

LAMP

Monthly publication of the American Lutheran Church

Pastor: Susan Friedrich
Council President: Maureen Even
Secretary: Chris Waring
Church Phone: 827-6626
Web Address: www.americanlutheranjesup.org
Church e-mail: secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org



God's Word, Our Story

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” —Psalm 119:105 (NRSV)

God's Word is a precious gift that brings us together as a church and guides our lives of faith. Martin Luther taught that we recognize the church wherever God's Word is preached, believed, confessed, and lived out. Scripture shapes our worship, inspires our songs, gives words to our prayers, and helps us make sense of the world around us.

God's Word invites all of us to discover that God's story is also our story. Through reading, reflection, and conversation with one another, we grow in faith and learn to recognize God's presence in our everyday lives. May we continue to open our Bibles, our hearts, and our lives to the living Word of God.

COUNCIL MINUTES

American Lutheran Church August Council Meeting August 10, 2026

President Maureen Even called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm. Present were Maureen Even, Pastor Susan Friedrich, Mike Waring, Mary Adams, Connie Hamilton. Sara Borland, Cindy Gosse, Christy Phillips, and Sheila Collins were absent.

Pastor Susan led devotions and prayer.

Mike made a motion to approve the agenda. Second by Mary. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – The checking account balance at the end of July was \$3,493.83. Connie made a motion to receive the Treasurer's Report as presented. Second by Mary. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report – Mike made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2026 Council Meeting with two corrections. Second by Connie. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Hospitality – Fellowship hostesses for the remaining Sundays in August are filled.

Parish Ed/Youth – Wednesday Worship begins September 9. A new curriculum is being ordered. It is okay with council to make space in the basement fellowship area for activities. A suggestion has been made to plan an inter-generational celebration.

Pastor Susan suggests we think about changing the name "Wednesday Worship" to better communicate what it's about.

Pastor Susan plans to send invitations for confirmation and to meet with families.

The Lunch in the Park youth fundraiser was well attended.

Scholarship – An announcement will be placed in the bulletin looking for a new committee member.

Property/Technology – Of five bids requested, three were received to complete concrete repair around the bell tower and to remove the east side steps and sidewalk. Mike Waring made a motion to accept the lowest bid from Kite Construction of \$1,882.00. Second by Connie. Motion carried, subject to congregational approval.

A replacement pump for the air conditioner unit in the fireside room will be installed soon. It is under warranty.

Worship and Music – We currently have three adult accompanists and one high school student. To form a commitment to meet our accompanist needs, Pastor Susan and Shirley Bergman will meet with the three adults to determine if one of them would like to assume a lead position. If not, possibly a team effort would suffice.

Courtney Frush tuned the piano in the balcony. She found a crack in the soundboard that needs watching.

Shirley Bergman has resigned as head organist. She will continue serving on the worship and music committee and will be helping to make arrangements for special music.

A back-to-school blessing that includes anyone involved in the school system will be planned for the August 23 service

Call Committee – No report.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Susan's activities in the past month include:

- Committee meetings
- VBS attendance
- Visitation for shut ins
- Jubilee Conference meeting
- Fall planning – Confirmation, etc.
- Worship planning
- Family concerns

New Business

Pastor Susan's vacation is November 23-29.

Pastor Susan's Sundays off are August 30, September 20, October 18, November 22, and December 27.

Supply Pastors have been scheduled or are being sought for these dates.

Shirley Bergman has submitted her resignation as head organist. Recognition for her many years of service and dedication to ALC is being planned.

God's Work Our Hands: Sara has presented some options for a project. Council discussed the possibility of involving the youth in preparing and serving a meal to the residents of House of Hope.

Old Business

Mike Waring made a motion to ratify the approval of the bid from Coffin Weed Control for church and parsonage lawn maintenance (spraying and fertilizing in spring and fall). Second by Mary. Motion carried.

Mary made a motion to ratify the electronic vote to hold a special congregational meeting on August 23. Second by Connie. Motion carried.

Correspondence

ELCA World Hunger appeal.

Deacon Assignments for September

6 – Mary Adams

13 – Maureen Even

20 – Mike Waring

27 – Connie Hamilton

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Mike made a motion to adjourn. Second by Mary. The meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.

Note upcoming Events:

September 12 – Royal Family Kids Camp event at Sumner American Legion at 6:00 pm.

This is a fundraiser with a meal and auction.

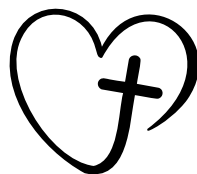
September 14 – Council Meeting at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by recording,

Sheila Collins,

Secretary

From Pastor Susan...



“This tall, tall creature is called a giraffe! The silly one with a long nose – she will be an elephant! And this one who wags his tail will be a dog,” Adam said. “Look how he follows me wherever I go!”

We have all sorts of Bibles! There are Bibles for babies and toddlers with thick, sturdy pages. When they get a little older, we have the Spark Story Bible that has bright, colorful drawings accompanying 150 stories from both the Old and New Testaments.

Our 3rd graders get to begin using the Spark New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (the NRSVue), a children’s study Bible, that includes the entire Old and New Testaments with added background information and fun biblical facts.

There are Bibles for those who are beginning confirmation instruction. We have given our confirmation students the Lutheran Study Bible, also in the NRSVue translation, a study Bible that can be a life-long companion.

Martin Luther wrote that the word of God is the primary mark of the church. It is, “the high, chief, holy possession.” Wherever the word is “preached, believed, confessed, and acted on,” Luther wrote, we should not doubt that the true church is there.[1] If you had to pick only one sign by which you would recognize the church, it would be the word of God. The reason we have so many Bibles to give to our youth is because God’s word is such an important gift from God. We want to immerse ourselves in this word so much that we not only know what is to be found there, but that we also see ourselves as part of God’s ongoing story with people of faith. In scripture we find both language and images that shape both our worship and our prayer. Scripture is in the hymns and songs of our worship; it gives life to our liturgy.

Another important role that scripture has in our lives is to provide us the stories through which we perceive and make sense of the world. Narratives are the stories we live by that are needed connect the dots in what we see happening around us. These stories train our imagination to see certain things and to ignore others, shaping how we understand what happens. An accurate understanding of the Bible’s narrative comes through reading it and talking about it with other Christians. Not all of what we hear about God is from the Bible, but if we don’t know the Biblical narrative we won’t know the difference. Many, for example, imagine that God is an all-powerful, but mostly distant figure who will someday judge us and – we hope – will someday welcome us to heaven where we’ll live forever as spiritual beings who no longer have to deal with the troubles of this world.

But the Bible doesn’t confirm that narrative!

Instead, the Bible’s narrative is that God is with us as “Emmanuel,” (*Matthew 1:23; 28:20*) and that God’s power heals, reconciles, and gathers people together. God is not going to rescue us from earth

Instead, the Bible's narrative is that God is with us as "Emmanuel," (*Matthew 1:23; 28:20*) and that God's power heals, reconciles, and gathers people together. God is not going to rescue us from earth someday by just taking us away to heaven but is actively working through Christ and his followers to reconcile and restore the whole world, earth and heaven, to what God originally intended (*2 Corinthians 5:17-19, Isaiah 43:18-21; Revelation 21:1-5*).

As we continue to read and study the narrative of scripture, we become better equipped to engage these stories and recognize our own place in God's story. The development of our biblical imaginations trains us to be better interpreters of our world and how God is at work in it (*Matthew 13:10-17*). It is a lifelong process – not only for children and youth, but for all ages.

Working Together with You to Connect God's Dots,

Pastor Susan

Pastor Susan Friedrich

P.S. If you would like to buy your own copy of the Lutheran Study Bible or any of the other mentioned, talk to me!

[1]Martin Luther, *On Councils and the Church* (1539) in *Works of Martin Luther, The Philadelphia Edition*, vol 5, (Philadelphia: Muhlenberg Press, 1931) 270, 271.



**Communion Class
All Ages Welcome!**

Join us for a Communion class from 9–11 a.m. on October 12th. Everyone is welcome, whether you currently receive Communion or are preparing to begin. Parents are encouraged to attend, too! Come learn more about this gift of God's grace.

Pre-registration is requested.

email:

secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org





Worship Wednesday Returns September 9!

Worship Wednesday begins September 9, 2026, from 6:00–7:00 p.m.!

Join us for a fun-filled hour of music, Bible lessons, crafts, snacks, and games as we learn and grow together in God's love.

Invite a friend to come along! Worship Wednesday is a wonderful opportunity to welcome others, make new friends, and share God's love with one another.

Upcoming Lessons:

- Sept. 9 – The Unforgiving Servant
- Sept. 16 – The Laborers in the Vineyard
- Sept. 23 – Authority and Actions
- Sept. 30 – Jesus the Cornerstone
- Oct. 7 – The Parable of the Wedding Banquet
- Oct. 14 – A Trick Question About Allegiance
- Oct. 21 – The Greatest Commandment
- Oct. 28 – The Beatitudes
- Nov. 4 – Christmas Program Practice Begins



Come join the fun—and bring a friend! Everyone is welcome!



Confirmation
students
receiving
Bibles



Military Members



Christa Leach has been called to active duty with the 434th Air Force Reserve Unit in Grissom, Indiana. Jordan and Justin are still members of the 185th Air Refueling Wing in Sioux City. Jeryn Loyd is stationed at Fort Knox and in the Army Reserves Cassidee is stationed in Iowa City and Cole is currently home. Cody Clayton is back from Fort Benning, Georgia Basic Training and will report to Dubuque. Karsten Nuehring is currently at Fort Lee in Virginia for his AIT training

Please contact the church office to add other names who serve. We remember them in our prayers.



Soles4Souls — We Reached Our Goal!

Thanks to your generosity, we have reached our goal of collecting 10,000 pairs of shoes! Thank you to everyone who donated and helped make this possible. We are now working with Soles4Souls to receive 100 free pairs of shoes for people in need in our community. This process can take up to six months. We look forward to sharing updates as we move ahead! We are still collecting shoes!!

Mike & Chris Waring



God's Work. Our Hands. Serving House of Hope

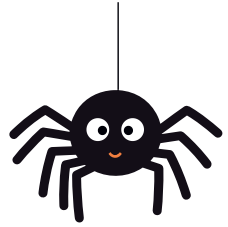
On Wednesday, October 7, we will prepare and serve dinner for the moms and children at House of Hope in Waterloo.

Thank you to everyone who has already signed up to prepare the food! We still have two openings to help deliver and serve the meal. Volunteers will meet at church at 4:15 p.m. to load the food and supplies, then travel to House of Hope. Dinner will be served at 5:15 p.m., with cleanup and return to church afterward.

People of all ages are welcome to serve together. Please contact the church office if you would like one of the two remaining spots.



OCTOBER Celebrations



Birthdays

Hunter Weber	8-Oct
Sue Rigdon	9-Oct
Joe Kopplin	14-Oct
Joellen Yeager	14-Oct
Neva Winkelpleck	16-Oct
Danni Kopplin	17-Oct
Kash Niichel	19-Oct
Linda Anfinson	20-Oct
Connie Hamilton	25-Oct
Jaymn Loyd	26-Oct
Amber Reuter	26-Oct

Baptism Anniversaries

Mike Mostek	1-Oct
Tom Hoey	3-Oct
Teresa Merkel	11-Oct
Dave Wyant	12-Oct
Maxwell Kopplin	17-Oct
Joyce Becker	19-Oct
Nikki Hemmer	19-Oct
Joe Kopplin	19-Oct
Elaina Clark	20-Oct
Carmen McAtee	24-Oct
Missy Weber	29-Oct

Wedding Anniversaries

Steffen and Jade Hoey 10/8/2022



Congrats to Amber and Sam Reuter on the birth of thier daughter, Emmalee Grace



Prayers

Remember our members and friends in your prayers: Wendel, Shirley, Sharon, Jeanne, Lori, Joyce, Kaye, Marie the family of Randy Frush

Prayer Chain: Contact Kaye Jones kayejns@gmail.com or the office-secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org

2026

OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pastor: Rev. Susan Friedrich Council President: Maureen Even Secretary: Chris Waring Church Phone: 827-6626 Web Address: www.americanlutheranjesup.org		29	30	01	02	03
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
19TH Sunday after Pentecost 9am Worship Communion		9am Quilters	2:30pm Confirmation 4:15pm Deliver meal to House of Hope 6pm Worship Wednesday			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
20TH Sunday after Pentecost 9am Worship & Communion	6:30 Council Meeting		6pm Worship Wednesday 6pm Confirmation LAMP Articles Due			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
21ST Sunday after Pentecost 9am Worship & Communion		9am Quilters	6pm Worship Wednesday gone Chris			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Reformation Sunday 9am Worship & Communion			6pm Worship Wednesday 6pm Confirmation			

CONNECTIONS

Stay Connected with ALC! Visit our website and Social media to keep up with everything happening in our church family. You'll find meeting minutes, the LAMP newsletter, our calendar, and much more—all in one place!

<http://www.americanlutheranjesup.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/alcjesup//>



October Deacons/Readers

Oct 4 D- Mike Waring R-Jaidyn Wright

Oct 11 Mary Adams

Oct 18 Connie Hamilton

Oct 25 Shiela Collins Camera - Jaidyn Wright