

LAMP

Monthly publication of the American Lutheran Church

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From Fall's Chill to Advent's Hope

As November arrives with its crisp air and changing leaves, we begin a season of holy anticipation. Advent starts November 30, inviting us to slow down, breathe deeply, and make room for Christ's coming.

In the midst of busy days, God meets us with hope, peace, joy, and love. Each Advent candle brings a little more light into the shortening days and reminds us that Emmanuel—"God with us"—is near.

May this month's simple moments, warm gatherings, and quiet prayers guide our hearts toward the manger. Come, Lord Jesus.

COUNCIL MINUTES



October 13, 2025 Council Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Maureen Even.

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

Pastor led a prayer and devotion.

Sara motioned to approve the agenda. Second by Mike. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Cindy shared the treasurer's reports. Deposits doubled for September, that's a blessing! Cindy cashed the CD out for \$22,342.34 to cover the funds of repairs as we wait for insurance claims to all come through. Cindy won't need to transfer any funds at this time.

Maureen stepped out for a call. Sara stepped in as acting president.

Pastor motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Second by Mike. Motion carried.

Secretary Report:

Mike motioned to approve the September Minutes. Second by Cindy. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Hospitality Reports:

Shirley lined up October fellowship. Mike will line up fellowship for November.

Parish Ed/Youth:

Christy shared 6-8 youth attend Worship Wednesday. They will be playing the bells on October 26. They will start Christmas practice in a few weeks. Confirmation will be on Wednesdays in November and Decembers to practice the Christmas program.

Property/Technology:

Mike shared that Schumacher is looking for a processor for the elevator. If this doesn't fix this, we will have to go back to Schindler for the repair. Cindy shared Maureen called on the Schindler bills to verify the amounts. Cindy said her totals came within \$200 of what the bills listed. Sara asked if these amounts will go towards our deductible. They will.

Christy motioned to pay the Schindler bills minus the tax. Second by Mike. Motion carried. The maintenance agreement with Schindler is up in October. Maureen shared

Wayne asked them for a copy of the agreement, and Mike shared that Wayne hadn't received one. Cindy will call them for a copy before we pay the maintenance fee.

Mike changed the tv in the Sanctuary to sports mode and streaming is working perfectly now.

Scholarship: No updates.

Worship and Music: New music has been added for 4 p.m. service.

Maureen stepped back into the meeting as President.

Call Committee: Pastor met with Amanda Phillips and informed her that the MSP will need to be separate from Zion. They talked about expanding the call committee to include new members. Pastor recommends the committee have 8 congregational members total that will represent the congregation as a whole. Pastor will ask Amanda to call a few members to join the committee.

Pastor's Report: Pastor asked for council approval to hold the baptism of Casey William Ryan on October 27. Amber made a motion to approve the Monday baptism. Second by Cindy. Motion carried.

Confirmation is moved to May 10, on Mother's Day, to avoid the graduation date. Because this will be before the council meets, Pastor suggest that the 5 Confirmation Students read their faith statements during worship. Sara suggests the Confirmation students share their statements of faith prior to May 10, and Council will approve virtually and we will ratify at the May council meeting.

Pastor would like to move the piano to the second Sunday School room. Confirmation would like to use the 'music room' because it has the dvd player. Mike will call Randy Frush to help move the piano.

Pastor's home visits in September were Marie, Gene, Dar, Jeanne, and Bill.

Bible Study for Life of Paul is over.

Pastor is assisting with Worship Wednesday. Cindy volunteered to help while Christy is out.

Confirmation is going through Old Testament.

Pastor has had Synod conversations and interim meetings.

New Business: Maureen and Pastor shared at Sunday's services that we received the letter from Ruth Frush for the dissolution of yoke agreement-MSP with Zion. Sara and Cindy have created a flyer to share at the Cottage Meetings of what our estimated budget could looked like as we call a full-time pastor. Synod approved the dissolution letter.

Cindy motioned to accept the dissolution agreement with Zion. Second by Sara. Motion carried

Ratify motion by Sara Borland and second by Shirley Bergman to allow St. Athanasius School to use American Lutheran Church in case of a crisis or emergency for the children. Maureen will provide them a list of congregational members who have a key to the church. Motion carried.

Jaidyn Wright is a current confirmation student. This year is the year of the Bible. Jaidyn knows the bible from cover to cover. Pastor offered to meet with him every Saturday morning to instruct him in Lutheran theology and history to be able to be confirmed with his current confirmation class.

Amber motioned to accept Pastor's proposal for Jaidyn to be confirmed with the current class on May 10th. Second by Sara. Motion carried.

Pastor would like to add members to the Worship committee to assist with planning. Sue Hoey and Chris Waring would like to join those committees.

Pastor will be on vacation 10/20 to 10/25 (not missing Sunday), and 12/17 to 12/22 with Bishop presiding that Sunday.

AED with Jesup Ambulance Chief and Assistant Chief split cost 50/50 of a Zoll AED at approximately \$2,000. The Buchanan County EMS Association is willing to pay half of that and get us any training we need for it. The church would be responsible for the pads and batteries. Then typically any time they help buy equipment like this they just ask that if we ever get a new one or want to get rid of this one for whatever reason that the Association retains it. Sharon McAtee has graciously offered to pay our 50% of the AED. Thank you Sharon! Cindy is getting the final cost. Sara motion to approve the AED. Second by Christy. Motion carried.

Mike shared the noisy offering was \$71 for Knights of Columbus.

Cindy contacted Heather Hansen at Jesup Community School. They are in need of coats, mittens, and hats. We will put a "mitten tree" together with the lists of the sizes.

ELCA Good Gifts will be the noisy offering for November and December so the Worship Wednesday kids will choose the gifts in January. In the past they picked goats, chickens, school supplies, school uniforms, and medical supplies.

Amber motioned the November and December noisy offering be for the ELCA Good Gifts so the Worship Wednesday kids can choose the gifts. Second by Sara. Motion carried.

Cottage meeting invites have gone out in the mail. Sara shared to Facebook. Council will reach out to members as a personal invite.

Discussed the "Plans for Renewal & Sustainability" book. The church family is important. We'd love to have the Mother's Day tea, potlucks, Valentine's dinner, spaghetti suppers again in the future.

Old Business: No old business.

Correspondence: The school is still need of peanut butter for the backpacks. Chris would like to order new banner stand for the lower narthex downstairs. She will cover the cost of the new banner and stand.

ELCA World Hunger
Youth and Global Mission
LSI

In November we will need to determine Thanksgiving offering and Christmas in December.
Letter from EWALU for funding the renovation.

Deacon assignments for November: 11/2: 11/9: Christy 11/16: 11/23: Maureen 11/30: Amber

We will need to line up snow removal for the parsonage this winter. Mike will talk to Larry Thompson.

Lord's Prayer was said.

Sara motioned to adjourn. Second by Christy. Motion carried.

Meeting ended at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amber Reuter

Secretary



The Bible Recap Project – Coming January 2026!

Have you ever closed your Bible and wondered, “What did I just read?”

Starting January 1, 2026, we’ll begin The Bible Recap — a chronological Bible reading plan with short, clear daily summaries by Tara-Leigh Cobble. Each day’s reading is explained in an easy-to-understand way that helps the whole story of Scripture come together.

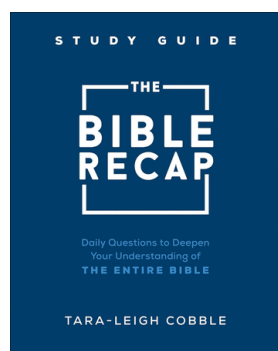
We’ll gather weekly to discuss what we’ve read and grow together in God’s Word.

You’re welcome to use any Bible you already have — there is no need to purchase the official Study Bible.

The Study Guide, however, is helpful and can be found online (Amazon or Bethany House Publishing Group).

Resources and information are available on the table in the Narthex.

Whether you’re opening the Bible for the first time
or have read it many times before, all are welcome!



Reflecting on Our Giving: An Invitation to Prayer and Action

As a church family, we are blessed to share in a community grounded in faith, service, and love. Together, we worship, learn, and care for one another - and like any family, we rely on each person's gifts of time, talent, and treasure to keep our shared mission strong.

Our ministries, programs, and outreach are possible because we give generously and faithfully. As we look at the chart below showing our congregation's giving ranges, let's each take a moment to reflect and pray about our own giving. Where do we see ourselves in this picture? What might it look like for us to take one step forward in faith?

10/29/2024 to 10/28/2025			
Funds: (all)			
	Givers	Amount	Pct. of Total
<u>0.01 to 50.00</u>	1	\$10.00	0.0 %
<u>50.01 to 100.00</u>	1	\$80.00	0.1 %
<u>100.01 to 500.00</u>	20	\$5,186.57	4.0 %
<u>500.01 to 1000.00</u>	10	\$8,010.00	6.1 %
<u>1000.01 to 3000.00</u>	15	\$28,100.18	21.5 %
<u>3000.01 to 5000.00</u>	5	\$20,235.00	15.5 %
<u>5000.01 to 7000.00</u>	5	\$28,683.00	21.9 %
<u>7000.01 to 10000.00</u>	2	\$17,010.00	13.0 %
<u>10000.01 to 15000.00</u>	2	\$23,630.00	18.0 %
Report totals	61	\$130,944.75	

Even a small increase in giving - whether weekly or monthly - can make a real difference. When we each do a little more, the impact multiplies. Together, we can strengthen our church's ability to serve our members, support our community, and live out God's love in the world.

Making Our Giving Simple and Steady

One of the best ways we can support the church consistently is by setting up automatic giving (see Mike Waring to arrange):

Through your bank: Set up an auto-pay directly to the church.

Through Simply Giving: Schedule recurring contributions online.

Automatic giving provides steady support for our ministries and takes one more thing off our to-do lists. It's a simple, faithful way to make sure our generosity continues even when life gets busy.

As we move forward together, let's continue to give with grateful hearts and trust in God's abundance — knowing that every gift, no matter the size, helps our church family thrive and continue its good work in the world.

**To get started, download the Give+ app,
then use your smartphone to scan the QR code .**





October Was Pastor Appreciation Month

In celebration of Pastor Appreciation Month, our Council President representative, Maureen, presented Pastor Pat with a special gift on Sunday, October 27. A delicious cake was shared during fellowship time as we expressed our gratitude for Pastor Pat's faithful leadership and caring ministry. We are blessed to have her serving our congregation!



Youth Bells! Kash Niichel, Keaton Lysne, Charlie Stanek, Kyle Nuehring, Neve Winkelpleck and Kyler Lysne



Chrismon Ornament-Making Day – Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who came out for our Chrismon Ornament-Making Day! We had a wonderful time together, and the beautiful ornaments you created will brighten our sanctuary tree this Christmas. Enjoy the photos in this newsletter — your creativity and fellowship made the day special!



Women's Bible Study
Thursday, December 4th 9am

Fireside Room

Quilters meet
Tuesday December 9th & 23rd





Thanksgiving & Christmas Giving

As we enter this season of gratitude and joy, we invite you to share God's love in a very meaningful way. All special Thanksgiving and Christmas contribution envelopes — along with designated holiday offerings — will go directly to the Independence Area Food Pantry.

Your generosity helps provide meals, comfort, and hope to families right here in our community.

Together, we can make sure no neighbor goes without a warm meal or a reminder that they are cared for.

Thank you for giving from the heart this holiday season.



Peanut Butter Drive –

Supporting the Backpack Food Program

November is ALC's month to help supply the Jesup Community School with peanut butter for their Backpack Food Program! This important program ensures students have nutritious food at home over the weekends — and peanut butter is one of the most requested items.

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

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

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



What's a pie's favorite Bible verse?
"Taste and see that the Lord is good!"



Why did the cranberry turn red?
It saw the turkey dressing!

Faith in Action: Opportunities to Make a Difference



November collection for the
Independence Area Food Pantry



Soles4Souls Shoe Collection – Thank You!

We continue to collect new and gently used shoes for Soles4Souls, and we are excited to share that we are getting close to 2,000 pairs! Thank you to everyone who has donated so far — your kindness is making a real difference for people in need around the world.

As we celebrate this season of gratitude, please consider spreading the word to your family and friends. Every pair helps, and together we can keep the momentum going! Thank you for giving so generously and helping us share God's love one pair of shoes at a time. Mike & Chris Waring, Independence Lions



Hang of the Greens – Sunday, November 30th

Join us as we begin the Advent season with our Hang of the Greens during worship on Sunday, November 30th. 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 29**** 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! **9am**



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.*



Worship Wednesday Christmas Program & Schedule Update

Our Worship Wednesday kids have been joyfully practicing for the **Christmas Program on Sunday, December 21, 2025**. They will take a break from practice during Thanksgiving week.

Following the program, Worship Wednesday will pause for Christmas break and resume on Wednesday, January 14, 2026.

We are also delighted to share that Bishop Kevin Jones from the Northeastern Iowa Synod Office will be with us to lead worship on December 21. Let's show him a warm and heartfelt welcome as we celebrate this special day together!





NOVEMBER

birthdays & anniversaries

Birthdays

Brian Hayek	9-Nov
Sue Hoey	9-Nov
Kenny Schares	16-Nov
Connie Jones	22-Nov
Barb Hayek	24-Nov
Denny Becker	27-Nov

Baptism Anniversaries

Connie Hamilton	1-Nov
Kristi Clayton	9-Nov
Brian R. Jones	12-Nov
Hunter R. Weber	14-Nov
Dorothy M. Thompson	18-Nov
Randy Frush	21-Nov
Cindy Gosse	22-Nov
Kenny Schares	24-Nov
Amber Reuter	26-Nov
Denny Becker	28-Nov
Beth Stanek	29-Nov
Thomas Jones	29-Nov

Wedding Anniversaries

Greg and Crystal Lysne	11/6/2010
Brady S. and Maddi Ahmann	11/13/2021
Ryan and Katherine Even	11/14/2009



Prayer

Remember our members in your prayers:
Wendel, Gene, Shirley, Jeanne , Bill , Sharon,
Jeanne, Debbie and Marie

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



Thank You for Supporting Our Giving Tree

A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who donated coats for our Giving Tree. Your kindness is keeping students in Jesup warm this winter and reminding them that their community cares. Your generosity truly makes a difference!

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//>

2025

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	01	02	03	04	05	06
1st Sunday in Advent Hanging of the Greens 9am Worship & Communion 4pm Praise Worship			6pm Worship Wednesday 7pm Advent Midweek	9am Womens Bible Study		
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
2nd Sunday in Advent 9am Workshop & Communion 3pm Confirmation 4pm Praise Worship	5:30 Budget Workshop followed by Council Meeting	9am Quilters	6pm Workshop Wednesday 7pm Advent Midweek			
14	15	16	17	Pastor: Pat Mohr-Kelly Council President: Maureen Even Secretary: Chris Waring Church Phone: 827-6626 Web Address: www.americanlutheranjesup.org Church e-mail:		
3rd Sunday in Advent 9am Worship & Communion 3pm Confirmation 4pm Praise Wroship			6pm Worship Wednesday 7pm Advent Midweek LAMP Articles Due-			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
4th Sunday in Advent 9am Worship & Communion Childrens Program		9am Quilters	Christmas Eve 2pm Worship & Communion 7pm Worship & Communion			
28	29	30	31	01	02	03
First Sunday of Christmas 9am Worship & Communion 3pm Confirmation 4pm Praise Worship						

**Mark
your
Calendar!**

**Mark your calendars for
January 11th Budget hearing after
worship
January 18th Annual Meeting**

December Deacons

7th Mary Adams

14th Mike Waring

21st Maureen Even

24th 2pm Richard Mohr-Kelly

24th 7pm Maureen Even

28th Maureen Even