

LAMP

Monthly publication of the American Lutheran Church

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Rooted in Faith, Growing in Grace:

As autumn's beauty surrounds us and we begin our journey toward Advent, we're invited to prepare not only our homes but our hearts for the coming of Christ. In this sacred season of waiting, we find meaning in acts of love and service—through crafting Crismon ornaments that proclaim the symbols of our faith, through sharing with those in need, and through quiet moments of prayer and reflection. May each act of giving and creating draw us closer to the light of Christ, whose coming brings hope, peace, joy, and love to the world..



COUNCIL MINUTES

September 8, 2025 Council Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:26 p.m. by President Maureen Even.

Present: Pastor Mohr-Kelly, Shirley Bergman, Amber Reuter, Mike Waring, Christy Phillips, Sara Borland, and Mary Adams. Absent: Cindy Gosse

Pastor led a prayer and devotion.

Mary moved to approve the agenda that was sent on 9/7. Second by Shirley. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Cindy sent over the reports to council on 9/3. Sara asked if the income for the month is what we are aiming for. Mike shared that since June we are up about \$7,000 from last year. Sara and Maureen brought up the congregational meeting and the question about what we need for funding. Maureen will be attending the Portico meeting coming up. Mary asked if we have donors that are quarterly or yearly that come at the end of the year. Mike mentioned that some members have asked about direct deposit. Mary will write a short blurb about retirement giving for the bulletins and Lamp. Sara made a motion to approve the financial reports. Second by Mary. Motion carried.

Pastor asked about the \$7,500 deductible for the insurance claim. Hawkeye Alarm has been paid, but Schindler has not been paid yet. Mike shared that Schumacher has looked at our elevator. Maureen has requested an itemized bill from Schindler.

Secretary Report:

There was an update to the 8/11 meeting. Final update was sent on 8/14. Motion by Sara to approve the minutes with the corrections. Second by Mike. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Hospitality Reports:

Shirley will line up fellowship families for October.

Parish Ed/Youth:

Worship Wednesday starts on Wednesday, 9/10. Confirmation had their first class on Sunday. There are 7 active students. Beth Stanek and Cindy Neuhring encouraged confirmation students to come to the monthly youth meeting.

Shirley asked when Confirmation ceremony would be. Amber had heard that it lined up with graduation, as did Sara, which is May 17th. Maureen shared Confirmation used to line up with Reformation Sunday. Pastor will speak with the families.

Property/Technology:

Mike called Johnson Plumbing to install the heating and cooling unit for Pastor. Sara asked if we are leaving the contract with Schindler. Mike thought we would need to talk with our lawyer about breaking a contract. Shirley suggested talking to Marv Schumacher, too. Computer, router, and live stream are all working. Maureen caulked the back door and sprayed the basement for bugs. Mike sprayed the parsonage.

Scholarship: No update.

Worship and Music:

Cassie Gorman will be playing the next two weeks. Shirley will be back the last week of September.

Call Committee:

Pastor shared a video should be developed for the MSP. Sara suggested we table it until we vote. Sara volunteered to start capturing videos. Amber mentioned having a waiver for youth parents to sign to be in the videos. Mary said the LWR personal care kits will be put together on September 9th and the Confirmation students will pack the school kits on September 28th.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor noted that attendance seemed down for the summer, but she shared we have been up every month since 2023. Pastor shared a breakdown of her week and what she does. Pastor would like to start calling on members over 85, even if they are not shut-ins. She has been making visits with members as well. Pastor and Shirley are planning Advent and Christmas. Holden Evening Prayer will be used and will be led by Sue Hoey on Thursday. The first Thursday of Advent is Thanksgiving, so there will be 3 services. Pastor suggested 7 p.m. and that Confirmation class should be there. Amber mentioned school events on Thursday. Christy mentioned that we could have services on Wednesday's at 7 p.m. Shirley will update Sue.

Mike asked what Pastor's thoughts are for cottage meetings. Pastor thinks at members homes hosting a couple of other families to discuss the vision of ALC. Shirley clarified who should attend these meetings: both active and inactive members. Mary shared there should be talking points for the meeting and a council member could be there to record the notes from the meeting. Mike shared he thinks these meetings will be great and an opportunity to hear from the inactive members. Mary reminded us that sometimes all it takes is an ask. Sara volunteered to create a structure for this. Shirley will help organize people. Pastor will share her hopes for cottage meetings.

Pastor shared Mission Moments are lined up: Connie Hamilton will share September 21. She will talk to Crystal Lysne for October.

New Business:

Snow removal bid was received from Jesse Fowlkes from JDR Snow Removal and Lawn Care. Larry Thompson shared with Maureen that he would be willing to do the parking lot for a tax credit at the end of the year as an in-kind donation. Mike shared he could do the sidewalks and the steps. Sara motioned to accept Larry's proposal and Mike's offer. Second by Christy. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Pastor suggested the “Tootsie Roll” Knights of Columbus Noisy Offering will be October 5th and October 12th. Mike motioned to approve those dates. Second by Shirley. Motion carried.

Maureen suggested that we use Pastor’s Plans for Renewal and Sustainability for a guideline of discussion points for the upcoming cottage meetings.

Maureen shared at her and Sara’s last meeting with Ruth and Craig that Zion would like us to vote on if we would like to continue the yoke agreement. Maureen thought our congregational meeting was very positive. She suggested we give an outline to the congregation of what we need financially to support a full-time pastor. Pastor shared if we do not yoke with Zion, we could yoke with another ELCA church or a Methodist, Presbyterian, or Episcopal church. Amber voiced concern that a yoke vote should not be made until the a financial proposal is given to the congregation of factual numbers of what we would need to support a full-time pastor. Sara suggested we bring up possible scenarios for ALC’s future at the cottage meetings to find out what members think. Sara mentioned the MSP and what does that look like if we get a potential candidates. Maureen will ask the Synod. Amber suggested we start videos for ALC and share to our website and to our social media pages.

We will hold off meeting with Zion after the Annual Meeting.

Discovering Hope: Building Vitality in Rural Congregations Chapter 2: Prayer. Prayer is the key. Prayer sets the stage for evangelism.

Correspondence:

Mary & Martha Travel Women of the Church Field Trip in Clayton County was shared. Maureen will give it to Chris to share.

Giving statement for Northeast Iowa Synod from Feb. 1 to August 15 was a Benevolence of \$7,910. Pastor asked when we send giving statements for the congregation. Sara suggested we email them out. Mike will talk to Chris.

Shirley will line up fellowship for the month. Deacon assignments for October: October 5: Mike; October 12: Mary; October 19: Maureen; October 26: Christy

Lord’s Prayer was said.

Motion to end the meeting at 8:00 p.m. by Sara. Second by Christy. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amber Reuter



Soles4Souls Update

A huge thank-you to everyone who has donated shoes so far! The Independence Lions Club has officially shipped out its first 1,000 pairs of shoes — an amazing milestone on our journey toward 10,000 pairs by August 2026!

elevator

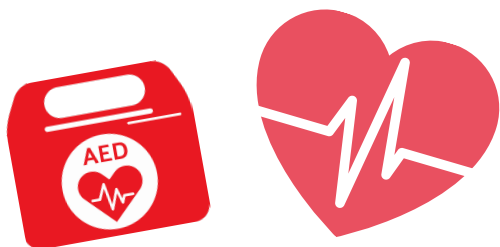
UPDATE

Many have been asking about the elevator — and we want to keep everyone informed. The repair process has been delayed for several reasons.

Our original service provider, Schindler, was slow to respond and, when they finally did, quoted nearly \$30,000 to repair the elevator. While our insurance does cover elevator repairs with a \$7500 deductible, their policy requires payment before ordering parts and with a six week lead time.

To explore more reasonable options, we reached out to Schumacher Elevator Company from Denver. Their team has been working diligently to pinpoint the exact issue to repair the elevator. Schumacher has also been much more flexible and understanding regarding billing and communication.

We appreciate everyone's patience as we work toward a safe, reliable, and cost-effective solution. Thank you for your understanding and continued support!



We are happy to announce that we will be obtaining an AED for the church! Cindy Gosse worked with Dan Walter, Jesup Ambulance Assistant Chief, to secure a grant through the Buchanan County EMS Association. EMS will cover 50% of the cost and will also provide training for members on how to use the device. Sharon McAtee has generously pledged to pay for the church's portion of the AED, which has an approximate total cost of \$2,000.

Chrismon Ornament Workshop



Come Create

Some Christmas Sparkle!

We're breaking out the glue, glitter, and gold thread — it's time to make Chrismon ornaments for our church Christmas trees!

Join us on Saturday, November 8, from 9:00 AM to noon for a fun and faith-filled morning of crafting, laughter, and fellowship. No experience needed — just bring your holiday spirit (and maybe a friend or two)!

*Let's make the sanctuary shine bright
with symbols of love and joy this Christmas!*



The youth of ALC have had a very busy fall season so far. The youth group has had several events including a kick off ice cream social where we made introductions and heard from Piper Zelle (our only senior this year!) what youth group is all about. The Nuehring family welcomed us to their home on October for a scavenger hunt, games, and a hot dog cookout. On November 2nd, we have a game night planned at church following the 4:00 service for any middle school or high school students who are wanting to join us. Bring a friend and a favorite game to share!"



Women's Bible Study
Thursday, November 6th 9am

Fireside Room

Quilters meet Tuesday
November 11th & 25th 9am



Worship

WEDNESDAY

Worship Wednesday has been bursting with energy and smiles! The kids are LOVING the bells, games, crafts, prayer time, and Bible stories. We've explored the parables of the lost sheep and lost coins and have been diving deep into the story of Moses—learning about the plagues, the Red Sea, and God's amazing gifts of manna, quail, and water in the wilderness.

The kids have also been working hard on a new bell choir song to share during worship on Sunday, October 26th at the 9 a.m. service. Their excitement and joy are contagious, and we are so proud of their efforts! We're thrilled to see several new faces joining us this year—kids who aren't yet members but have quickly become part of our Wednesday family. If you know a child in kindergarten through 6th grade, please let them know they're welcome to join us any Wednesday evening from 6–7 p.m. in the church basement for fun, faith, and fellowship. All are welcome!



Upcoming Adventures:

Oct 15 – The Plagues

Oct 22 – Crossing the Red Sea

Oct 29 – Manna, Quail, and Water

Starting Wednesday, November 5,

we'll shift gears into Christmas

Program practice – it's going to be

another season full of music,

laughter, and the spirit of Christmas!



Blessing of Lutheran World Relief Kits

Our congregation once again shared God's love in a tangible way through the Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Kit Ministry. This year, we assembled and donated 25 School Kits and 31 Personal Care Kits—each one filled with essential items that will soon bring hope, comfort, and opportunity to people around the world.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to Mary Adams for heading up this project and to Iva, Kaye, Shirley, and Shiela for their careful work in packing the kits. We also extend our appreciation to Connie, who graciously delivered the boxes to the LWR drop-off site.

Thank you to everyone in the congregation who donated supplies, gave financial support, or offered prayers. Your generosity continues to make a difference—one kit, one life, one blessing at a time.



COTTAGE MEETINGS

We Want to Hear from You!

In October and November, the Church Council will hold small Cottage Meetings to listen to your thoughts and hopes for ALC's future. Please sign up for one of the sessions at the back of the church, call 319-827-6626, or email secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org.

Meeting Dates:

- Sun, Oct 19 – 10:30 AM
- Wed, Oct 22 – 6:00 PM
- Sun, Oct 26 – 5:00 PM
- Wed, Oct 29 – 2:00 PM
- Sun, Nov 2 – 10:30 AM
- Wed, Nov 5 – 6:00 PM
- Sun, Nov 9 – 5:00 PM

If you can't attend, please share your feedback with a Council member — your voice matters!



Noisy Offering – November & December: God's Good Gifts!

Our Noisy Offering for November and December will support **God's Good Gifts!** The Sunday School children will help choose which items to donate based on the funds raised — from animals to seeds to clean water and more! Remember, it's not just about loose change — paper money makes noise too! Every bit helps share God's love in a practical way around the world.



Creating a Cozy Youth Space

The youth will be using one of the Sunday School rooms, and we'd love to make it warm and inviting! We're looking for a few large floor pillows to help create a comfortable, welcoming atmosphere for gatherings and discussions. If you have new or gently used floor pillows to donate, please drop them off at the church office.

Thank you for helping make this space a fun and comfy place for our youth to grow in faith and friendship!



Peanut Butter Drive – Supporting the Backpack Food Program

We're collecting peanut butter for the Jesup Community School's Backpack Food Program!

This program helps ensure students have nutritious food at home over the weekends — and peanut butter is one of the most requested and needed items.

Donations can be placed in the collection bin in the lower narthex.

This is an ongoing effort, so feel free to contribute whenever you're able.

Let's help fill those backpacks with love and kindness — one jar at a time!

Faith in Action: Opportunities to Make a Difference



Giving Tree for Jesup Community School Youth

This year, in lieu of our traditional Bremwood gifts (as Bremwood no longer houses youth), we're focusing our giving closer to home. Our Giving Tree is up and ready to spread warmth this winter! Each ornament on the tree represents a coat, hat, or pair of mittens for youth at Jesup Community School. If you'd like to participate, simply take an ornament, purchase the listed item, and return it to the church by November 15th.

Prefer to give a monetary gift? No problem — Cindy Gosse will gladly do the shopping for you!

Let's join together to keep local kids cozy and share the warmth of Christ's love in our community this season.

All Saints Sunday – November 2nd

If you would like a candle lit in memory of a loved one during worship, *please submit their name to Secretary Chris Waring by October 29th*



Hanging of the Greens – Sunday, December 1

Join us as we begin the Advent season with our Hanging of the Greens during worship on Sunday, December 1. Our confirmation and Worship Wednesday students will help lead this special tradition as we prepare our sanctuary for the coming of Christ.

We'll need a few volunteers on Saturday, November 30, to help set up Christmas trees and hang garland. Many hands make light (and joyful!) work! Let's come together to deck the halls and hearts for Advent!



Midweek Advent Services Holden Evening Prayer

Take a midweek pause this Advent season and join us for Advent Services 6PM Wednesdays: December 3, 10, and 17

Each service will feature the beautiful Holden Evening Prayer, led by Sue Hoey. Come and experience a peaceful time of reflection, song, and prayer as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.

*All are welcome
bring a friend and share in the quiet joy of Advent.*





Birthdays

Harper Westpfahl	4-Oct
Marci Dahl	6-Oct
Hunter Weber	8-Oct
Sue Rigdon	9-Oct
Owen Thompson	11-Oct
Joe Kopplin	14-Oct
Joellen Yeager	14-Oct
Neva Winkelpleck	16-Oct
Kristi Clayton	17-Oct
Danni Kopplin	17-Oct
Kash Niichel	19-Oct
Grace Thompson	21-Oct
Jason Thompson	23-Oct
Marcy Ruckdaschel	24-Oct
Connie Hamilton	25-Oct
Rich Mohr-Kelly	25-Oct
Jaymn Loyd	26-Oct
Amber Reuter	26-Oct
Michelle Krivanek	28-Oct
Randy Frush	29-Oct

Baptism Anniversaries

Mike Mostek	1-Oct
Tom Hoey	3-Oct
Connie Collins	8-Oct
Teresa Merkel	11-Oct
Ethan Wyant	11-Oct
Dave Wyant	12-Oct
Payton Westpfahl	13-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

Dan and Marci Dahl	10/6/2007
Steffen and Jade Hoey	10/8/2022
David and Marcy Ruckdaschel	10/11/1997
Jason and Christa Thompson	10/25/2008

Remember our friends & members in your prayers: Wendell, Gene, Shirley, Jeanne , Bill , Sharon, Debbie and Marie.

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.



2025

NOVEMBER

Pastor: Pat Mohr-Kelly Council President: Maureen Even Secretary: Chris Waring Church Phone: 827-6626 Web Address: www.americanlutheranjesup.org	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	26	27	28	29	30	01
						
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
All Saints Sunday 9am Worship & Communion 10:30am Cottage Meeting 4pm Praise Worship Confirmation to follow PW			6pm Worship Wednesday 6pm Cottage Meeting	9am Womens Bible Study		9am CRISMON CRAFTING
09	10	11	12	13	14	15
22nd Sunday After Pentecost 9am Worship & Communion 4pm Praise Wroship Confirmation to follow PW 5pm Cottage Meeting	6:30 Council Meeting	9am Quilters	6pm Worship Wednesday LAMP articles due			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23rd Sunday After Pentecost 9am Worship & Communion 4pm Praise Worship Confirmation to follow PW			6pm Worship Wednesday			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Christ the King Sunday 9am Worship & Communion 4pm Praise Worship Confirmation to follow PW		9am Quilters	6pm Worship Wednesday			

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/>

Read daily devotions and share with your friends on our Facebook Page



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

Deacon Assignments for November

2nd Connie Hamilton

9th Christy Phillips

16th Maureen Even

23rd Maureen Even

30th Amber Reuter

Keep ALC in Your Heart
All Year Long 
Even When You're Away!

