



The Heart of *English Lutheran Church*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
APRIL 2024

Pastor Randy's Message

"I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."
Psalm 121:1-2

Change – Or when your world is turned upside down. Easter was on March 31. We are far enough removed from the actual event that we know how it all works out for the disciples. But I can't imagine what the disciples are going through. So many questions: What happened to Jesus? How did Jesus get out of the Tomb? Who rolled the stone away? What's an angel? Did someone take Jesus as a cruel joke? Why didn't the Roman Gaurds do something? Or did they do something? What will people think? And What if it's true? Will Jesus be mad? Life is full of changes. Some are good and some are more challenging. What advice would you give someone going through change? What advice would you give the disciples? And – Where is God in the midst of change? Just because we can't see God at work – does that mean that God isn't here – supporting and encouraging us? I Googled - ways to stay positive during trying times.. I found this on KVC Health Systems.

10 ways to stay positive during trying times.

1. Make a mantra. "With God's Help all things are possible."
2. Focus on successes. "Remember challenges you have overcome in the past."

APRIL CHURCH EVENTS

- 3rd-Confirmation @ 3:30 pm**
- 7th-Worship @ 9:00 am**
Sunday School @ 10:00 am
- 10th-Confirmation @ 3:30 pm**
- 14th-Worship @ 9:00 am**
Sunday School @ 10:00 am
- 16th-Church Council @ 6:00 pm**
- 17th-Confirmation @ 3:30 pm**
Sr. Youth Group @ 7:00 pm
- 20th-Heart River Spring
Gathering @ ELC**
- 21st-Worship @ 9:00 am**
(Noisy Offering)
Sunday School @ 10:00 am
- 24th-Confirmation @ 3:30 pm**
- 28th-Worship @ 9:00 am**
No Sunday School

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3. Cultivate an attitude of gratitude. "Each day list 3 things you are great full for."
4. Stay in the present moment.
5. Let it go "Let go of the past to embrace a new future."
6. Connect with positive people. "seek out people who make you feel good."
7. Pay it forward. "Acts of kindness for others. Helps you feel good."
8. Do it for your family.
9. Practice make progress. "Your brain is a muscle. It takes work to train it to be positive. To count your blessings. To look for God at work. To see opportunities in difficult situations. To let people help you."

In the worship service "Prayer at the Close of the Day *Compline*" Page 157 – LBW.

There is a prayer that like for strength in the midst of change.

"Be present, merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chance of life may find our rest in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

My advice for people going through tough times. Remember where your strength comes from. My Strength comes from the God who created Heaven and Earth. Find a Bible verse that speaks to you. Hold on to that verse and say it often. Pray. And a reminder for the rest of us. Sometimes the best advice is to just listen. No words. Let the Holy Spirit work through you.

In this month of April I encourage you to pray for our Confirmation students and Graduating Seniors. Please pray for their parents as they get ready for Confirmation and Graduation Day. Please pray for our Sunday School Students and our Youth Group as their year starts to come to a close. And please pray for our church family.

God's Strength and Peace be with you. – Pastor Randy.



Noisy Offering will be on Sunday, April 21st this month it will be donated to the local American Legion. Don't forget your loose change and dollar bills!!!!

Church Council will be on Tuesday, April 16th at 6:00 pm.

If you would like to help the quilters, they meet on Wednesdays from 1:00-2:00 pm. Please let the office or Kim Biffert know and we can get you on the phone list. We would love to have you spend a hour a week with us!!!

SMC Womens Axullinary is having their annual turkey dinner with all the trimmings on Sunday, April 7th at the Hazen City Hall starting at 11:00 am with a free will offering. All proceeds will go to the hospital to help purchase medical devices.



Heart River Cluster Spring Gathering will be on Saturday, April 20th at English Lutheran Church. Registration starts at 9:15 am with the program starting at 10:00 am. There is a \$10.00 registration fee which includes lunch.

Theme for this event is "Come Unto Me' The speaker will be Metta Pfliger assisted by Krista Olson.

The presentation will be "Focus on Caregivers of People with Dementia and Alheizmer's".

Please bring a Health or Non-Perishable food item for the local food pantry.

RSVP by April 17th to Lois Ballensky at 745-3258

All are welcome to attend.



Confirmation Schedule:
April 3rd-Class @ 3:30 pm
April 10th-Class @ 3:30 pm
April 17th-Class @ 3:30 pm
April 24th-Class @ 3:30 pm (Last one)



Confirmation Sunday

*Please join
Paige Helde,
Bennett Kilwein, and
Chris Osterman
on Sunday, May 3rd.
As they confirm their faith into
Christ.*

**Sr. Youth Group will meet on
Wednesday, April 17th at 7:00 pm.
Thank you to all of the youth that helped
load Kevins items into the u-haul we have a
great group of kids!!!!**



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Schedule:

April 7th-Sunday School @ 10:00 am
April 14th-Sunday School @ 10:00 am
April 21st-Sunday School @ 10:00 am
April 28th-No Sunday School

Christ in Our Home for April, May, and June is laying on the table in the Narthex, there is regular and large print. Help yourself to one, and if you know someone that would like one please grab one for them too.

If you have a child that would like to attend any bible camp this summer, have them write a letter on "Why they want to attend Camp" and the church will help pay for part of their fee. Leave the letter in the office or the box outside of the office door.



Birthdays

- 1-Maxine Benjamin
- 2-Gabe Pfliger
- 4-Joshua Affolter
- 6-Chris Geiger, Knox Sargent, Trajan Sinclair
- 8-Marvin Ballensky Sr, Cameron Ballensky
- 9-Lisa Ballensky
- 10-Rylee Ballensky
- 11-Chance Crowley
- 12-Bruce Beecher
- 13-Natalie Ballensky
- 15-Charlotte Zingg
- 16-Russ Walters, Mark Ballensky
- 18-Maria Unterseher, Sally Lund
- 24-Ron Crowley, Dawson Kaylor, Lincoln Hillerud
- 25-Kaydin Schmitt
- 27-Paula Straub
- 29-Declan Johansen

Baptismal Anniversaries

- 1-Paisley Unterseher
- 2-Alex Lindemann
- 4-Liz Lundstrom
- 6-Kathy Nordgren
- 7-Dustin Rothe
- 9 -Rachel Hansana, Robby Froelich
- 10-Rylee Ballensky
- 11-Bailey Walters
- 12-Bruce Beecher
- 13-Jayden Affolter
- 15-Kim Biffert, Eadie Moser
- 16-Matthew Hansana, Riley Walters
- 20-Danielle Lund, Grace Kilwein
- 21-Fredric Lundstrom
- 23-Everleigh Stroh (Kaylor)
- 28-Max Amsden, Stephanie Huber

Marriage Anniversaries

- 15-Shawn & Misty Iverson
- 26-Mylo & Robyn Dyke

Sign up sheet for April is laying on the table,
please help where you can.

Church Council Minutes

March 19, 2024

In attendance: Lily Ward, Pastor Bill Wagner, Doug Rothe, Kim Biffert, Dawn Garrett, Curtis and LaWanda Wiedrich, Pastor Randy Emgarten, Marvin Ballensky Jr., Dan Pillar via Face Time. Absent: Lora Wallender, Dan Nelson

Devotions were given by Doug Rothe.

Financial Secretary Report: Doug R. presented the report and was also sent out to council via email. Noisy Offering was \$555.92, a check has been sent to Hospice. The Mueller Scholarship CD has been moved to a different CD with a better interest rate.

Dawn G. moved to approve the February report, Second by Pastor Bill W. All voted in favor.

Treasurer Report: Kim B. sent out report via email, It was noted at the meeting that a couple different amounts didn't match with the Financial Secretary report. Kim will look into where it wasn't matching and fix the report. She will present the changes at the April meeting to the council for approval.

Doug R. voted to approve the Treasurer report, second by Marvin B. All voted in favor.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Minutes: Minutes were emailed and approved from last month meeting.
- b. Pastor's Report: Report was sent by email. Pastor Randy thanked Ron Crowley for playing on Sunday, March 17th for the worship service. Pastor Randy may be gone April 19, 20, & 21. Rhonda Helde has a design done for the t-shirts and will send it to LaWanda to see if we want any changes done to it. Thank You Rhonda for designing it. Pastor Randy suggested that we invite a member of the organization that we are doing Noisy Offering for each month to come and do a little talk about that organization if they can, so the congregation is more familiar with the group that we are supporting for the month. And what they use the offering towards.
- c. Trustees Report: Marvin B. has been meeting with different companies to get bids for shingling the church and the parsonage.
Legend Air agreement was paid for the furnace for the parsonage furnace.
Marvin B. noticed that the windows in the "choir" room were open on Sunday when he came to church, a sign will be made to remind the groups that use the room to make sure the windows are closed before they leave.
- d. Youth Group Report: Sr. Youth group have been meeting 2x a month with a great turnout, The first Wednesday is a bible study, and the third Wednesday they watch a movie. Thank You Steph for leading this.
LaWanda W. motioned to approve the reports, second by Dawn G. All voted in favor.

Unfinished Business:

- a. Insurance Claim: check was received and deposited into the building fund, have been getting bids from different companies.
- b. Church Directory: LaWanda will send information to Kandie L. from the old directory so she can start looking into different options and get some dates set up.
- c. Synod Assembly: It will be May 31-June 2 in Watford City, as of now we have no one from the congregation going from ELC. We will announce it on the projector if anyone is interested in going, please let LaWanda know, the church pays for the registration fees and the motel room. Pastor Randy will be attending it and may be gone that Sunday, if he decides to stay Saturday night, we will need pulpit fill.

New Business:

- a. Pianos at church: ELC has an abundance of pianos, it was brought to the council that Senior Suites piano isn't the best so Nancy R. asked if we could donate one of ours that we don't use if Senior Suites would like it. Marvin B motioned to approve, second by Kim B. Voted all in favor. Marvin also volunteered to move the piano over to Senior Suites for them.
Nancy R. asked the council if we could get a piano bench that is adjustable for the grand piano, at the price of around \$250.00. LaWanda W. motioned to approve, second by Kim B. Voted all in favor. Dan P. will order the bench.
- b. Outdoor Cleanup: we will wait until the weather gets nicer. And discuss it at the April meeting.
- c. Church Statistics: was sent to the synod by LaWanda.
- d. Audit of the books: Were done by Pat D. thank you to Pat for doing them for us again.

Meeting Adjourned

Next meeting will be on April 16th at 6:00 pm

Submitted by: LaWanda Wiedrich, Secretary