakota Sound.

-Steeple: Westward will complete by June.

-kitchen fridge has been replaced

-The accounts will transfer to Dakota Heritage when they open.

-100 year anniversary: council reviewed the invites and made necessary changes

-Painting will be done this spring behind the boxes on the new LED lights on the outside of the fellowship hall.

-youth who are going to the Youth Event will be offered \$20 each time they shovel the church sidewalks. Kurt motions to accept this, Lynda seconded. Motion carried.

-Discernment Process: A meeting was held on November 30, with 8 area churches participating. An update will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

### **New Business:**

-Annual meeting to be held on January 23, 2022. Council member terms that expire are Austin Dockter and Lynda Mayher. There will be an announcement in church for interested members.

-The council reviewed the annual budget and made necessary changes that will be presented at the annual meeting.

-Pastor Susan will take sabbatical April 4 through June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022,

Meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Lytle



# BIRTHDAYS

## February

Brenda Guthmiller	Feb 4
Aurora Hayes	Feb 4
Melissa Dockter	Feb 5
Ally Greer	Feb 7
Justin Dewald	Feb 7
Dacotah Dockter	Feb 11
Jenny Hieb Opsahl	Feb 12
Katie Dewald	Feb 13
Kim Hoffmann	Feb 13
Trinity Opp	Feb 13
Madisyn Kleven	Feb 16
Madison Hofmann	Feb 17
Tammy Reis	Feb 17
Jaranah Liebold	Feb 19
Kyle Andres	Feb 20
Jordon Spitzer	Feb 22
Scott Dockter	Feb 23
Kylee Hofmann	Feb 26
Jeff Morlock	Feb 26
Bryan Behm	Feb 26
Logan Lytle	Feb 28
Logan Hoffmann	Feb 29

## March

Teresa Schleske	Mar 1
Tina Guthmiller	Mar 6
Morgan Irlmeier Perleberg	Mar 7
Starr Koble	Mar 7
Lillian Higdem	Mar 8
Robin Iszler	Mar 11
McCall Dockter	Mar 13
Beckett Dewald	Mar 15
Vicky Andres	Mar 17
Shawn Gefroh	Mar 22
Keisha Salinas	Mar 25
Shannon Moser Ford	Mar 25
Renae Heinle Schultz	Mar 28
Dale Wittmier	Mar 30
Maddie Gefroh	Mar 30

## Celebrating Feb/Mar Anniversaries

Scott & Melissa Dockter  
Jahleel & Ashley Opp

Feb 3, 1989  
Feb 14, 2009

Kurt & Jennifer Hayes  
Richard & Estee Nenow  
Troy & Debbie Zillmer

Mar 6, 2010  
Mar 17, 2008  
Mar 26, 1982