

ENGLISH - NEWS - ST LUKE

OUR CHURCH IN OUR COMMUNITIES



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

November 2021

English Lutheran

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Happy Thanksgiving Day!!

*For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
for love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends.
For flowers that bloom about our feet;
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;
For song of bird, and hum of bee;
For all things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!*
~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Our Mission:

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

Taking Time

“And on the seventh day God finished the work that God had done, and God rested on the seventh day from all the work that God had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that God had done in creation.” Genesis 2:2-3

Recently I have been thinking a lot about Sabbath. In recent months the subject kept coming up; as I prepped for teaching this fall, during some time away with friends, in conversation with my family, and even at the fall Pastor’s retreat. In my experience when a topic keeps coming up it’s usually the Holy Spirit trying to get my attention. As I was teaching a lesson on the Ten Commandments I heard myself say, “Following these commandments helps us to be righteous. To be righteous means to be in ‘right relationship’. The commandments are all about relationships. So keeping the 3rd commandment, keeping the Sabbath helps us to be in right relationship with God and with each other.” Sometimes the lessons I prepare are the lesson I need to remember. How then can keeping the 3rd Commandment help us to care for our relationships, both with God and one another.

God of the Sabbath

In September when we gathered with other pastors in Detroit Lakes our speaker, Rev. Kara Root, spoke about how God meets us in times of Sabbath. She reminded us of a story from the 16th chapter of Exodus. In the desert the Israelites cried out to Moses saying, “you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” In response God provides Manna every morning for God’s people and quail every night. The people can only gather enough manna for the day ahead of them. Any extra that they gather will spoil. This is how they learn to trust God. Yet on the sixth day of the week they can gather enough for two days so that no one needs to gather food on the Sabbath.

I knew the story and I’ve told it many times. This time Rev. Kara Root said something I’d never thought of before. She acknowledged that this double gathering on the sixth day was so the people could rest. Then she said, “On the Sabbath God does not provide manna because even God rests on the Sabbath.” I had always known that God rested after creation, but I had never considered that God continues to rest each week on the Sabbath. For forty years God feeds the people in this way and each week God’s people AND God have Sabbath. This holy, set aside, day allows us to tend our relationship with God and God isn’t too busy to meet us because God is at rest with us.

Youth outing in Jamestown

Youth from Emmanuel in Gackle, Atonement in Jamestown and English Lutheran met on Oct 10th at Atonement for a fun day of games, worshipping and eating.



CONGRATULATIONS

Rena Olson

On her nomination on becoming the WELCA Cluster Representative for the Jamestown area.

She had to send in a resume and a faith statement to accompany it.

Following is the Faith statement she submitted.



FAITH STATEMENT

Where to begin. Faith for me is a completely blind trust. I am putting trust into something or someone I cannot see. It comes from the word and then a person makes the decision to believe in the word. Belief is definitely difficult at times.

I have been thinking about how to write my faith statement a lot lately. There are many different routes I could have gone, however after looking in my Bible this verse jumped out at me. “do NOT conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Roman 12:2” I found this verse in “The butterfly’s way from NIV GODS word for Gardeners Bible. To me just like many other things you may find in a garden the butterfly is a symbol of transformation.

I really do feel like a caterpillar most of the time. I feel like I might become a beautiful butterfly however, then I make a mistake by thinking the wrong way about a neighbor or a friend. I get mad, say harsh words or go down the wrong path. To me this is where the word FAITH comes in. Faith is what helps transform us into a beautiful butterfly.

Transformation is the word that helps change us from that caterpillar into that beautiful butterfly. God thru our faith helps transform us all.

I think about my grandchildren a lot and hope that they will find a way to trust in GOD and have faith in things they may not see. I see so many youth putting their faith into the things they can see like, Snapchat, Facebook, You Tube and other forms of social media. It is really hard for them to feel like a beautiful butterfly when they see all these other form of how they “should be”. I hope they can find that they are a beautiful butterfly without conforming to how everyone else believes they should be By having faith in God, they can transform from that caterpillar into the butterfly and renew their mind and have hope in the things they can’t see.

English Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes 10-06-2021

Members Present: Michelle Lytle, Karen Heinle, Phillip Hofmann, Kurt Hayes, Brenda Guthmiller, and Pastor Kristi Weber. Members absent: Lynda Mayer, Austin Dockter

Pastor Report:

- Pastor Kristi began the meeting with a devotion.
- Pastor Kristi reviewed the October 3rd meeting between 8 congregations and ideas on how to move forward. There will be a zoom gathering on October 26th to continue the discussion. Anyone is welcome to participate in that meeting.
- reviewed the youth event on September 25th. 12 youth attended from English along with 3 from St. John's and 4 from Trinity.

*September minutes were read. Kurt moved to approve the minutes. Karen seconded, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Kurt motioned to accept the treasurer's report. Michelle seconded, motion carried.

Old Business:

- Door was replaced in the parsonage. Floor will be next.
- new sign is in the works
- Maranatha came up with a bid for \$8,000-10,000 for a live feed for the fellowship hall to include screen and ability to stream online. Looking for a second bid from Dakota Sound.
- Steeple: waiting on Westward
- kitchen fridge needs to be checked and possibly replaced with the fridge in the hall by the food pantry
- The accounts are still at Choice Financial as of this month. Kurt motioned to wait until Dakota Heritage is in Medina and move all accounts there to keep business local. Brenda seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Fall Festival: good turnout at Ecumenical service and the youth served lunch.
- 100 year anniversary committee needs to be formed for the celebration in June 2022. A potluck will be October 10th after church to hear ideas and how our congregation can help plan this celebration.
- Ethel's sub-contract for St. John's Lutheran Church for 3 hours per week (to do bulletin and worship leader script) was signed.
- Cleaning services: it was mentioned to have the youth take turns cleaning for a fee, if first volunteer isn't available, to raise money for their youth rally next year.

BIRTHDAYS

November

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Charlee Nenow | Nov 1 |
| Brady Andres | Nov 3 |
| Patty Roemmich | Nov 4 |
| Trina Hayes | Nov 7 |
| Troy Zillmer | Nov 7 |
| Brent Kleven | Nov 11 |
| Isayah Olson | Nov 11 |
| Ron Headland | Nov 11 |
| Virginia Jeanotte | Nov 11 |
| Renae Olson | Nov 12 |
| Bryan Andres | Nov 12 |
| Jahleel Opp | Nov 19 |
| Larry Junker | Nov 21 |
| Angel Hayes | Nov 22 |
| Erica Zillmer | Nov 25 |
| Betty Christensen | Nov 26 |
| Dennis Behm | Nov 27 |
| Patrice Juelfs | Nov 28 |
| William Juelfs | Nov 29 |
| Doug Schmidt | Nov 30 |

DECEMBER

| | |
|--------------------|--------|
| Gentry Nenow | Dec 3 |
| Richard Nenow | Dec 4 |
| Kaitlynn Andres | Dec 5 |
| Sharon Behm | Dec 6 |
| Taya Schelske | Dec 6 |
| Gertrude Neumiller | Dec 10 |
| Mayson Dockter | Dec 13 |
| Theodore Zillmer | Dec 13 |
| Randy Everding | Dec 14 |
| Cyerra Schmidt | Dec 16 |
| Sue Reardon | Dec 17 |
| Jodi Dockter | Dec 17 |
| Joe Schmidt | Dec 18 |
| Karen Heinle | Dec 23 |
| Mike Iszler | Dec 25 |
| Denise Wittmier | Dec 27 |
| Irene Otto | Dec 28 |
| Arlyn Schmidt | Dec 29 |
| Bill Lytle | Dec 30 |

Celebrating Oct/Nov Anniversaries

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Clarence & Ethel Heinle | Nov 3, 1973 |
| Mike & Robin Iszler | Nov 18, 1988 |
| Rory & Kim Hoffmann | Nov 27, 1993 |
| Clydell & Mary Dockter | Dec 1, 1973 |
| Randy & Mindy Kapp | Dec 13, 1986 |