

# *English Lutheran News*

**OUR CHURCH IN OUR COMMUNITIES**



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

**November 2022**



## **English Lutheran**

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**Don't forget**  
**to turn your clocks back**  
**November 6, 2022**

**Our Mission:**

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

## **Welcome Pastor Stephanie !!**

English and St. John's Lutheran voted on October 9th to call Stephanie Gossett as Associate Pastor. As of the writing of this article, she is still waiting for the Letter of Call to reach her after passing through the Eastern North Dakota Synod Office for the signature and seal of the Bishop. After she receives the Letter of Call, she has 30 days to accept or decline the call. All signs point to her acceptance and joining us as a leader.

Stephanie's ordination service (which is contingent on her acceptance of our call) is scheduled for Sunday November 13th at 3 pm at Peace Lutheran Church in College Station, TX, her home congregation. Installation services at English and St. John's are still being scheduled.

The English Lutheran parsonage will be her home and we anticipate that she will move in around Thanksgiving. St. John's and English share the cost of the position evenly and will each receive 20 more hours of pastoral services each week. Specific schedules and duties will be developed over the coming months. It is expected that both Pr. Erik and Pr. Stephanie will provide pastoral services at both English and St. John's. Some weeks Pr. Erik might spend 10 hours with English and Pr. Stephanie might spend 10 hours (20 hours total). Other weeks the split may be different.

It is expected that in November, English will say goodbye to Trinity Lutheran leaders Pr. Kristi, Pr. Susan, and Wendy Thompson as regular worship leaders, administrators, and pastoral care providers. After 21 months of leadership, we give thanks for their presence and stability. As English and St. John's begin a new chapter of ministry with a new leadership team, we recognize that Pr. Erik continues to serve and provides continuity to education and leadership at English. He is also very supportive of the Christians in Action partnership that has grown over the past year.

A hypothetical sample schedule might have Pr. Stephanie in both Jamestown and Medina for Sunday worship, and offering a Medina youth group opportunity on select Sunday evenings. Monday could be dedicated to Medina office hours and visitation. Tuesday and Wednesday would involve planned trips to Jamestown for staff meeting, text study, visitation, and confirmation. Thursdays involve sermon preparation, Synod Conference meetings, and scheduled appointments. Friday would be a day of sabbath rest.

It will be very important to have overlap time for Pr. Erik and Pr. Stephanie over the first six months. That may mean that they are both leading worship or participating in confirmation for a time. It may mean that both lead nursing home services or go to visit people together for introductions.

We look forward to what God has in store for us in our ministry together.

## All Saints Sunday—November 6, 2022

*“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.... But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you....Do to others as you would have them do to you.” (Luke 6 selected)*

Our appointed All Saints Sunday gospel reading takes a portion of Jesus teaching called the Sermon on the Plain. It is another opportunity for Jesus to speak to “a multitude” gathered together to be healed, cleansed, and seen. Jesus uses this occasion to reinforce the unexpected ways that God acts in the world. Our expectations are turned upside down. God’s expectations build a world where we are welcomed, satisfied, and content.

One of my recent funerals was for a community member who had a tough life. He looked different, he dressed different, and spent a lifetime dealing with bullies and was often picked on. At times he was homeless, or unemployable, or uninsured. I believe that if you had asked him while he was alive if he felt blessed, some of these challenges would have come up. Many people today, especially tweens and teens know that it is like to be excluded. Many people, regardless of age, know the pain of having things said about them that are not true. Harsh words hurt and linger. We remember the tone, or glances, or phrases of comments that wound us. It is surprising that Jesus names as blessed all of these who encounter this rejection. Yet Jesus does not stop there: Jesus calls on us to love the very people who attack, exclude, or lie about us. Jesus calls us to love our enemies.

It is appropriate to give thanks this All Saints Sunday for the ones we love who have died. It is appropriate to remember how God’s love was shown to us through their lives and to light a candle as we remember them. There are some people that it is easy to love. Jesus also calls us to also shower radical love on those who have hurt us deeply. Yes, this is complicated and challenging. Yes, this takes work and effort. This radical love takes practice. As we give thanks for the Saints in our lives this year, we remember the song that begins, “For *all* the saints...” These are the ones that are easy to love and the ones that are a challenge. Jesus looked at the crowd pressing in on him: people from cities and farms, coastlands and hill country, Jewish or Samaritan and offered an image of God’s great reversal. The people who seem abandoned and lacking now, will be welcomed and whole In God’s kingdom. Jesus calls on his followers to love their enemies and to treat others as they would like to be treated.

Light a candle for a loved one who has died. Light a candle for someone who has mistreated you in the past. May you observe a blessed All Saints Sunday.

Pr. Erik

## **ELC WELCA meeting October 9, 2022**

- ◆ Present: Julie Opp, Ethel Heinle, Renae Olson, Irene Otto, Shirley Judin, & Jennifer Hayes
- ◆ Began meeting with a devotional reading and prayer led by Julie Opp.
- ◆ Minutes from the August 14, 2022 meeting were read; minutes approved as read
- ◆ Treasurer's report: about \$3000.00 in checking account
- ◆ Council agreed to pay ½ of the cost for the confirmands' materials
- ◆ Fellowship hall agreement contract to be redone – holding off until we have a new pastor
- ◆ WELCA conference meeting – \$225 to cover Medina's ELC attendee's meal. The WELCA Association Treasurer gave high praise for how ELC hosted the event!
- ◆ purchased a nicer cashbox that can be locked – \$34.37
- ◆ Fall Festival events did well – took in \$1691.58 after expenses.
- ◆ still have some expenses to pay for the WELCA conference – Julie Opp and for buns from local store
- ◆ Donations to be made to various organizations: Salvation Army, Project Ignite the Light, State Hospital & Red Willow Ministries -to give \$50.00 to each
- ◆ WELCA Organization offering to be made – \$50.00
- ◆ ND State Hospital Holiday Gift Offering - \$50.00
- ◆ Received a donation from Mrs. Bender for all the prayers and support given.
- ◆ Treasurer's report approved

### **Old Business:**

- ◆ WELCA Conference hosted in Medina – everyone did a great job and received high praise from board members!
- ◆ Fall Festival was a success – great job to all who helped in all aspects!

## New Business:

- ◆ 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and 4<sup>th</sup> grade need to receive Spark Bibles: Mayse Friesen (5<sup>th</sup>), Emelia Greer, Aurora Hayes, Brynnly Lachenmeier, Olivia Friesen, Everett Hayes, Oliver Hofmann, Logan Lytle, & Trinity Opp
- ◆ have 7 copies at the office – need enough for everyone who hasn't received one
- ◆ Present the Bibles on October 30, 2022 when Sunday School sing in Church
- ◆ Thank offering to be done in November. Have to go online for the information for the service information
- ◆ Christmas Sunday School Program December 18<sup>th</sup>. Having a luncheon after for everyone to attend.. Having knoephla soup, hot dogs, & sloppy joes provided; asking attendees to bring an item to share.
- ◆ Castaway Retreat – discussion to give a donation/support to students who attended the retreat. Discussed giving \$25/student for attending to help offset cost of retreat.. Tabled for another meeting
- ◆ Creation/starting up a Medina Youth Group for teens in congregation after confirmation until adult age.
- ◆ interest from youth in community to be involved and help serve the community
- ◆ Trunk or Treat – October 31, 2022 at ELC Fellowship Hall

<needs people to help with clean up and serving during the meal, also need community members to bring bars or cookies to be brought by 5:30

<need people to set up trunks for the trunk or treating after the meal and activities

- ◆ Next meeting will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of November (11/13) at 10 am
- ◆ Closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer

Presented by Jennifer Hayes, WELCA Secretary

## Castaway Youth Retreat

On a rainy afternoon, at the end of September, we filled both 15 passenger church vans to capacity and headed for Minnesota. Twenty-five youth and five adults, from four congregations in the partnership headed for Castaway, the Synod youth retreat on Pelican Lake. For forty hours, youth in 6th - 10th grade worshiped, sang, socialized, created art, played games, ate great food, and even slept a little. They heard the message that they are known and noticed by God. The organizers told us, "In the world of Snapchat, Tik Tok and Instagram, our youth understand what it is like to be "seen" but to be KNOWN - that's a different story. We are true masterpieces. Together we will explore how we can look at ourselves and others the way God sees us." This is a message that resonated with the youth that attended.

It was a blessing to travel with youth and adults from multiple congregations. Watching as the kids made new acquaintances and became friends in such a short time was an affirmation of the partnership we've formed. Banding together and sharing chaperones and resources allowed more youth to attend, and allowed more to hear the Good news that they are seen, known, loved, and cherished by God. Next year we hope we need more vehicles!





*\*Unapproved minutes and are subject to change.*

## English Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 –

**Members Present:** Phillip Hofmann, Kurt Hayes, Michelle Lytle, and Pastor Kristi Weber

**Members Absent:** Brenda Guthmiller, Karen Heinle

### Pastor Report

Pastor Kristi led with a devotion

September 24<sup>th</sup> the WELCA annual convention was held at English Lutheran Church and was well done. There was lots of positive feedback.

### Past Minutes

September 7<sup>th</sup> Council minutes were read.

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

### Treasure's Report

September's Reports were reviewed and discussed.

Kurt moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Michelle seconded. **motion carried.**

### Old Business

Choice Bank will continue to be the location of the church accounts.

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

Phillip installed the handicap parking signs on the east side of the church.

Congregational meeting for a vote on Stephanie Gossett as Associate Pastor to occur after service on October 9<sup>th</sup>.

Church Constitution

The council reviewed proposed changes/additions/deletions. Michelle motioned to present the discussed amendments to the Constitution to the congregation on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 for the 1<sup>st</sup> vote. Kurt seconded, **motion carried.** (The 2<sup>nd</sup> vote for accepting the revised Constitution will be at the annual meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023)

### New Business

Special Pastoral Project. Michelle moved to purchase three \$25 gift certificates, Kurt seconded. **Motion carried.**

Sunday School Christmas program will be Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>—Soup, Sandwiches and Social to follow.

Meeting adjourned after the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Lytle

*\*Unapproved minutes and are subject to change.*

**English Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes  
– September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 –**

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

**Members Absent:** Michelle Lytle

**Guests:** Ethel Heinle, Julie Opp, & Pastor Erik Weber

Meeting called to order at 7:19 PM by President Phillip Hofmann

**Pastor Report**

Pastor Kristi reviewed the importance and duties that Ethel provides.

**Past Minutes**

July 27<sup>th</sup> Council minutes were read.

August 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Council minutes were read.

Kurt moved to approve the minutes. Brenda seconded. **motion carried.**

**Treasurer's Report**

June, July & August's Reports were reviewed. Discussion.

Kurt moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Karen seconded. motion carried.

**Guest's Business**

Ethel's materials

Confirmation Supplies – Brenda moved to approve the purchase. Karen seconded. **motion carried.**

Pastor Erik requested \$430.21 expense

To be paid from Sunday School Supplies

Church Rental Form

WELCA provided some assistance/input

Form provided, discussed, and reviewed

Rental Fees will be deposited into Church Account

New form will be available at the October Council Meeting

Church Cleaning

List will be created to have two families per month be responsible for cleaning the church Trying something new

Vacation/California Trip

Ethel will be leaving approximately September 13<sup>th</sup> and returning approximately September 25<sup>th</sup>

Funeral process for brother

(con't Sept 7, 2022 meeting minutes)

Julie's materials

Alter Guild Gift

Paraments received from St. Luke's (Streeter) – *like new items*

\$100 private donation

\$100 Church donation – Kurt moved to match private donation of \$100. Brenda seconded. **motion carried.**

Donations to be made to the Streeter Cemetery, per request

Church Float for Fall Festival

Vacation Bible School materials will be used to decorate the trailer

The Hayes' have provided the trailer, pull vehicle, and driver  
Pastor Susan and family will ride the float

Julie will pick up some candy to be shared from the float

### Old Business

Changing Church Bank

Discussion

To be moved when both applicable and available

Seasons of Creation

Discussion and feedback from Council Members after first service (oceans)

Service was a little different from traditional service

Call Committee (Kennedy Behm, Ceph Dockter, and Janine Hofmann)

Unanimous recommendation to bring to the Council for vote – Pastor Stephanie Gossett

Janine provided information and answered questions via voice call

Kurt moved to recommend to the Congregation to call Stephanie Gossett to be Associate Pastor with St. Johns. Brenda seconded. **motion carried.**

Kurt moved to have a compensation package for Pastor Stephanie Gossett of \$63,000. Brenda seconded. **motion carried.**

St. Johns – \$38,500 responsibility

English – \$24,500 responsible plus parsonage rent and utilities (gas, electricity, water & sewer, garbage, highspeed internet, and basic cable)

Compensation package to follow Synod Salary Guidelines

Allowed to bring in some years of teaching experience and master's degree

Congregational meeting for a vote to occur after service on October 9<sup>th</sup>.

Church Constitution

Committee (Tammy Reis, Bill Lytle, & Pastor Kristi) met today

Proposals were discussed.

Timeline – 2<sup>nd</sup> vote will need to be at the January Annual Meeting; therefore, 1<sup>st</sup> reading will need to be in November



# BIRTHDAYS

## November

Brady Andres	Nov 3
Patty Roemmich	Nov 4
Trina Hayes	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
Betty Christensen	Nov 26
Dennis Behm	Nov 27
Patrice Juelfs	Nov 28
William Juelfs	Nov 29
Doug Schmidt	Nov 30

## December

Kaitlynn Andres	Dec 5
Sharon Behm	Dec 6
Taya Schleske	Dec 6
Gertrude Neumiller	Dec 10
Mayson Dockter	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
Irene Otto	Dec 28
Arlyn Schmidt	Dec 29
Wendy Thompson	Dec 29
Bill Lytle	Dec 30

## Celebrating November/December Anniversaries

Clarence & Ethel Heinle  
Rory & Kim Hoffmann

Nov 3, 1973  
Nov 27, 1993

Randy & Mindy Kapp

Dec 13, 1986