

LAMP

Monthly publication of the American Lutheran Church

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February Reflections: Preparing Our Hearts for Lent

As we step into February, we continue to embrace the love and light of Christ in our daily lives. Though winter still surrounds us, we find warmth in community, worship, and service. This month is a time to reflect on God's love—one that is steadfast and ever-present.

Looking ahead, the season of Lent begins in March, calling us to a time of spiritual renewal, reflection, and preparation. Lent is an opportunity to draw closer to God through prayer, fasting, and acts of service. May we use these weeks to ready our hearts for this sacred journey, walking together in faith and grace.

Let us hold one another in prayer, seeking God's guidance and strength as we prepare for the path ahead.

COUNCIL MINUTES

American Lutheran Church

Council Meeting, January 13, 2025

Vice President Maureen Even called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Present: Shirley Bergman, Cindy Gosse, Pastor Pat Mohr-Kelly, and recording Secretary Chris Waring. Absent: Barb Hayek, Mitch Hayek, & Christy Phillips.

Pastor Pat made a motion to approve the agenda with additions, seconded by Shirley Bergman, motion carried.

Shirley made a motion to transfer \$7504.04 from checking into savings, seconded by Pastor Pat, motion carried

Pastor Pat made a motion to approve the Treasurers report, seconded by Shirley Berman, motion carried.

Shirley made a motion to approve the 2025 budget, seconded by Pastor Pat, motion carried.

Shirley made a motion to approve the minutes from December Council meeting, seconded by Cindy, motion carried.

Secretary Chris Waring Report

Attended the Ecumenical meeting and it was decided to have an Ecumenical service for Good Friday at the Methodist Church, using the same format as last year. Will need 1-2 members from ALC to volunteer.

Funds for the Jesup Ministerial are running low. Cindy made a motion that Noisy offering for March and April, along with the Lent offerings to be donated to the Jesup Ministerial, seconded by Shirley, motion carried.

Chris proposed purchasing banners for the balcony for the seasons of the church. She found a site on Etsy that would custom make a set of four for approximately \$127. Cindy made a motion to order Christmas and Easter banners if the price stays the same, Shirley seconded, motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Hospitality-no report

Parish Ed and Youth- Worship Wednesday begins this week again and they will meet twice a month.

Property and Technology- Repairs at the parsonage this past month include the kitchen sink, refrigerator line leak and a leak and the bathtub. The lights around the outside of the church are now on a timer and all are in working order.

Scholarship-Application forms are now hanging on the bulletin board outside of the secretary office.

Worship and Music-Usher and Deacon responsibilities have been updated and will be in/on the usher podium. Ushers need to be 30 minutes before the service begins. Chris will email out the information to the ushers once she receives the list from Merritt Jones.

Pastors Report-Midweek services ALC Tiza Service and Zion Holden Evening Prayer, each service will have time for members to share their walk with the Lord. We will be rotating services between the two churches.

Pastors Report-continued

ALC services at 7pm, Ash Wednesday March 5th. Midweek with soup supper, 12th, 26th, Apr 9th. Maundy Thursday, April 17th. Each congregation will hold their own Maundy Thursday service with Zion early and ALC at 7pm. Good Friday ALC will be open from 12-3 for prayer and meditation. Easter Sunday 9am ALC. Youth may be having donuts and coffee before our Easter service, Cyndi Nuehring is checking into this.

December was spent getting ready for Christmas & holding Advent services.

Call Committee- MSP is active as of Monday. The two calls committees will be interviewing the candidate at the same time, not separately as in the past.

Cindy is checking into getting a grant for an AED for our congregation.

New Business:

Cindy made a motion to approve the transfer of Connie Hamilton from Zion Lutheran in Oelwein to American Lutheran, Pastor Pat seconded, motion approved.

Cindy made a motion to have Chris purchase a desk that can be adjusted from sitting to standing height as needed, Pastor Pat seconded, motion carried.

Nominations for the Annual meeting will be on a written ballot, Cindy will design for Chris to print.

Secretary one-year term: Amber Reuter.

Treasurer two-year term: Cindy Gosse

Three-year General Council: Mike Waring, Sara Borland

Two-Year General Council: Mary Adams

Made a motion to adjourn, seconded

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

College Scholarships



ALC is once again participating in the Educational Partners in Covenant (EPIC) Scholarship Program for the 2024-2025 school year. Through this program ELCA colleges, Grand View, Luther, and Wartburg, match grants from churches, dollar for dollar. ALC has allocated funds of \$600.00 for this scholarship in their annual budget. Scholarship applications are available on the bulletin board by the secretary's office. **They must be returned by April 1, 2025 to the secretary's** office to the attention of Pat Winblade, Scholarship Chairperson. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Winblade, 319-290-9281.

Iowa State Beta Sigma Psi is offering a \$2000 scholarship to three Lutheran young men who will be freshman at Iowa State during the 2025-2026 academic year. Joining Beta Sigma Psi is NOT a prerequisite to be selected. Information can be found at <http://epsilon.betasigmapsi.org/scholarship/> and also information on the bulletin board by the church office.





Special Offerings

March - April

The Noisy Offering will be designated for the Jesup Ministerial. This organization is made up of the following churches in our community: American Lutheran Church, Zion, St. Athanasius, United Methodist, First Presbyterian, and Jesup Bible Fellowship.

The Jesup Ministerial supports various programs and initiatives, including the Summer Food Program, Vacation Bible School, and Military Care Packages at Christmas. They also provide assistance with heating, rent, and gas cards. All recipients of this aid are limited to our community and are carefully screened to ensure support is provided where it is most needed.

Lent Offerings

The Lent envelopes are also designated for the Jesup Ministerial. As a point of interest, last year the Summer Food Program served 20 families. Twice a month, these families received donated dry foods and canned goods along with a \$25 gift card to purchase essentials such as milk, eggs, and bread. In total, the program provided \$3,000 in gift cards to support local families in need.

FAITH & FELLOWSHIP

Thursdays with God in February

Join us for Bible Study every Thursday at 6:30 pm, either on Zoom or in person.

Each week includes time for prayer, scripture reading, and in-depth Bible study.

Link for Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87086730130?pwd=1FPCh8x1R90XscxGbTBrMaMhdujLNU.1>

Meeting ID: 870 8673 0130 Passcode 110776

Women's Bible Study

March 6th 9am Fireside room

Worship Wednesdays

February 26th - 6:15

March 2nd Bells during 10 am Worship

March 12th, 26th 6:15

Quilting 10am

February 25th

March 11th, 25th





A Heartfelt Thank You!

We are so thankful for everyone who helped make the Valentine's Dinner on February 9th a wonderful event! Your kindness and support mean so much, and we truly appreciate this generous and caring community.

A special thanks to our amazing youth who worked hard decorating, serving, waiting tables, and cleaning up. Your energy, smiles, and willingness to help made the evening extra special! We are especially grateful to Beth Stanek, Piper and Katelyn Zelle, Kaylie, Jordyn, Brinley Bergman, Lauryn Witt, Cyndi, and Kohl Nuehring for giving their time on both Saturday and Sunday—you made a big difference!

We also want to thank everyone who provided delicious desserts and lent a helping hand in any way. Your generosity helps us continue our quilting ministry and outreach, and we couldn't do it without you.

With gratitude, ALC Quilters ♥ Mary Adams, Sheila Collins, Kaye Jones, Sharon McAtee & Iva Ruehs



Quilters in Need of Bedsheets



The Quilting Ladies are in need of gently used or new bedsheets to use as backings for their quilts. All sizes, flat or fitted, are accepted.

However, please note that we cannot use sheets with patriotic designs, camouflage, or writing.

If you have any sheets to donate, please bring them to the church. Your generosity helps us continue this meaningful ministry, and we appreciate your support!



LENT SERVICES

March 5	Ash Wednesday	7pm Service	Zion
March 12	6pm Meal	7pm Service	ALC
March 19	6pm Meal	7pm Service	Zion
March 26	6pm Meal	7pm Service	ALC
April 2	6pm Meal	7pm Service	Zion
April 9	6pm Meal	7pm Service	ALC
April 17	Maundy Thursday	5:30 Zion/7pm ALC	
April 18	Good Friday	Noon to 3 ALC open for prayer and meditation	
April 18	Good Friday	7pm Ecumenical United Methodist	
April 20	Easter	Times to be annouced	



"I love it when a whole classroom of middle schoolers run down the auditorium hallway for an LSI class shouting 'April!' with excitement, ready to learn about healthy relationship skills and self-esteem," said April Howe, a Program Supervisor for LSI's Clinical Services team.

Our LSI Clinical Services team provides various local community programs in schools across Iowa. Whether it's mental health therapy or programs providing teen pregnancy education, they all share the goal of wrapping care around adolescents at a local level.

Specifically, April and her team conduct two community programs in nine northwest Iowa counties:

Community Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention (CAPP) and Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP). CAPP supports and educates Iowa youth by providing sexual health and pregnancy prevention classes for healthy and successful relationships. PREP helps youth build social, emotional, and life skills to develop a positive sense of self and to connect with peers in their community. PREP utilizes the Teen Outreach Program and Wise Guys evidence-based curriculum.

"Thank you for teaching our class and taking time out of your day to come to our school. I learned a lot about healthy relationships and how to handle my anger and other emotions. You opened my eyes to my family's habits and what I want to take with me when I have a family of my own."

- High school student to LSI staff member

"The letters that high school students write to our staff about what they learned in class and how they will use the knowledge in their everyday life shows the programs' tremendous impact," said April. "We meet the youth where they are at, but also encourage healthy decision-making along the way, which plays a huge role in making prevention education successful."

Furthermore, April's team encourages conversation and participation by providing incentives in the classroom, such as packaged snacks and other LSI materials. "When it comes to engagement in the classroom, I always say, 'When their stomachs are full, their brains are full,'" shared April with a smile. "Some students would skip school all day, but they show up to the last class of the day, taught by LSI. That, right there, is a win for my team."

April's team has seen significant success in response to their CAPP and PREP community programs. Based on a post-program evaluation, 96% of students in the CAPP program reported that they learned "some" or "a lot" that they didn't already know about sexual health topics, and 53% agreed that they are now more likely to start conversations about these topics with others.

"Pregnancy rates have dropped over the last four years in many of our counties served, proving our services are making a difference in our communities," said April. "Reaching the youth on their level and prioritizing prevention makes our program successful."

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

February Celebrations

Birthdays

Jaylon Dahl	10th
Kyler Lysne	10th
Maisie Niichel	11th
Jeryn Loyd	13th
Kaye Reil	13th
Camden Seehase	18th
Luke Gosse	25th
Brinley Bergman	25th
Larry Phillips	27th
Angie Loyd	29th

Baptism Anniversaries

Neva Winkelpleck	2nd
Jan Rachuy	6th
Susan Emme	12th
Jordyn Bergman	15th
Steph Winkelpleck	17th
Jaima Tonne	18th
Kaye Reil	18th
Kyle Wilson	19th
Heather Bergman	23rd
Harper Westpfahl	28rd

Wedding Anniversaries

Randy and Iva Ruehs 2/14/1981

Prayers & **CONCERNS**

If you wish to be added to the prayer chain either as someone needing prayers or want to join the Prayer Warriors as ALC, please: Contact Kaye kayejns@gmail.com or the office secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org with any prayer concerns.

Continue your prayers for Stephany Winkelpleck, Wendell Erpelding, and Emilia Dahl.

Please contact Sharon McAtee at 319-827-6154 if you are in need of a Prayer shawl.

2025

MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23	24	25	Pastor: Pat Mohr-Kelly Council President: Maureen Even Secretary: Chris Waring Church Phone: 827-6626 Web Address: www.americanlutheranjesup.org Church e-mail: secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org		28	01
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
Transfiguration of our Lord 10am Worship & Communion 3rd Grader Bell Chior and Childrens Chior			Ash Wednesday service 6:15 ZION	Womens Bible Study 9am Bible Study 6:30pm ALC Fireside Room or by Zoom"		
09	10	11	12	13	14	15
1st Sunday in Lent 10am Worship & Communion	6:30pm Council Meeting	Quilting 9am	LAMP articles due Confirmands attend Lent Service 6:15 ALC Worship Wednesdays 6:15pm	Bible Study 6:30pm ALC Fireside Room or by Zoom		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
2nd Sunday in Lent 10am Worship & Communion		Prayer Shawl 10am Chris gone.....	Confirmands attend Lent Service 6:15 Zion	Bible Study 6:30pm ALC Fireside Room or by Zoom		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
3rd Sunday in Lent 10am Worship & Communion Chris gone.....		Quilting 9am	Confirmands attend Lent Service 6:15 ALC Worship Wednesdays	Bible Study 6:30pm ALC Fireside Room or by Zoom		
30						
4th Sunday in Lent 10am Worship & Communion						

Deacon Assignments for March

2nd Christy Phillips
 9th Mike Waring
 16th Cindy Gosse
 23rd Mary Adams
 30th Amber Reuter

Order Easter Lilly for Easter Sunday

If you would like to place an order for an Easter Lily in memory of a loved one, please contact Secretary Chris Waring at secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org or place a note in the offering. The cost is \$10 per plant. All orders must be received by March 30th.