

THE LAMP

A Monthly Publication of American Lutheran Church

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



2021 DECEMBER

SUNDAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	01	02	03	04
			5:30pm Advent Service at Jubilee 7pm Confirmation	9:30am Women's Bible Study	1:30-3pm Pastor's Office Hours@ALC	
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
Second Sunday of Advent 8:30am Worship with Bishop Kevin Jones and Communion Sunday School Rehearsal for Children's Christmas Program to follow		10 am- 12pm Prayer Shawl	5:30pm Advent Service at Jubilee 6:30pm Sunday School Rehearsal for Children's Christmas Program 7pm Confirmation		1:30-3pm Pastor's Office Hours@ALC	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Third Sunday of Advent 8:30am Worship with Children's Sunday School Christmas Program Fellowship to follow	6:30pm Council Meeting	10 am- 12pm Prayer Shawl	5:30pm Advent Service at Jubilee 7pm Confirmation		1:30-3pm Pastor's Office Hours@ALC	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Fourth Sunday of Advent 8:30am Worship with and Communion		10 am- 12pm Prayer Shawl 7:00pm Blue Christmas Service at FPC in Jesup	5:30pm Advent Service at Jubilee		4:30pm Christmas Eve service at ALC 7:00pm Christmas Eve service at Jubilee	9:00am Christmas Day service at Jubilee
26	27	28	29	30	31	01
8:30am worship-- Lessons and Carols (Pastor on vacation)		10 am- 12pm Prayer Shawl			Office Closed	

<p>Readers</p> <p>December 5th: Sue Hoey December 12th: Mike Waring December 19th: TBD December 24th: Maureen Even December 26th: Maureen Even</p>	<p>Ushers</p> <p>Randy and Iva Ruehs Borland Family</p>
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LAMP NEWSLETTER



LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

2021 EDITION ISSUE 504

Dear friends in Christ,

I'm currently reading a book called *The Gravity of Joy: A Story of Being Lost and Found*, by Angela Williams Gorrell. In this book, Dr. Gorrell writes about how she got a job at Yale where she was supposed to research the topic of joy, and teach a course called Life Worth Living. However, in the 4 weeks before her course started, 3 different members of her family died tragic, unexpected deaths. The book is the story of how she worked through the grief of these losses and how joy found her again.

In one chapter, she references the 3rd chapter of the Old Testament book Ezra. She points out that Ezra is not typically anybody's go-to book if they're reading the Bible— Ezra is a book about the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem. Prior to the events of Ezra, the Israelites had been living in the Promised Land and worshipping God in the temple— but then they were conquered by the Babylonians, who destroyed their temple, captured them, and took them away to live in exile.

But then Babylon was conquered by the Persians, and the Israelites were allowed to return to their land. The book of Ezra details this homecoming, and describes the rebuilding of the temple, and how the people reacted:

“And all the people responded with a great shout when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. But many of the priests and Levites and heads of families, old people who had seen the first house on its foundations, wept with a loud voice when they saw this house, though many shouted aloud for joy, so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people's weeping, for the people shouted so loudly that the sound was heard far away.” Ezra 3:11-13

Dr. Gorrell found this image to be extremely powerful-- the joyful shouting mingling with the loud weeping, joy and sorrow both together.

I, too, am struck by this image, by how it feels so appropriate for our current time, as we navigate a pandemic and try to figure out our new normal, to feel multiple feelings at the same time. Joy and sorrow mixed together, hope for what might come and grief for what has been lost.

As we enter the season of Advent and prepare for Christmas, we will likely be reminded that this season has been called the most wonderful time of the year. And for some it is. But for some it is not. And most of us will likely feel a mix of joy and sorrow, a mix of grief and hope. But however we feel, we know that Jesus comes to us.

Christ's peace, Pastor Kristen

Treasurer's Report

		10/31/2021	9/30/2021	8/31/2021
CHECKING ACCOUNT				
Beginning balance 10/01/2021		\$13,258.77	\$10,604.22	\$9,616.76
Receipts				
Deposits		\$14,323.30	\$12,336.83	\$11,994.04
Transfer from Improvement		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transfer from Memorial		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transfer from Community Meal Fund		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transfer from Youth Ministry		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transfer from Benevolence		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transfer from Line of Credit-Current Fund		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transfer from Line of Credit-Improvement Fund		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Sub Total	\$27,582.07	\$22,941.05	\$21,610.80
Expenditures				
Checks		\$11,743.06	\$4,936.81	\$6,218.72
EFT payments		\$4,188.42	\$4,195.47	\$4,222.86
Transfer out for Simply Giving		\$440.00	\$550.00	\$515.00
Transfer to Memorial Fund		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transfer to Improvement Fund		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transfer to Benevolence		\$50.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
Sabbatical Set Aside		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pay to Line of Credit-Current Fund		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pay to Line of Credit-Improvement Fund		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Sub Total	\$16,421.48	\$9,682.28	\$11,006.58
Ending Balance 10/31/2021		\$11,160.59	\$13,258.77	\$10,604.22
ACCOUNT BALANCES				
Improvement Fund		\$28,501.26	\$28,111.26	\$27,637.81
Memorial Fund		\$8,860.24	\$8,860.24	\$8,859.12
	Designated to Other Programs	\$7,830.57		
	Undesignated Funds	\$1,029.67		
Community Meal Fund		\$427.63	\$427.63	\$427.58
Youth Ministry		\$6,316.84	\$6,316.84	\$6,179.99
Sabbatical Set Aside		\$3,608.38	\$3,608.38	\$3,607.93
Checking Account		\$11,160.59	\$13,258.77	\$10,604.22
Total		\$58,874.94	\$60,583.12	\$57,316.65
Banklwa Line of Credit - Current Fund		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Banklwa Line of Credit - Improvement Fund		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total		\$58,874.94	\$60,583.12	\$57,316.65

**American Lutheran Church
October Council Meeting
October 11, 2021**

President Maureen Even called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were Pastor Kristen Corr Rod, Maureen Even, Mike Waring, Shirley Bergman, Sue Hoey, Christa Leach, Beth Stanek, Loren Corkery, and Sheila Collins.

Secretary's Report – Mike Waring made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 13, 2021 council meeting. Second by Christa Leach. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – The checking account balance at the end of September was \$13,258.77. This number is inflated this month due to the changeover in payroll services to the CPA. Beth Stanek made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Second by Sheila Collins. Motion carried. Pastor Kristen will call Augsburg Fortress Publishing to change our order on church music to reduce the cost. We will need to have a joint council meeting with Jubilee to discuss Pastor's pay package for next year.

Committee Reports Note: Full committee reports are available in a binder outside the church secretary's office.

Abundant Life – No report.

Scholarship – No report.

Memorial – No report.

Hospitality – Once per month there will be a "Donut Sunday" for fellowship. Any birthdays for the month will be celebrated.

Parish Ed – Intergenerational Sunday School completed 42 backpacks for the LWR school kit project.

They have also made cards for shut ins. Upcoming plans will focus on preparation for the Christmas program, tentatively set for December 12.

Presidents – No concerns. Councils are working on fair rotation of summer worship hours.

Property – John Kies will begin installing the church basement windows on October 12. Tim Davis will weed and feed the parsonage and church lawn October 12. The parking lot lines have been repainted. The outside announcement board will be updated. The smoke alarm batteries will be changed this fall. The parsonage walk through inspection will be October 17.

Technology – Research on improving the sound system continues. It was noted that the assistive listening devices need to work with any new equipment.

Worship and Music – Hymns will be chosen later this month for November, December, and January. If you have any ideas for contemporary worship services, please let any committee member know (Shirley Bergman, Joellen Yeager, Mary Adams).

Youth – Positive sidewalk chalk messages in town were created during the September 22 gathering. The next gathering will be October 24 with a bonfire and dinner. Plans are being made for an inner-city mission trip to Milwaukee next summer. Fundraising will continue for attendance at the ELCA National Youth Gathering in 2024.

Pastor's Report –

In the last month:

2 home communion visits (Jubilee folks)

2 non-communion visits (Jubilee folks)

1 funeral, Dawn Fratzke, 9/25/2021 at Jubilee

Some people still don't feel comfortable yet receiving visits, but I have been in contact with a few folks about creating a schedule/rotation for the home communion folks from both ALC & Jubilee to make sure that all the folks who want communion visits are able to have them on a fairly regular basis, whether that is from me or from lay people.

I attended the Tri Synodical Fall Conference, which was held over Zoom this year. The topic was Leading in Difficult Times, and we heard speakers talk about using the book of Acts to spark our holy imaginations about what Christian community can look like, and about being non-anxious leaders during anxious times. It was excellent!

I attended a class over Zoom about a book called Canoeing the Mountains-- Leadership in Uncharted Territory. This is part of the Moses Project, a continuing education group I am a part of. We met in person in August and will continue to meet monthly over Zoom to discuss books we are reading together.

I attended a Zoom presentation by Dr. Michael Osterholm, who is an infectious disease expert at the University of MN, about the Covid-19 pandemic and churches.

I attended a board meeting for the Independence Food Pantry. The Pantry currently has extra money due to grants received as part of pandemic relief funds, so we are trying to figure out how we can invest the money while still having access to it if needed. We are considering using some of it to create an endowment fund and are researching options for how to do that.

Confirmation class has started at ALC so that is keeping me busy on Wednesday nights. There are 5 9th graders who will be confirmed on Reformation Day, Oct 31.

The Jesup Ministerial Association is going to work on creating written policies regarding the Jesup Ministerial Fund, which provides assistance for folks in our community. We realized that we didn't have written policies

regarding who can receive assistance, how often, how much, or what the assistance can be used for. (We have policies that have been passed along by word of mouth, but we want something written.)

The Ministerial Association also scheduled the annual joint Thanksgiving service. This will be held on Sunday, Nov 21 at 4:30pm at the United Methodist Church. Depending on the Covid numbers at the time, there may or may not be a potluck afterward, and we will try to have an online option for folks who don't feel comfortable attending.

New Business

Sue Hoey made a motion to designate the Thanksgiving offering to Lutheran Services in Iowa. Second by Shirley Bergman. Motion carried.

The executive council will meet with Pastor Kristen for annual review on October 31, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Old Business

Calls will be made to get bids for parking lot snow removal this winter.

Shirley Bergman made a motion to accept Katey Niichel, Christy Phillips, and Crystal Lysne as Parish Ed committee members. Second by Mike Waring. Motion carried.

Correspondence – none.

Deacon Assignments for November

7 – Mike Waring
Reader: Sheila Collins
14 – Mike Waring
21 – Sue Hoey
28 – Maureen Even

Mike Waring made a motion to adjourn. Second by Christa Leach. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Collins,
Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship time change: December 5-February 27 worship will be at **8:30 AM**.

Christmas gifts for Bremwood Residential Treatment Center: The staff and residents at Waverly appreciate ALC's continued support. Bremwood counselors will again do the shopping this year using our donations of **Walmart gift cards. Donated board games and PG rated DVDs (teen level)** are also welcome gifts, as they provide needed entertainment during the winter months. Donations may be placed by the small Christmas tree in the narthex until December 12. (Money donations through the church designated for Bremwood will be used to buy gift cards.) Call Mary Adams at 827-3365 or (319) 269-3478 with questions. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Advent resources from ELCA World Hunger: The season of Advent begins on November 28. Advent calendars and study guides from ELCA World Hunger are available in the narthex.

ALC Committees: Council will be looking to fill committee openings for 2022. Please consider sharing your time and talents as we try to establish a three-year rotation. We currently have openings on Property and Hospitality.

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief: Will be taking the month of December off. Join us every second and fourth Monday to help cut, pin, sew, iron, or tie quilts. If you are interested in this ministry, please talk to Sharon McAtee, Kaye Jones, or Mary Adams. Our next work day is January 10, 2022 at 1:00 PM. We welcome all eager helpers!

Sheets for Quilting needed: We have a good start on quilts to be sent in the spring but we are in need of sheets or large pieces of material for quilt backs. You may put them in the back pew. Thanks for your help.

Thank you from the NE IA Synodical Women's Organization: Thank you, I am sending you all an awesome thank you! Each year you bless thousands of families with quilts and kids and here are your totals for the Northeast IA Synod. Quilts- **4536**, Baby-**893**, School- **4399**, Personal- **1976**, Fabric- **105**, blankets-**65**. Thank you and all your awesome gals, Jesus loves you! *Lea Norlinger, Mason City, IA (NE IA SWO board & LWR Contact)*

Noisy Offering for ELCA World Hunger: Start saving up your change! We will be doing a Noisy Offering for ELCA World Hunger on **Sunday, Dec 5**, when Bishop Kevin joins us for worship!

Caring Bridge posts for Stephanie Witt Winkelpleck can be accessed from this link <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/stephaniewittwinkelpleck>. Steph has been diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia. Thanks for your continued prayers and support.



Mobile Giving App If you give your regular contributions using Give Plus App, we have been notified that they will stop supporting the Give Plus app as of January 31, 2022. You should download the new app called Vanco Mobile to continue using. Note: your username and password will remain the same, and

any recurring payments you have scheduled will continue in the new app. **If you do not currently have anything setup, now is a great time to download the Vanco Mobile app and start your recurring giving today.**

Advent Retreat: "The Patience of Mary - Letting go of what is, To welcome what is to come", **December 10-12, 2021**, at the Shalom Spirituality Center in Dubuque. You are invited to this opportunity sponsored by Contemplative Outreach Northeast Iowa. For further information contact CONElowa@gmail.com.

EVENTS

Christmas Services:

4:30pm Christmas Eve Service- ALC

7:00pm Christmas Eve Service- Jubilee

9:00am Christmas Day Service- Jubilee

Welcome to Bishop Kevin: Our newly installed bishop of the NE Iowa Synod will preach on Sunday, Dec 5. Please join us!

Advent services at Jubilee: Zion Jubilee Lutheran Church will be holding Wednesday evening Advent services at **5:30pm on Dec 1, 8, 15, and 22.** Folks from ALC are invited to attend.

ALC Bible study: Join us at 9:30 on December 2 for our final study of Anna, Mary, and Elizabeth in The Women of Christmas, by Liz Curtis Higgs. Please come with ideas to discuss after the New Year.

The 7th Annual Community Christmas: will be hosted by the Dunkerton Community Hall Board Members on Sunday, December 5th. Soup & Santa from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Fun activities will be provided for the children. At 6:00 join us for the Christmas Tree Lighting and caroling at the Gazebo. A free will donation will be taken. We will be collecting donations of non-perishable food items, as well a toilet paper and laundry soap, for the local Dunkerton Food Bank at the Baptist Church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Military members: Jordan and Justin are at the 185th Air Refueling Wing in Sioux City, IA. Please contact the church office to add other names who serve. We'd like to remember them in our prayers. *If you know of anyone else serving in the armed forces, please contact the church office* (secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org) or (827-6626). *We'd like to remember them in our prayers.*

****Pastoral Care:** Pastor Kristen is available for pastoral care by phone at 563-212-1366.

Pastoral Office Hours: Fridays 1:30-3pm (except the first week in November, they will be held on Thursday instead).



Celebrations

December Birthdays

Marcia Anderson	12/1	Stephanie Yonkovic	12/14	Harper Fox	12/24
Caroline Rod	12/1	Colin Schares	12/15	Tammy Myers	12/24
Shane Witt	12/4	Lori Mattson	12/17	Jillian Schares	12/24
Kaye Jones	12/5	Angie Maus	12/17	Elwood Sapp	12/25
Rachel Menuey	12/5	Mike Schares	12/17	Madison Ruckdaschel	12/26
Danny Kopplin	12/7	Susan Emme	12/18	Timothy Anderson	12/28
Braylen Seehase	12/8	Jodi West	12/20	Andy Dalziel	12/28
Elston Goodenbour	12/9	Ava Anderson	12/21	Cindy Kayser	12/28
Carrie May	12/9	Sarah Maeder	12/21	Brady Mattson	12/28
Michael Mostek Jr.	12/9	Marki Smith	12/21	Amanda Phillips	12/29
Kyle Nuehring	12/9	Tracy Versluis	12/21	Jaima Tonne	12/30
Christina Conner	12/12	Steph Winkelpleck	12/21	Merry Backes	12/31
Lynette Renner	12/12	Ryan Becker	12/22	Michael May	12/31
Marcia Riggs	12/12	Christy Phillips	12/22	Erica Soppe	12/31
Gert Franti	12/14	Scott Riggs	12/22		

December Baptisms

Jaymn Loyd	12/3	Marilyn Peterson	12/15	Autumn Rolison	12/24
Jonathan Rose	12/3	Heath Wyant	12/15	Alexander Swanson	12/24
Sue Hoey	12/4	Wayne Venem	12/16	Barb Hayek	12/25
Braden Simmons	12/5	Brad Schmit	12/18	Darren Engbretson	12/26
Connie Jones	12/6	Brady Mattson	12/19	Cody Haack	12/26
Peggy Shaffer	12/8	Amanda Ruehs	12/20	Judy Anderson	12/27
Grace Thompson	12/8	Todd Westpfahl	12/20	Merritt Jones	12/27
Derek Bate	12/9	Katrina Bowers	12/21	Brett Waring	12/27
Brandon Clayton	12/9	Stella Distler	12/23	Justin McLeod	12/29
Charles Clayton II	12/10	Chad Frahm	12/23	Ryan Wilson	12/29
Michael Menuey Jr.	12/10	Quinn Johnson	12/23	Gene Waring	12/30
Michelle Krivanek	12/11	Marcia Riggs	12/23	Sarah Maeder	12/31
Elwood Sapp	12/12	Kelly Seehase	12/23		
Robert Clayton I	12/14	Alexis Smith	12/23		

December Wedding Anniversaries

Shane & Brea Witt	12/12/2009	12
Larry & Dorothy Thompson	12/21/1969	52
Wendell & Neva Erpelding	12/27/1955	66