

LAMP

Monthly publication of the American Lutheran Church
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Happy New Year

As we step into 2025, we are reminded of the fresh opportunities God places before us to grow in faith, love, and service. January brings a time of reflection and renewal, a season to set our hearts and minds on His plans for us in the coming year.

This month, we celebrate the light of Christ that shines brightly even in the coldest, darkest days of winter. Like the magi who followed the star, may we also seek Jesus with joyful anticipation, trusting in His guidance for the journey ahead.

Let us embrace this new year with hope, grace, and a commitment to share His love with one another and the world around us. Whether through worship, fellowship, or acts of service, we are stronger together as a church family. May God bless you richly in this season and always!



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Message from the Pastor

WRITTEN BY PASTOR PAT MOHR-KELLY

The Lord's Prayer

I know that there is some angst about which version of the Lord's prayer that we pray each Sunday. Recently we have encouraged the newer version of the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
Your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

If we compare that version with the two versions written in scripture you can see there are some differences.

Matthew 6

9 "Pray, then, in this way:

Our Father in heaven,

may your name be revered as holy.

10 May your kingdom come.

May your will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us today our daily bread.

**12 And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.**

**13 And do not bring us to the time of trial,
but rescue us from the evil one.**

Luke 11

**Father, may your name be revered as
holy.**

May your kingdom come.

3 Give us each day our daily bread.

**4 And forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive everyone
indebted to us.**

And do not bring us to the time of trial.

So which version do we use? Some like the translation which they learned when younger; others like the more modern language. Who is right? But a more important question is why? Why so many versions? Why not leave it as it has always been?

I know that some people like the King James version of the bible. It speaks to them. But others appreciate the New Revised Standard Version or even The Message. Regardless of which translation you use, the important thing is that you read and meditate on scripture. AND that you pray – in your way – in your vernacular.

So from now on we will print both versions of the Lord's Prayer in the bulletin. You choose which one you use. It doesn't matter if your neighbor says different words. What is important is that we pray this prayer from the heart.

God's Blessings to you as we change and grow.

Pastor Pat

Council Minutes

November 11, 2024

Meeting was called to order by President Christy Phillips at 6:30 p.m. Present: Cindy Gosse, Barb Hayek, Shirley Bergman, Maureen Even and Pastor Pat Mohr-Kelly. Absent, Mitch Hayek.

Devotions by Pastor Pat.

Motion by Barb Hayek second by Maureen Even to approve the agenda with the additions.

Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion by Maureen Even second by Shirley Bergman to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Motion by Maureen Even second by Barb Hayek to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2024 minutes. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Hospitality – no report

Parish Ed/Youth – Worship Wednesday kids are practicing for the Christmas program.

Property/Technology – Independence Plumbing & Heating replaced the drainpipe & trap under the sink in the fireside room. Wayne Schneider received an email from Mike Waring that a window on the southwest side of the basement was cracked. Dave Peterson has been contacted to repair or replace the window. The shingle on the east side of the church has not been fixed yet. Jerret Delegardelle bagged the leaves in the parsonage backyard. Mike Waring contacted Heartland Technology to look at the church router. They have installed a trial router. One of the outside lights is burned out. Motion by Barb Hayek second by Cindy Gosse to have Shirley Bergman check into a motion light at the north entrance. Motion carried.

Scholarship – no report

Worship & Music – Hymns have been planned for the balance of the year. The hanging of the greens service will be December 1st at the 10 a.m. service.

Call Committee – The edits have been completed on the MSP. The call committee will meet on Tuesday, November 12th to review the final draft. Discussion was held regarding additional members to the call committee. Cindy Gosse will contact a couple members of the congregation to see if they would be interested in serving.

Pastor's report – Pastor led four Sundays at ALC and Zion. Outreach – wrote daily devotions (25), sent out to both congregations and sent prayer cards to members. Confirmation sessions covered the Ten Commandments and the Small Catechism.

Called on four members homebound/hospitalized. Scheduled one meeting with the Call Committees of each church. Zion is almost finished with the updates, ALC has some more work to do. There will be midweek Advent services at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 4th & 18th at ALC and December 11th at Zion. The budget hearing was set for January 12, 2025 after the church service. The Annual meeting will be January 26, 2025 after the church service.

New Business:

Discussion was held on a consistent time for church services, 9:00 a.m. for ALC and 10:15 for Zion. This will be brought to the congregation at the annual meeting in January.

Motion by Barb Hayek second by Pastor Pat Mohr-Kelly to have a noisy offering for ELCA Good Gifts and have Wednesday Worship children pick the gifts. Motion carried. The ELCA Good Gifts order form will be included in the bulletin to allow the congregation to purchase additional gifts if they wish.

The Christmas Eve service time will be 4:30 p.m. at ALC.

The Women's group would like to hold a fundraiser for the quilting materials. Motion by Cindy Gosse second by Barb Hayek to allow the Women's group to hold a free will donation dinner in the fellowship hall. Motion carried.

Confirmation requirements were discussed, no action was taken.

Old Business:

Cindy Gosse and Maureen Even are working on the update to the funeral policy.

The next council meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 10th to work on the budget with the regular council meeting to follow.

Deacon assignments for the month of December were made.

Motion by Pastor Pat Mohr-Kelly second by Maureen Even to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Gosse

Acting Secretary

December 10, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by President Christy Phillips. Present: Pastor Pat Mohr-Kelly, Mike Waring, Shirley Bergman, Maureen Even, Cindy Gosse, Barb Hayek. Absent: Mitchell Hayek.

Pastor Pat Mohr-Kelly led with devotions from Luke 21.

Motion by Cindy Gosse and second by Shirley Bergman to approve the agenda.

Budget workshop:

Mike presented the Financial Secretary's year end report.

Motion by Barb Hayek to increase secretaries' salary by 3%, second by Cindy Gosse. All in favor, motion Carried.

Motion by Cindy Gosse to increase the head organist salary by \$520.00, second by Barb Hayek. All in favor, motion carried.

Budget line items were adjusted as needed. The Budget Hearing has been set for Sunday, January 12th after worship service. Mike Waring left the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Motion by Pastor Pat Mohr-Kelly second by Barb Hayek to approve the treasurer's report. All in favor, motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Motion by Barb Hayek second by Shirley Bergman to approve the minutes of the November 11, 2024, council meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Hospitality – no report

Parish Ed/Youth – Christmas Program will be held Sunday, December 15th.

Property/Technology – Two yellow bags of salt for the parsonage water softener and four furnace filters were purchased for the personage. Pastor Pat replaced a furnace filter early December. Dave/Josh Becker replaced the burnt-out light in the soffit on the north. He will supply ALC with eight matching LED lights for the north and east soffits and Eric Clark will install. Dave/Josh Becker installed an astrological timer that will light the soffit lights from dusk to 10 PM on the north and east of the 1964 addition. John Bergman suggested the Christmas star hung in the chancel be put on a winch to make it safer and easier to put up. Eric Clark assessed the situation and will research this project. For safety, Pastor Pat suggested we need a railing at the center of the steps coming out of the narthex doors.

I have asked the Property Committee for ideas. Independence Plumbing & Heating replaced the women's toilet next to the kitchen. The laptop for the treasurer will be upgraded. Technology - Chancel TV update: Anthony was going to look at replacing the lectern side TV.

Scholarship - no report

Worship & Music - Meeting with committee Pastor Pat, Mary Adams, Cyndi Nuehring, Shirley Bergman Monday, December 9, 2024, 4 PM to discuss services, settings, and hymns for months in 2025. Advent: Holden Evening Prayer at ALC December 4 and 18 at 7 PM, Sue Hoey leads. Advent: Holden Evening Prayer at Zion December 11 at 7 PM, Candy leads. Special Music for December: Dec 15 SS program; Charlie Stanek, SS bells, Rory Thompson. Dec 22 Jared and Marissa Merkel "Mary, Did You Know" vocal duet. Dec 24 4:30 Jessica Saunders "Lo, How a Rose". Dec 29 10 AM Marcia Riggs and Lily Bergman "Mary Did You Know" trumpet/clarinet duet. Shirley requests an office key. Motion by Cindy Gosse second by Maureen Even to allow Shirley Bergman to have an office key. We will try having ushering during communion, so a hymn may be sung. Hymns have been set through Ash Wednesday.

Call Committee - no report

Pastor's Report - Preached and Presided ALC November 10, 17, 24, December 1, 8 ZION, November 10, 17, 24, December 1, 8 helped with Women's Thanks service, led the Thanksgiving service November 17. Interim Ministry Meeting with synod via zoom. Boundaries Training at synod office. Taught 3 confirmation classes, Ten Commandments and Apostles' Creed. Wrote prayer cards 8 for Zion, 8 for ALC. Visitation: Wendell Erpelding, Marie Bushkofsky, Mary Harding, Roger Weltzin and Jessie, Arlene Riensche. Attended Call Committee meetings 1 for ALC and 1 Zion. Conferred with Liz Bell on Call Process. Encouraged Nominations for Church Council. Organized and recruited for the Hanging of the Greens service. Prepared for Advent season, lighting of wreath, midweek service. Planning Christmas and Advent sermons. Prayed for each congregation to prepare for new pastor. Pastor will be on vacation February 13th - 19th. A supply pastor has been contacted by Arnita Liebold. A supply pastor will also be provided for January 19th at ALC while Zion is having their annual meeting.

New Business:

Alyssa Hoey will be going on a Mission Trip next year. Motion by Cindy Gosse second by Barb Hayek to designate January and February noisy offerings towards Alyssa Hoey's mission trip. All in favor, motion carried.

All positions needed for council have been filled by the nominating committee and will be on the ballot for the annual meeting.

A Joint Council Meeting with Zion will be held on December 18th at 5:30 pm to consider times & places for worship services during Lent and considering having set times for each church rather than alternating every four months.

The Call Committee provided the updated MSP. Motion by Shirley Bergman second by Cindy Gosse to submit the MSP to the Synod. All in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Cindy Gosse second by Barb Hayek to approve the following positions: Financial Secretary-Mike Waring, Head Usher-Merritt Jones, and Head Organist-Shirley Bergman. All in favor, motion carried. Shirley Bergman will meet with Merritt Jones on updating ushers' duties.

Discussion was held on the format to be used in worship for the Lord's Prayer. Pastor Pat Mohr Kelly made a motion to close the session. Motion failed due to lack of second. Pastor Pat Mohr Kelly left the meeting.

Old Business:

Cindy Gosse has updated the procedures & scheduling process for funerals.

The outside lighting on the east side of the church has a separate switch from the north side.

Shirley Bergman will contact Dave Becker to see if they can be combined with the north side switch to have enable them to be lit at the same time.

No correspondences, deacon assignments were made for January. Our next council meeting will be January 13, 2025, at 6:30 pm.

Barb Hayek made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 pm second by Cindy Gosse.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Even

Acting Secretary

ANNUAL MEETING

**The Annual Meeting will be January 26th after
worship service, with snow date of Feb 2nd**

Please plan on attending we must have a quorum of 25 voting members.

The definition of a voting member from constitution Chapter 8 C8.02. C.

Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of the congregation as well as the other rights and privileges ascribed to voting members by the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.

Definition of the term *Confirmed Member* for the purpose of voting at the Annual Meeting, as well as at regular or special meetings.

A Confirmed Member is eligible to vote regardless of age; confirmation alone establishes eligibility. However, to exercise this right, the member must have made a personal contribution of record, separate from their parents' contributions, and using the same guidelines as mentioned in the aforementioned definition.

If you need contribution envelopes, please contact the church secretary.

Alternatively, you can use the tan envelopes available in the pews.



Special Offerings

January - February

The Noisy Offering is designated for Alyssa Hoey to support her mission trip through Orchard Hill Church in Cedar Falls. Over the past two years, Alyssa has had the opportunity to serve at the Caribbean Christian School for the Deaf, and she will be returning again this year to continue her work.

March - April

The Noisy Offering will be designated for the Jesup Ministerial. This organization is made up of the following churches in our community: American Lutheran Church, Zion, St. Athanasius, United Methodist, First Presbyterian, and Jesup Bible Fellowship.

The Jesup Ministerial supports various programs and initiatives, including the Summer Food Program, Vacation Bible School, and Military Care Packages at Christmas. They also provide assistance with heating, rent, and gas cards. All recipients of this aid are limited to our community and are carefully screened to ensure support is provided where it is most needed.

Lent Offerings

The Lent envelopes are also designated for the Jesup Ministerial. As a point of interest, last year the Summer Food Program served 20 families. Twice a month, these families received donated dry foods and canned goods along with a \$25 gift card to purchase essentials such as milk, eggs, and bread. In total, the program provided \$3,000 in gift cards to support local families in need.



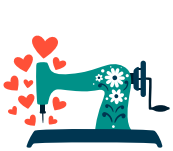
FAITH & FELLOWSHIP

OPPORTUNITIES.....

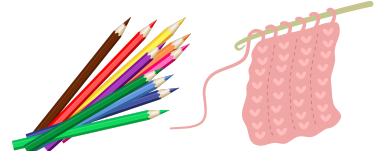
Thursdays with God in January

Join us for Bible Study every Thursday at 6:30 pm, either on Zoom or in person.

Each week includes time for prayer, scripture reading, and in-depth Bible study.



M & M Retreat



Martha & Mary Retreat- Friday Feb 21st-Saturday Feb 22nd. EWALU Stone Center Any woman who belongs to the ELCA and their friends are welcome. Activities; bible board games, mixer game, puzzles, bring your own crafting projects (everything is welcome including: Quilting, bandage rolling, knit/crochet, etc...) for more details see flyer on the bulletin board in the lower narthex. Registration deadline Feb 19th.



SAVE THE DATE

February 9th at 11:30 AM.

The ALC quilters are hosting a fundraising dinner after church on February 9th. The proceeds of the dinner will go for purchasing Lutheran World Relief quilt and kit supplies when needed. More details to follow in the coming weeks.

Please plan to attend.

College Scholarships



ALC is once again participating in the Educational Partners in Covenant (EPIC) Scholarship Program for the 2024-2025 school year. Through this program ELCA colleges, Grand View, Luther, and Wartburg, match grants from churches, dollar for dollar. ALC has allocated funds of \$600.00 for this scholarship in their annual budget. Scholarship applications are available on the bulletin board by the secretary's office. **They must be returned by April 1, 2025 to the secretary's** office to the attention of Pat Winblade, Scholarship Chairperson. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Winblade, 319-290-9281.

Iowa State Beta Sigma Psi is offering a \$2000 scholarship to three Lutheran young men who will be freshman at Iowa State during the 2025-2026 academic year. Joining Beta Sigma Psi is NOT a prerequisite to be selected. Information can be found at <http://epsilon.betasigmapsi.org/scholarship/> and also information on the bulletin board by the church office.



February reminds us of love. Love for the Lord, love for our partners, and love for friends and family. We offer you this story of the power of love between a mother and daughter.

"Without Amy's support, I would still be an addict, and I wouldn't be where I am today," said Michelle, an LSI client.

Michelle was struggling with substance abuse, legal issues, and mental health issues when she found LSI therapist Amy Davis back in 2021.

"God helps us in ways we don't always want him to," said Michelle. "When the coronavirus pandemic hit, I lost my job. The unemployment lines were long at the time, so we went several months without a paycheck, so I decided to get creative with my finances. I started selling drugs and was later arrested with a large quantity of drugs. They came in, took my kid, and I went to jail. After that, I was referred to work with Amy at LSI."

Michelle and Amy worked through Michelle's childhood trauma, processing the significant losses in her life due to drug overdose and death. Amy helped Michelle work on building a positive support system, a list of future goals, and a relationship with her daughter, Rachel.

"Rachel and I had a lot of problems when we entered therapy because I was a drug addict, and there was a lot of broken trust between us," said Michelle. "LSI therapists helped us rebuild that trust and helped show her the progress I had made when she couldn't see it herself."

Rachel, in therapy as well, has been seeing LSI Therapist Chelsea Zaragoza since 2019. In addition to one-on-one therapy sessions with their respective therapists, Michelle and Rachel also do family therapy sessions with Amy and Chelsea. These sessions help the mother and daughter have time set aside to talk about issues they are having in a healthy, productive way.

"Michelle has had a lot of struggles, loss, and a lot of people who didn't believe in her, and her daughter was one of them," said Amy Davis, LSI Therapist. "We have worked hard doing family and individual therapy to bring those two back together, and it has worked. Where they are now, I don't think I've seen a mother-daughter relationship as healthy as the two of them are."

Today, Michelle has her daughter back in her home, she is thriving as a general manager at a coffee shop, and she is going to school for substance abuse counseling. She just received her one-year sobriety chip, and she has a good support system.

"To see how far Michelle has come since I met her is truly remarkable," said Amy. "She built the ladder, and she climbed out."

"I was a mess when I first came to LSI," said Michelle. "Now, I'm sober, in college, have a high-paying job, and have my daughter back. Amy believed in me when no one else did, not even myself. She gave me hope."

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

WORSHIP WEDNESDAY



February 12th and 26th 6:15-7pm

Come join the fun!

CHECK OUT MORE PHOTOS FROM THE
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE
LOWER NARTHEX

***ALC** youth group and friends*



ALC YOUTH GROUP & FRIENDS
ROLLER SKATING IN VINTON!



facebook.com/alcjesup/



americanlutheranjesup.org

January Celebrations

Birthdays

Rayla Tonne	06-Jan
Connie Gosse	10-Jan
Cyndi Nuehring	10-Jan
Clyde Schmit	11-Jan
Jan Rachuy	14-Jan
Judy Anderson	15-Jan
Sara Borland	18-Jan
Greg Lysne	20-Jan
Ella Frush	20-Jan
Olivia Frush	22-Jan
Chris Waring	23-Jan
Jordyn Bergman	23-Jan
Ron Gosse	27-Jan
Renee McAtee	27-Jan
Ray Zummak	30-Jan
Larry Thompson	30-Jan

Baptism Anniversaries

Kaye Jones	1-Jan	Clyde Schmit	20-Jan
Kathy Rachuy	3-Jan	Emily Hanks	21-Jan
Kash Niichel	5-Jan	Amanda Phillips	22-Jan
Kohl Nuehring	8-Jan	Katie Clark	22-Jan
Marcy Ruckdaschel	10-Jan	Rayla Tonne	25-Jan
Kyle Nuehring	10-Jan	Jacob Clark	25-Jan
Katie Stalheim	13-Jan	Brian Hayek	26-Jan
Connie Gosse	16-Jan	Christy Phillips	26-Jan
Michael Mostek	16-Jan	Danny Kopplin	30-Jan

Wedding Anniversaries

Rich and Pat Mohr-Kelly 1/28/2000

Prayers
& **CONCERNS**



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.

Continue your prayers for Stephany Winkelpleck, Marie Bushkofsky, Wendell Erpelding, and Emilia Dahl.

Please contact Sharon McAtee at 319-827-6154 if you are in need of a Prayer shawl.

2025

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	01
Pastor: Pat Mohr-Kelly Council President: Christy Phillips Secretary: Chris Waring Church Phone: 827-6626 Web Address: www.americanlutheranjesup.org						
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 10am Worship & Communion			Confirmation Class 6:15 ZION LAMP articles due	Womens Bible Study 9am		
09	10	11	12	13	14	15
5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 10am Worship & Communion 11am Meal fundraiser for ALC Quilters	6:30pm Council Meeting	Quilting 9am	Confirmation Class 6:15 ALC Worship Wednesdays 6:15pm			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
6TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 10am Worship & Communion		Prayer Shawl 10am	Confirmation Class 6:15 ZION			
23	24	25	26	27	28	01
3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 10am Worship & Communion		Quilting 9am	Confirmation Class 6:15 ALC Worship Wednesdays 6:15			

Deacon Assignments for February

2nd Christy Phillips

9th Maureen Even

16th Maureen Even

23rd Cindy Gosse

Why don't churches make New Year's resolutions?

Because they prefer to focus on New Testament promises!

What's God's favorite kind of weather?

Son-shine!

Why did Noah never go fishing?

Because he only had two worms!

Why did the choir bring a ladder to church?

Because they were trying to reach the high notes! 🎵

