

English Lutheran News

OUR CHURCH IN OUR COMMUNITIES



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

July 2022



English Lutheran

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Vacation Bible School

What: VBS at English Lutheran

Who: pre-K-6th grade

When: July 29 & 30th 5:30-8

July 31st program at 11:00

Theme: Sky

Everything is Possible with God

Mark 10:27

Our Mission:

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

Living Stones Built Together for More than One Hundred Years

Come to Jesus, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:4-5

When my grandmother's cousin turned 100 years old, our family drove from Illinois to Michigan to celebrate with her. I had only met Rena a few times in person, but my grandmother told me about her cousin, Rena, many times when I was a child. So when her 100th birthday came around, my husband, our children, my parents, and I went to be part of the celebration. It was a big deal.

English Lutheran celebrated their 100th anniversary as a congregation on the weekend of June 11th and 12th. It was a big deal. Current members and former members attended. Several pastors who served the congregation also returned along with two members of the congregation who currently serve as ELCA pastors. Friends from the community past and present joined in the celebration. It was a big family reunion. Everyone worked hard to get ready. The inside and outside of the church building were looking great. Stories were told. Memories were shared.

When you start to dig beneath the surface, you find there's more to each story. English is celebrating 100 years in 2022. COVID-19 precautions pushed the celebration back a bit. When reading through the history, it seems the 100th could have been celebrated as early as 2019. The 75th anniversary book says, "One day [in 1919] a missionary to this area, Rev. Hans H. Groth was preaching at the Reformed Church [in Medina] and asked how many of the people present were Lutheran. Eight people raised their hands. The first steps to organizing the Lutheran church were started soon after. Rev. Hans H. Groth came from Steele to preach. He came by the #8 train in the afternoon and went back on #7 the next day." Confirmation classes began in September of 1919. Formal organization of the congregation is recognized by the Eastern North Dakota Synod as being established in 1921.

I think about the eight people who raised their hands in 1919. These eight people and their families and friends had been connecting with God and with each other in their homes and in their hearts. On that day, sitting at the Reformed Church in Medina, they said, we'd like to start a Lutheran Church in Medina so we can worship together in ways that share our Lutheran traditions with the people of our community. We'd like our understanding of how God's grace saves us through faith in Jesus Christ to be part of the Christian conversation in our community.

Thirty miles to the east, something similar happened with the Scandinavian Lutherans who started Trinity Lutheran in Jamestown in 1911. Nineteen miles to the south, it was the Lutherans in Streeter who started St. Luke in 1908. By

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

Discernment Process Update

-The Council at English discussed the Goals for Building Ministry Teams in our areas. Information sessions are being planned to share these goals with the congregation. By June 30, all 8 congregations will have held similar meetings.

By July 15—

-All congregations ready to support the first set of goals will appoint one member to be the local coordinator for shared communication (if this were a board, they would be the board member) and will begin the implementation steps toward the goals.

By August 20 –

-English and St. John's will each select 3 members to serve on a joint call committee to seek an additional pastor to serve the two congregations with Pastor Erik Weber and be supportive of building area ministry teams. One of the specific areas of experience and responsibility for the pastor will be teaching confirmation classes. The ideal candidate will live in the parsonage in Medina. The team will have a meeting scheduled with Pastor Brad Skogen (Associate with the EAND Synod Bishop) to start the call process.

-Zion, Christ the King, Emmanuel, and Immanuel will each select 2 members to serve on a joint call committee to seek an additional pastor to serve with Pastor Lucinda Lien in this area and be supportive of building area ministry teams. One of the specific areas of experience and responsibility for the pastor will be visitation.

-Atonement and Trinity will each select 3 members including one high school sophomore or junior from each congregation to hire a Director of Youth and Family Ministries to coordinate youth ministries for the whole area and be supportive of building area ministry teams. One of the specific areas of experience and responsibility will be equipping parents and other authentic, attentive, active adults to be primary chaperones and leaders for local youth ministry. This role will involve communication with the leaders and with the youth and families about opportunities for youth. This role may also include teaching confirmation classes in several congregations.

*Unapproved minutes and are subject to change.

English Lutheran Church Council Meeting minutes – 06/01/2022

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

Members absent: Phillip Hofmann

Pastor Report

-Pastor Kristi summarized where the process is for discernment team.

-June 5th is Synod Assembly, no service at English but there will be service at the Methodist Church.

-May minutes were read. Brenda moved to approve the minutes. Karen seconded, motion carried.

-Treasurer's Report: Not available at this meeting.

Old Business:

-The overflow project is almost completed. A tv has been purchased, just needs to be picked up.

- 100 year celebration: There are still some things to do outside and they have been assigned to volunteers

-Carpets to be cleaned. Brenda motioned to approve this service, Karen seconded. Motion carried.

-The sign is completed and will be put up soon

-Steeple completed

-The accounts will transfer to Dakota Heritage when Bryan is able.

-Discernment Process: The congregation councils need to decide by June 30th if they support the goals that are presented. The goals will be brought to the congregation for further discussion. Brenda moved to present the goals to the congregation with council support. Karen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

-There were additional meetings for the discernment process that were not initially planned that require additional funding. 1. Michelle motioned to fund \$50 toward the consultant expense. Brenda seconded. Motion passed.

2. Brenda motioned to donate \$100 towards Dialog Works to go towards efforts to helping other congregations. Karen seconded. Motion passed.

-Ushers needed for big events at church

-Deacon list for communion was made

-Karen motioned to pay services rendered for \$60 for mowing the parsonage lawn in 2021. Michelle seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

-Next council meeting date for July/August is July 27th at 7:00. By July 15th we need to have 3 people on a call committee and one person on a coordination team.

Meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Lytle

Synod Assembly Recap – June 2022

One hundred eighty-eight lay leaders and eighty-six Rostered leaders gathered in Fargo on June 4-5 for the Eastern North Dakota Synod assembly. A Synod is one of the three expressions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are most familiar with the local congregation that gathers for worship and is visible in our community. When we gather together, we become something new- a Synod. Together we elect a Bishop to provide leadership, we make plans to spend our shared resources, we learn about ministries of the wider church, and we engage in worship, learning, and service. Our Synod is one of 65 in the ELCA. Our Bishop Tessa Moon-Lieseth presided at the assembly. The theme of the Assembly this year is “Called to Serve”. It is taken from our Synod mission statement, “Jesus Christ calls us to live in love as we serve, equip, and challenge God’s people.”

Together the assembly adopted a budget for the Synod, elected members of the Synod Council and various standing committees, heard reports from mission partners such as the ELCA Foundation (Rev. Keith Pearson, who led the Legacy Planning event at Trinity on May 1st), and we heard reflections from people throughout the Synod who are “Called to Serve.”

A resolution adopted: 2023 Compensation and Policy Guideline for Rostered Ministers and Lay Paid Staff

Each year the Synod publishes these guidelines that seek to ensure that “compensation decisions can be made in such a way that God’s mission flourishes, staff are cherished as servants of God, and there is a sense of faithful partnership between congregation and staff to ensure all areas of the church’s ministry thrive.”

A resolution adopted: Called to Welcome All People

The Eastern North Dakota Synod has affirmed its support for full participation of gay and lesbian members in our congregations in 1989 and 2013. This year’s resolution encourages each congregation to continue to seek out ways to be truly welcoming for all, especially those who have suffered alienation and harm because of their sexual orientation. This could include discussions about becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation and showing support for the care and protection of LGBTQIA+ people.

A resolution adopted: Love Your Neighbor as Yourself: Welcoming Refugees and Immigrants

After the bankruptcy and shut down of Lutheran Social Services (LSSND) in January 2021, North Dakota lost a key partner in Refugee resettlement operations. Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, the national organization, stepped in to open its first office in Fargo to continue the work of refugee welcoming and resettlement. Each congregation in the synod is encouraged to monitor news affecting migrants and refugees, commit to at least one financial donation to LIRS or another refugee resettlement agency, and to providing at least

A resolution referred: Files of Rostered Ministers

The assembly referred a resolution concerning the files of Rostered Leaders to the Synod Council for additional discussion and action.

**The next Synod Assembly will take place on June 3-4, 2023.

How can people at English get involved with the Eastern North Dakota Synod?

**“The synod has resources that people can access to make an impact. For example, Keith Pearson of the ELCA Foundation can meet with you, at no cost to you, as you are thinking about your financial legacy planning. Maybe reducing hunger in the world is something that matters to you. He can help you make ELCA World Hunger part of your legacy plan.” - Jon Lillejord

**“Get involved in mission ideas. The Personal Care Kits that were put together at the Synod Assembly are an example of a project that can be done locally by a small or large group of people.” - Shar Gumke

**“At last year’s Assembly, I went to an Advocacy and Action meeting. During this past year, I have attended Zoom meetings of this group. We’re working on an October event for ELCA World Hunger. I also stay up to date on refugee resettlement in North Dakota. Care of creation is another topic of interest to this group” - Erin Klein

*Renaë Olson serves as Jamestown Cluster Representative for the Synod Women of the ELCA

*Jon Lillejord was elected to serve his second term on the Synod Council.

*Russ Sunderland and Pastor Susan Haukaas both currently serve on the Synod Endowment Committee.

*Pastor Erik Weber serves on the Synod Candidacy Committee (working with people who wish to serve as rostered ministers.)

*Pastor Kristi Weber was elected to serve on the Consultation Committee (can be called on to work in situations when congregations and leaders are experiencing conflict.)

English Lutheran WELCA Meeting June 26, 2022

- ★ Present: Julie Opp, Renae Olson and Jennifer Hayes
- ★ Began the meeting with a meditation and prayer
- ★ Minutes from the May 8, 2022 meeting were read. Correction on what was served at the Memorial Day Luncheon – served green beans instead of the corn. No other corrections were made.
- ★ Memorial Day Luncheon did well. The whole process went smoothly. About \$500 was raised from the meal served.
- ★ Donation recipients to be decided on to receive offering from the conference to be held in September. Freedom Ride and Orphan Grain Train as well as a local food bank.
- ★ Discussion on advertising our food bank more in the community – higher prices for items is creating a greater need.
- ★ Possibly advertise food bank on the digital sign
 - ★ Create flyers to put in areas for community to see
 - ★ Have clearer labeling of what is the food pantry in the fellowship hall – label the cupboards and fridge/freezer that are part of it and have a sign posted in the fellowship hall to indicate where the food pantry is located
- ★ Discussion of placing the Book House by the church on the corner of the street along Water St
 - ★ Renae will call 811 for underground locations to be marked
- ★ WELCA Board Synod Convention in Medina details discussed
 - ★ rooms are arranged and booked at North Country Lodge by Sherry Schmidt
 - ★ Kennedy Behm will play special music for the event
 - ★ Pastor Susan to look into doing the message and communion during convention
 - ★ Theme is Corinthians 13 – Faith, Hope and Love
 - ★ Speaker from Fargo – topic of welcoming people from other countries – Ukraine & Mexico
 - ★ lunch and registration discussion – breakfast: donuts and/or muffins, fruit and coffee; lunch: scalloped potatoes, green beans, bun, pickle and dessert; snack: coffee & water, cookies and remnants from breakfast
 - ★ Convention will reimburse ELC WELCA up to \$400 for all expenses for the time in Medina
 - ★ meal cost will be \$10-15 per person depending on how expensive the items are between now and then. ELC WELCA to receive the meal costs paid by attendees.

BIRTHDAYS

July

Frank Reis	July 5
Dawn Salinas	July 7
Michelle Lytle	July 8
Trevin Behm	July 10
Austin Dockter	July 11
Jonathan Juelfs	July 14
Nicole Hayes	July 15
Pat Everding	July 16
Dylan Dockter	July 17
Matt Opsahl	July 17
Paige Gefroh	July 18
Phillip Hofmann	July 23
Gordon Christensen	July 24
Randy Kapp	July 24
Darin Dockter	July 25
Gary Hieb	July 26
Melissia Kleven	July 26
Kendra Behm	July 27
Serena Andres	July 30

August

Boden Yunck	Aug 1
Briar Yunck	Aug 1
Sourey Schmidt	Aug 3
Shirley Judin	Aug 4
Emma Kramlich	Aug 12
Easton Liebold	Aug 13
Michael Kapp	Aug 14
Matthew Kapp	Aug 14
Corey Kapp	Aug 14
Jared Opp	Aug 17
Karrisa Yunck	Aug 21
Lisa Olson	Aug 21
Karson Schmidt	Aug 21
Janet Well	Aug 25
Dallas Opp	Aug 26
Genevieve Opp	Aug 27
John Dong	Aug 30
Wayne Reardon	Aug 31
Rob Ruff	Aug 31

Celebrating July/August Anniversaries

Ryan & Becky Greer	July 1, 2006
Sky & Patty Roemmich	July 2, 2010
Gordon & Betty Christensen	July 6, 1974
Mike & Teresa Schleske	July 7, 2005
Bryan & Vicky Andres	July 9, 1988
Ron & Starr Koble	July 11, 1975
Dylan & Taylor Dockter	July 26, 2014
Nick & Serena Andres	July 30, 2018
Darin & Jodi Dockter	Aug 1, 1986
Matt & Jenny (Hieb) Opsahl	Aug 4, 2018