

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



“The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.”
Psalm 121:8

As summer winds down and we move into the busy days of fall,

Psalm 121 reminds us that God goes with us wherever we go.

Whether heading back to school, returning to routines, traveling, or beginning something new, we do not go alone.

As you read through this issue of the LAMP, we invite you to find ways to worship, serve, connect, and share God’s love with others.

May we enter this new season knowing that God is with us—in our going out and our coming in.

COUNCIL MINUTES

American Lutheran Church
July Council Meeting
July 13, 2026



The meeting was called to order at 6:26 pm by President Maureen Even. Present were Maureen Even, Pastor Susan Friedrich, Christy Phillips, Connie Hamilton, Mike Waring, Cindy Gosse, Sara Borland, and Sheila Collins. Mary Adams was absent.

Pastor Susan led devotions. The topic was grief. She concluded with prayer and a song from All Creation Sings.

Sara made a motion to approve the agenda. Second by Connie. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – The checking account balance at the end of June was \$12,030.06. No transfer will be made to the general savings and emergency fund due to an upcoming property insurance payment. Sara made a motion to receive the Treasurer's Report as presented. Second by Sheila. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report – Cindy made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2026 Council meeting with two editions. Second by Connie. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Hospitality – Gifts were provided for Father's Day Sunday, June 21. Fellowship volunteers are needed.

Parish Ed/Youth – Vacation Bible School will be August 9-13. Beth Stanek volunteered to help with Worship Wednesdays. More help is still needed. A planning meeting for Worship Wednesdays is set for August 5.

Property – Future expenditures:

#1 Flooring bids for the parsonage were sought from Home Indeed and McGraws, both in Independence. Cindy made a motion to accept the lesser bid of \$6,364.00 from McGraws for luxury vinyl flooring in the living room and hallway and carpet in three bedrooms. Second by Sara. Motion carried.

#2 Mike will get estimates for repair/replacement of concrete around the bell tower and damage on the east side steps. When Council has approved a bid on the concrete work, we will try to set a date for a congregational meeting to confirm both proposals together.

The noise in the AC unit in the Fellowship room is due to a pump that runs when there is high humidity. We are still in need of some bookshelves for Pastor Susan's use at the parsonage.

Scholarship – No report.

Worship and Music – The Committee met June 19. Topics discussed included sourcing musicians and searching for available organ lessons for any musicians that might be interested in learning. The Committee will now focus on general worship planning and future planning for "Holy Experiments," as we look for new ways to enrich worship under Pastor Susan's guidance. Pastor Susan will be doing music selection for worship. Hymns from All Creation Sings will continue to be integrated into worship services.

Call Committee - The new Ministry Site Profile has been sent to the NEIA Synod and is waiting for approval. Committee Chairman Amanda Phillips has submitted congregational references to the Synod so they can complete an e-form using MSP account login information.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Susan's activities include:

- Getting Sunday worship services worked out.
- Met with ministerial staff for July 5 ecumenical service in the park.
- Planning VBS.
- Met with Worship and Music Committee.
- Went to Winding Creek Meadows with Mary Adams for devotions and Holy Communion.
- Home visits.
- Colleague group meeting.
- Acting NEIA Synod Council Secretary.

NEW BUSINESS

Pastor Susan's Vacation will be November 23 - November 29. Sundays she has scheduled off are July 26, August 30, September 20, and November 29. She will soon schedule Sundays off for October and December. Supply Pastors have been found or are being sought for these dates.

Leader's List – Updates have been made and there are opportunities for new committee members.

Communion for Shut Ins – Connie Hamilton volunteered to be trained in communion distribution for shut ins.

God's Work Our Hands, September 13 – Sara volunteered to consolidate ideas for this project. If we want T-shirts, the order needs to be placed by August 20 for arrival by September 13.

Giving Statements – Will be sent out at $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ year increments accompanied by a letter from Pastor Susan.

EWALU – A matching fund challenge from Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids has been issued to congregations for completion of EWALU's Cedar Lodge Project up to \$50,000.00. Cindy made a motion to designate the Noisy Offering from July 19 through September 15 to this challenge. Second by Sara. Motion carried.

Property Insurance – Property insurance through MGT Insurance Co. has gone up by \$2,255.00 this year to \$8,974.00 annually. Church Mutual Insurance Co. is slightly less, but the coverage is not as good. Connie made a motion to stay with MGT insurance Co. Second by Sheila. Motion carried.

Accompanist Pay Evaluation – We will stay at \$100.00 per worship service. We feel we are currently at the high end of the salary scale for a small congregation.

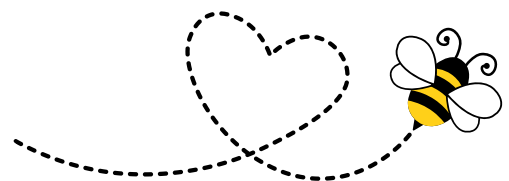
Old Business

Lawn Care – Coffin Weed Control of Jesup will be doing lawn maintenance (spraying and fertilizing) for the church and parsonage.

Pastor's office – A different desk is needed.

Correspondence

- EWALU – Matching Fund Challenge (see above)
- Graduation Thank You from Piper Zelle
- ELCA – Appeal for donations for various ministries
- C.V. Hospice – Appeal for donation



Deacon Assignments for August

2 Sara Borland

9 Connie Hamilton

16 Maureen Even

23 Sheila Collins

30

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Sara made a motion to adjourn. Second by Cindy. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Note Upcoming Events:

August 6 - Youth will be providing Lunch in the Park as a fundraiser

August 10 - Council Meeting at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Collins,
Secretary

Special Congregational Meeting

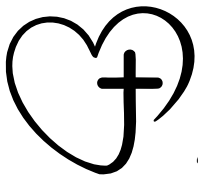
A Special Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, August 23, following the 9:00 a.m. worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and vote on flooring improvements for the parsonage and concrete work needed on the east side of the church. A quorum of 25 voting members is required to hold the meeting. Voting members are confirmed members who have communed and made a contribution of record to this congregation one time within the last 2 years.

Back to School Blessing on August 23

As a new school year begins, we invite all who are returning to school to receive a special Back-to-School Blessing on August 23rd. Students, teachers, school staff, administrators, custodians, bus drivers, aides, cooks, and everyone who helps our schools thrive are invited to be part of this special blessing.

Join us as we pray for a safe, successful, and joy-filled school year for all!





From Pastor Susan...

“The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forever more.”

Psalm 121:18

Even as we enjoy the delights of summer, the month of August beckons us to begin the transition to fall. Change is in the air. School begins (in Jesup on August 24!), and a new rhythm begins for families with students of any age.

Transitions are marked with both beginnings and endings.
They involve both anticipation and loss.

Transitions are a time for blessings.

For many young people, beginning school at college this fall (or serving in the military or beginning a fulltime job) also means leaving home. For high school graduates, this is often the first experience for both child and parent to be separated for such an extended period of time. This might be the last time the child will live in the parental home full-time. There are unknowns in the midst of even the most carefully made plans. Even when such changes are anticipated with excitement, there is stress in the family. Even with good and normal change there is anxiety, loss, and even grief. These are times to ask for God's blessing. I like to share with the families of high school graduate information on how to share a family evening of blessing before their child takes leave for college or whatever plans that have been made. It involves a special prayer at a special meal. After the meal is eaten a candle is lit and the child who is leaving is invited to kneel. Each member of the family places a hand on his/her head. Then a parent offers a special blessing, which usually ends up with emotions spilling out in the form of hugs, kisses, and tears. (*I always cry!*) The goodbyes the next day are somehow easier. The child knows how much they are loved and the parents don't have to worry so much. Both parent and child know the child is wrapped in God's blessing.

Blessings are appropriate at so many occasions throughout our lives. How about these?

- Moving to a new home
- Leaving a beloved home
- Pregnancy and before childbirth
- Choosing adoption for a child
- Miscarriage or stillbirth
- Birth or adoption of a child
- Foster care of children
- Living alone
- Beginning a vocation or a new job
- Unemployment
- Entering a long-term care facility
- Retirement
- Grief
- Healing
- A birthday
- Marriage
- Anniversaries (of many kinds)
- Broken relationships
- Separation or divorce
- Military service
- Suffering abuse or violence
- Mental illness
- Recovery from sickness
- Diagnosis of a terminal illness
- Addiction, recovery
- Imprisonment
- Animals, pets
- Times of conflict, crisis or disaster
- Planting and harvest

All of our lives and our time belong to God, not just the part we spend “in church.” I can offer scripture, prayers, and blessings for the many occasions of our lives. Let me know if I can offer blessings for you or give you some ideas for doing them yourself with your family. If you would like to have the “Leaving Home” blessing ritual I described to use or share with someone, let me know.

Blessings are appropriately offered in many places – like homes, workplaces, hospitals, fields, schools, parks, and cars – not just in church. But we certainly celebrate them during worship too! This month we will be offering a blessing for all those going “back to school” during our worship service on August 23. This will be an opportunity for us to bless students, teachers, and staff in preparation for this new beginning.



Living Daily in God’s Blessing,

Pastor Susan

Pastor Susan Friedrich



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!



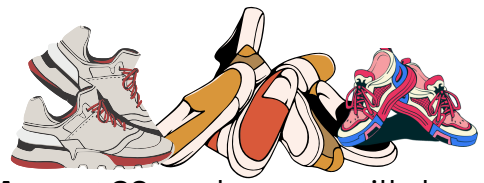
Prayers

Remember our members and friends in your prayers: Wendel, Shirley, Jeanne , Bill , Sharon, Jeanne, Debbie, Lori, Joyce, Kaye and Marie

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

Soles4Souls —

We Need Your Help to Reach 10,000 Pairs!



The countdown is on! Our **Soles4Souls shoe collection ends August 28**, and we are still short of our goal of 10,000 pairs of shoes.

We need your help to make one final push!

-  Clean out your closets.
-  Ask your neighbors.
-  Recruit your family and friends.
-  Check with churches, schools, coworkers, and local businesses.
-  Share our campaign and help spread the word!

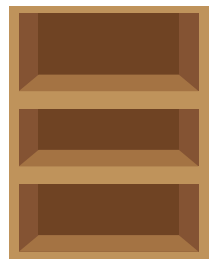
We accept shoes of all sizes and conditions. Every pair counts! Donated shoes help create economic opportunities for families around the world while keeping usable footwear out of our landfills. Most importantly, reaching our 10,000-pair goal will help provide FREE new shoes for children in our community.

We have until August 28 — and we can do this, but we need YOU!

Let's see how many shoes we can collect in these final weeks. Neighbors, family, friends—everyone can help! Keep those shoes coming and help us reach 10,000!

Thank you for your incredible support!

Mike & Chris Waring



Parsonage Essentials for Pastor Susan

Thank you to everyone who has generously donated tables, chairs, household items, and other essentials for the parsonage! Your kindness has helped make the space comfortable and welcoming for Pastor Susan while she is in town.

We are still in need of **bookshelves/bookcases for the parsonage**. If you have a bookshelf in good condition that you would be willing to donate, please contact a council member or Pastor Susan.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support!



Noisy Offering – Through September 15

Our Noisy Offering will support the final phase of the Cedar Lodge renovations at Camp Ewalu. Through September 15, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids will match every dollar donated (up to \$50,000), doubling the impact of your gift. Bring your coins, cash, or a special donation, and help Camp Ewalu complete this important project debt-free. Thank you for your generous support!



LWR School Kit Collection



We are collecting 70-sheet spiral notebooks, 16 or 24 count crayons, blue or black ballpoint pens, blunt scissors, and 12-inch rulers for Lutheran World Relief School Kits. Please place donations on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you for your support!

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.

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/alczesup//>

August Wisdom:

You know summer is almost over when the school-supply aisle is full and the garden starts giving you zucchini faster than you can give it away



Scholarship Committee Opening



After many years of continued service for the Scholarship Committee, Pat Winblade has resigned. We greatly appreciate all she has done for the committee and her dedication and enthusiasm in helping the students acquire a scholarship. Due to Pat's resignation, Council is looking for a replacement to be on the committee. If you are interested please contact a council member or Pastor Susan Friedrich.

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

This year, God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday is September 13. While this is the date designated by the Synod, congregations may choose another date that works best for them.

Our Church Council has chosen House of Hope in Waterloo as our service project. We will be helping by preparing and serving a meal for those living in the House of Hope apartments. This will be a wonderful intergenerational opportunity for members of all ages to serve together, share fellowship, and put our faith into action!

The date and time for our service project are still being determined, so watch for more details and information on how you can participate.

God's Work. Our Hands. T-shirts are also available to order. **The last day to place your T-shirt order is August 16!**



Royal Family Kids Camp

Connie Hamilton has worked with Royal Family Kids Camp for several years. They provide a week-long camp in the summer for foster children at no cost to them. On Saturday, September 12th they will be having a fundraiser meal to be held at Sumner American Legion at 6:00 pm. If you are interested in obtaining tickets to the meal, please contact Connie Hamilton.

Birthdays

Nikki Hemmer	6-Aug
Pat Waege	7-Aug
Maddi Ahmann	11-Aug
Teresa Merkel	12-Aug
Jordan Leach	15-Aug
Landon Bergman	16-Aug
Elaina Clark	16-Aug
Thomas Jones	19-Aug
Eric Clark	20-Aug
Carmen McAtee	21-Aug
Jacob Clark	24-Aug
Dan Even	26-Aug
Jessica Saunders	26-Aug
Madyson Dahl	30-Aug
Randy Ruehs	30-Aug
Ryder Costello	3-Sep
Celeste Corkery	3-Sep
Emily Hanks	7-Sep
Kylon Dahl	8-Sep
Dorothy Thompson	11-Sep
Lauryn Witt	12-Sep
Carmen Nuehring	16-Sep
Joyce Becker	19-Sep
Katie Clark	19-Sep
Keith Nuehring	20-Sep
Teri Schares	21-Sep
Tom Hoey	21-Sep
Merritt Jones	22-Sep
Jeff Borland	25-Sep
Missy Weber	30-Sep

Baptism Anniversaries

Bill Schneider	1-Aug
Rayann Vogel	8-Aug
Wayne Schneider	9-Aug
Nash Lee	10-Aug
Barb Mostek	10-Aug
Jaidyn Wright	10-Aug
Crystal Lysne	12-Aug
Keaton Lysne	12-Aug
Jaylon Dahl	16-Aug
Madyson Dahl	16-Aug
Renee McAtee	20-Aug
Wendy McGill	24-Aug
Payton Ruckdaschel	26-Aug
Kayla Hunziker	28-Aug
Maureen Even	2-Sep
Marie Bushkofsky	5-Sep
Dan Even	6-Sep
Randy Ruehs	8-Sep
Landon Bergman	8-Sep
Katelyn Zelle	9-Sep
Carsyn Niichel	10-Sep
Jordan Leach	19-Sep
Eric Clark	22-Sep
Benjamin Gosse	22-Sep
Hannah Borland	23-Sep
Brady Ahmann	25-Sep
Dar Thompson	28-Sep
Karsten Nuehring	30-Sep

Wedding Anniversaries

Denny and Joyce Becker	8/3/1968	Mike and Chris Waring	9/2/1977
Luke and Kayla Hunziker	8/7/2010	Dave and Jenifer Wyant	9/3/1994
Mike and Barb Mostek	8/16/1980	Wayne and Ruth Schneider	9/5/1970
Ron and Connie Gosse	8/27/1994	Brian and Barb Hayek	9/10/1983
Randy and Teresa Merkel	8/30/1980		

2026

AUGUST

16	17	18	19	20	21	22
12th Sunday after Pentecost 9am Worship & Communion						
23	24	25	Pastor; Rev. Susan Friedrich Council President: Maureen Even Secretary: Chris Waring Church Phone: 827-6626 Web Address: www.americanlutheranjesup.org Church e-mail: secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org			
13th Sunday after Pentecost 9am Worship & Communion Back to School Blessing						
30	31					
14th Sunday after Pentecost 9am Worship & Communion	Chris & Mike gone August 31-September					

2026

SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	01	02	03	04	05
Chris & Mike gone August 31-September						
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
15TH Sunday after Pentecost 9am Worship Communion			6pm Worship Wednesday			
Chris & Mike						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16TH Sunday after Pentecost 9am Worship & Communion	6:30 Council Meeting		6pm Worship Wednesday LAMP Articles Due			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
17th Sunday after Pentecost 9am Worship & Communion	6:30 Worship & Music Committee		6pm Worship Wednesday			
27	28	29	Pastor; Rev. Susan Friedrich Council President: Maureen Even Secretary: Chris Waring Church Phone: 827-6626 Web Address: www.americanlutheranjesup.org Church e-mail: secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org			
18th Sunday after Pentecost 9am Worship & Communion						

September Deacon/Readers

6th Mary Adams

20th Mike Waring

13th Maureen Even

27th Connie Hamilton