

English Lutheran News

OUR CHURCH IN OUR COMMUNITIES



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

February 2024



English Lutheran

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Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024

@ English

6:30 pm

w/ Services every Wednesday
evening till March 20

Our Mission:

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

UPCOMING EVENTS AND RECOGNITIONS

Sunday, February 4— 9:30 am—12:30 pm -

Fund Raiser — Medina FFA @ Medina Legion Hall
Pancake, French Toast & Sausage Breakfast
FREE WILL DONATION

Sunday, February 4— Youth Gathering Information

@ English at 3:00 pm
Youth, Parents and Adult Leaders
for the Youth gathering this summer

Wednesday, February 14 - Lent begins @ English with

Ash Wednesday service at 6:30 pm
w/ Services every Wednesday till March 20
Theme: Altered by the Spirit

Saturday, February 24—Council training @ Gackle—10 am—2pm

Include CIA leaders, local coordinators, Council members
The training will focus on goal training

Sunday, February 25—Bold Woman's Day (WELCA will be recognizing Women of our congregation either in person or by mail).

Saturday, March 2—World Day of Prayer @ English

10:00 am Program followed by Brunch
Theme is on the country of Palestine
All are welcome to join us!

Sunday, March 3—Fund Raiser for Mike and Teresa Schleske to help with medical and travel expenses. Lunch from 11 to 1 @ English Lutheran Church. Free will donation

LENT: *If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (ELW, Confession p. 239)*

Many, if not most, worship services offer a chance for us to confess our sins. Whether it is at the beginning of the service or near the middle we have the chance to speak words that are difficult for all of us to face: we have sinned. We speak these words to God in our confession and we trust in God's mercy to offer forgiveness.

At the heart of February this year, Ash Wednesday arrives and signals the beginning of Lent. More than any other day of our church year, Ash Wednesday marks the time when we come face to face with our own humanity. Through the symbol of ash we are marked as created beings. "Remember you are dust..." and we are reminded of our frailty "...and to dust you will return." As we enter a time of turning back to God, I encourage you to spend some time in reflection and preparation for Lent. The following self-examination questions may help you.

LENTEN SELF-EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

Does My manner of life truly reflect what I say I believe?

Am I allowing time for God and also for myself not only during Lent but also throughout the year?

Am I loving the people I am supposed to be loving? Am I showing them this love on a regular basis?

Am I walking gently on the earth? Am I making efforts to live simply and less wastefully?

Where is my life out of balance? What do I need to do to get it back in balance again?

Is my life consistent? Are what I believe, what I do, even how I vote and how I give my money, consistent with the Gospel teachings of Jesus?

Will this Lent make any difference? Will my life after this Lent be any different from how it is now? How?

Am I listening to God?

Week in and week out, we come to the place where we confess our sin and hear words of forgiveness. As we enter the 40 days of Lent this year we are invited to turn back to God. We believe that God forgives us when we turn to God. This promise is sure.

But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (ELW, Confession).

Pastor Erik

English Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes

– Sunday, January 28, 2024 –

Voting Members Present: 21

Council Members Present: Phillip Hofmann, Kurt Hayes, Becky Greer, Ceph Dockter, and Pastor Stephanie

Members Absent: Taylor Dockter

Called to Order: 11:48 AM (Council President Hofmann)

Opening Prayer – Pastor Stephanie

Past Annual Meeting Minutes

Sunday, 23rd January 2023 meeting minutes were read by Phillip.

Becky Greer moved to approve the minutes. Renae Olson seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Stephanie

Reported past events that have occurred both professionally and at the parsonage.

Discussed and explained New Youth Group activities and leaders – Renae Olson (within ELC) and Deacon Tara Ulrich.

Treasure's Report – Bryan Behm

Discussed and informed of the current water line break at the Church.

Discussed and informed of the need to bring back former Church attendees. Reported that the Building Fund has a 6-month CD with Dakota Heritage Bank.

Reported that all primary accounts have been moved to Dakota Heritage Bank.

Reported that LeAnn Fuchs has immensely helped with accounts, costing approximately \$25 per quarter.

Melissa Kleven moved to approve Treasurer's Report. Rense Olson seconded. Motion carried.

Other Report – Phillip Hofmann

Requested members to read the reports to themselves

Alter Guild – presented by Julie Opp

WELCA – presented by Jennifer Hayes

Christians in Action Partnership – presented by Deacon Tara Ulrich

Medina Youth Group – presented by Renae Olson

Jacob Hofmann moved to approve Other Reports. Ceph Dockter seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business

Parsonage Projects were discussed.

Garage door – still needs attention.

Roof has a couple small leaks that will need to be addressed this summer.

Church Projects were discussed.

An apparent leak appeared in the Sanctuary, as it will be monitored due to the water line break and all the moisture in the air.

The BIG indoor west window that has a crack – it was reported to have last been checked about 2019 just before the COVID activities closed up the Church, costing approximately \$2,500.

Other minor needed repairs and/or fixes.

New Business

Christians in Action “CIA” (separate handout)

Pastor Stephanie attending ‘breakout sessions’ and the New Orleans Conference for youth activities.

ELC pays \$50 per month for membership.

CIA is eight churches working together, networking, etc.

ELC pays approximately \$350 per month for the Youth Leadership of Deacon Tara Ulrich.

CIA meets one time per month, as Bryan Behm is presently the ELC representative.

Ethel Heinle moved to approve ELC membership in CIA and Bryan to continue be the representative. Jenn Hayes seconded. Motion carried.

2024 Church Budget was reviewed.

There was discussion about ‘Offertory Envelopes,’ as to why purchasing so many.

ELC was informed that the *Living Lutheran Magazine* will no longer cost anything and will be available on-line, needing registration.

Church website was discussed as to the maintenance person and accessibility, as the ELC website is maintained by the CIA.

Bryan Behm moved to approve the 2024 Church Budget. Becky Greer seconded. Motioned carried.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

Submitted by Kurt A. Hayes

**Unapproved minutes and are subject to change.*

ELC Council Meeting Minutes –January 3, 2024

Members Present: Phillip Hofmann, Kurt Hayes, Becky Greer, Ceph Dockter, Taylor Dockter, Pastor Stephanie, and Pastor Erik (after confirmation).

Members Absent:

Called to Order: 7:05 PM

Pastor Devotion and Report – Pastor Stephanie Read Deacon Tara’s report. This will also be reviewed at annual meeting.

Past Minutes

December 6th meeting minutes were read by Taylor.

Becky moved to approve the minutes. Ceph seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report

December’s Report was reviewed and discussed.

Kurt moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Becky seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business

Youth Director – reviewed job description and report for annual meeting.

Want to have updates from this moving forward, at least a quarterly update.

Parsonage

Garage door – still needs attention. Phil reaching out to different garage door companies.

‘walk-through,’ was conducted. Possible water leak by front entryway closet, discussed fixing of this and last time roof was re-shingled.

AED Grant – still in progress.

Christians in Action (CiA) – workshop going to be held for all the Lutheran churches and councils, goal is to come together to get on the same page. This will be around the end of February.

Snow removal at parsonage – Joey Kramlich agreed to do this.

Youth gathering funds – want to keep as standing item on minutes.

Toilet – has been fixed!

New Business

Ash Wednesday service – scheduled for February 14th at 6:30PM

Maintenance – hinge on north door was broke. Looking to see if we will need to replace the door frame or not.

Will also work on draining hot water heaters.

Budget Review – Kurt motioned to approve budget as prepared. Taylor Seconded. Amended to \$93,482.00. Kurt motioned to approve. Taylor Seconded.

Pastoral agreement reviewed. Motion by Kurt to approve. Ceph seconded.

Next meeting Wednesday, February 7th, 2024 at 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer at 9:01 PM.

Submitted by Taylor Dockter

I Am A Lutheran Leader

What is a Vicar? What are some of the other church titles? Let's look at who is leading worship in your neighborhood!

Vicar - The term vicar is much more common in the Episcopal or Catholic Churches. Vicars often serve when a priest isn't available, as a sort of deputy. The word "vicar" comes from the latin for vicarious. The idea is that a vicar is one who works under the authority of another or as a substitute.

In the Lutheran church we use vicar as a title for those serving their Internship. Those who are earning a Masters of Divinity (the four year degree pastors have) spend a year learning the work of a pastor, usually in a congregational setting. The title vicar is a nod to the work they have already done towards ordination. A vicar works with a supervising pastor and so they borrow their authority from their supervisor.

Synod Lay Minister - A person who serves a congregation or congregations but has not been ordained (as pastors or deacons have). Synod Lay Ministers have been through a process of discernment, application, and education (provided by the Synod and the Seminaries). They are equipped to lead and serve in a congregation.

Synod Authorized Minister (SAM): When a congregation is without a Minister of Word and Sacrament (pastor) and the Bishop authorizes someone to preside at Holy Communion for specific times and locations. This is often a Synod Lay Minister who has met the additional requirements to serve in synod authorized ministry.

Local Lay Preacher / Worship Leader - Someone serving their congregation as an occasional preacher or worship leader. This is a less formal role than a Synod Lay Minister. Lay preachers work with local pastors to prepare sermons. Worship leaders learn the mechanics of worship so they can lead worship when needed.

Rostered Minister - A person who is on the roster of leaders of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. There are two categories of rostered ministers:

Minister of Word and Sacrament (Ordained Pastors) - serve the church and offer the hope of the sacraments and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in congregations and other ministry settings. Some pastors are called to specialized ministries such as chaplaincy and campus ministry.

Minister of Word and Service (Ordained Deacons) - serve in congregations and other ministries, including family ministries, youth, administration, volunteer ministry, social services, music or parish nursing. Deacons connect the church with the needs of the world and work to equip others to lead a living, active and caring Christian life.

Christians in Action Ministry

In January, Vicar Andrew Stephens arrived to begin a year of learning and serving in our communities. His schedule for the first three months will typically include:

Preaching or Leading Worship

at Montpelier and Emmanuel, Gackle on the first and second Sundays of the month

at Trinity on the third and fourth Sundays of the month

Serving and learning

with the people of Emmanuel on Wednesdays and Fridays

with the people of Montpelier on Thursday mornings

with the people of Trinity on Tuesdays and Thursday afternoons

Monday will usually be a day of rest and renewal

But what will Vicar Andrew actually be doing?

During the first month, he will focus on learning how worship is similar and different in the three congregations where he primarily serves.

He will also focus on meeting people and hearing your stories.

Please help Vicar Andrew get to know you and more about your community.

Lent will come quickly, so another focus of the first three months will be how to prepare for and lead Lenten worship services. Each congregation has a different set of Lent traditions. This will be the third year our congregations are sharing a theme and resources for Lent. Vicar Andrew will gain experience with this model of shared ministry.

He will also attend Council meetings at Emmanuel and Montpelier to learn about congregational leadership and ways congregation members lead the local ministries and make decisions that are for the good of the congregation and community as we serve together in Jesus' name.

Who is on the Internship Committee?

These members accompany Vicar Andrew throughout the year and help him to reflect on what he is learning so that he grows in his pastoral identity and relationships. Members are: Alannah Valenta (Chair) and Mark Metz from Montpelier, Nathan Denning and Jane Schoonover from Emmanuel, and Leslee Larson and Dennis Mansavage from Trinity.

Congregations participating in Christians in Action Ministry:

Atonement, Jamestown Christ the King, Ellendale
Emmanuel, Gackle English, Medina Montpelier, Montpelier
St. John's, Jamestown Trinity, Jamestown Zion, Kulm