

HE LAMP

A Monthly Publication of American Lutheran Church
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LSI ARTICLE AND STORY

2024 EDITION ISSUE 527

Amplifying the Voices of Iowa Children and Families

Individuals struggle without access to critical healthcare and family support services. Human service providers are overworked and underpaid. Former refugees and immigrants strive to build new lives in the U.S.

These are all issues faced by Iowans from all different walks of life. Join Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) to advocate for our community members at Lutheran Day on the Hill (LDH) on Monday, February 19, 2024.

In partnership with the three Iowa synods of the ELCA, LDH is LSI's biggest day of advocacy. Over 150 participants gather at Capitol Hill Lutheran Church in Des Moines to learn about critical issues Iowa children, adults, and families are facing. You'll learn more about the legislative process, the issues impacting your neighbors, and your role as a citizen in helping to amplify their voices.

After learning how to advocate for our neighbors, the group heads to the Iowa State Capitol to talk directly with legislators.

For more information and to register for this year's Lutheran Day on the Hill, visit LSIowa.org/LDH.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. 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.

American Lutheran Church
November 13, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm by President Christy Phillips. Present were Christy Phillips, Barb Hayek, Cindy Gosse, Shirley Bergman, and Sheila Collins. Mitchell Hayek joined by phone. Beth Stanek was absent

Barb Hayek led devotions.

Sheila Collins made a motion to amend the agenda with two additional items. Second by Sue Hoey.

Motion carried. Mitchell Hayek made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Second by Shirley Bergman. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report - The checking account balance at the end of October was \$1,3081.70. Our Certificate of Deposit came due and was renewed for seven months at 5.0% interest.

Mitchell Hayek made a motion to authorize the Treasurer to renew CD's as they come due. Second by Sue Hoey. Motion carried.

Mitchell Hayek made a motion to transfer \$3,081.70 from the checking account to the General Savings and Emergency Fund. Second by Sheila Collins. Motion carried.

Barb Hayek made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Second by Sue Hoey. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report - Cindy Gosse made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2023 Council meeting, the October 23, 2023 Special Council meeting, and the November 12, 2023 ALC/ZLC Joint Council meeting. Second by Shirley Bergman. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Hospitality - No report.

Memorial - Cindy Gosse made a motion to approve the revised Memorial Policy and Gift Receipt. Second by Sue Hoey. A roll call vote was requested. Cindy Gosse, Shirley Bergman, Sue Hoey, and Sheila Collins voted Yea. Barb Hayek and Mitchell Hayek voted Nay. Motion carried. Christy Phillips will send the new policy and receipt form to the Church Secretary so she can make it into a brochure. It will also be given to the Financial Secretary. The committee suggests giving some of the undesignated funds towards the National Youth Gathering in 2024.

Parish Ed - The children's Christmas Program will be December 17 during worship. First communion classes have been scheduled with instructor Sue Hoey.

Presidents - No report

Property - Parsonage: The parsonage is checked on about every two weeks. Thanks to Barb Hayek for removing the raspberry bushes. Shirley Bergman will check on the progress of composing a written renter's agreement for any future occupant, detailing what is permitted for the structure and grounds.

There is a city water survey that needs to be completed for both the parsonage and the church. Barb Hayek made a motion for Cindy Gosse to purchase a new vacuum for the parsonage, not to exceed \$100.00. Second by Cindy Gosse. Motion carried.

Church: Independence Plumbing, Heating, and Cooling will repair the toilet in the men's basement restroom and do the yearly furnace checks at the same time. Electrician, Dave Becker, repaired the flickering pendant light in the sanctuary. The committee is recommending the purchase of a new microphone for the pastor (see New Business).

Scholarship - No report.

Technology - No report.

Worship and Music - Hymns have been chosen through January 14, 2024. Christmas decorating will be after worship on November 26 and taken down after worship on December 31 by Youth and the congregation.

Special music for services is being encouraged. Christy Phillips will have the secretary email confirmation students about participating as Scripture readers.

Youth - The Youth will address the congregation on November 19 about their upcoming trip to the National Youth Gathering in 2024. A fundraiser list has been published.

Call Committee - Waiting for response to request for information from Synod representative Liz Albertson who has been on vacation.

New Business

- The Presbyterian Church has offered for area churches to help share the cost to sponsor a concert by Blake & Jenna Bolerjack. The total cost of their concert is approximately \$2,000.00. Sheila Collins made a motion to decline the offer. Second by Barb Hayek. Offer declined.

- Pastor's Wireless Microphone - Barb Hayek made a motion to use Memorial Funds designated for online services to purchase a new Pastor's wireless microphone system in the amount of \$329.00. Second by Cindy Gosse. Motion carried.

- Offering Envelopes and Communion Count - Offering envelopes and "I give online" envelopes will be placed in the pews. Christy Phillips will ask Secretary Chris Waring if she prefers to count communion cards from the pews or continue with the sign in sheet. We need an accurate count for the Synod and to establish qualified voting members.

- The Budget workshop will be on December 11, 2023 after the council meeting. The Budget Hearing will be after worship on January 7, 2024. The annual meeting is set for January 21, 2024.

- The Christmas offering will go to the Synod Good Gifts Program (similar to Heifer International). We will let the children pick which gift to send.

- Holiday Services will be December 24 morning service at 8:30 am and evening service at 4:30 pm.

ALC will host Lenten services on February 14 (Ash Wednesday), February 28, February 13, and March 28 (Maundy Thursday). Alternating with ZLC.

- Christy Phillips will ask our new secretary Chris Waring if she feels she has any conflict remaining on the Call Committee.

Old Business

- Sue Hoey volunteered to be lay leader for February 11.

- Children's Corner - Christy Phillips will have the secretary order some advent calendars and free materials from the ELCA for the busy bags.

- The Active/Inactive Directory List is being worked on.

- Pulpit Supply is filled through March 24.

- Christy Phillips will remind the nominating committee of openings that need to be filled.

- Secretary Chris Waring will post established office hours.

Correspondence

EWALU is having a fund-raising campaign for their Cedar at 60 renovation project.

Deacon assignments for December

3 - Sheila Collins

10 - Barb Hayek

17 - Christy Phillips

24 - 8:30

4:30 Christy Phillips

31 - Cindy Gosse

Sue Hoey made a motion to adjourn. Second by Sheila Collins. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Collins, Secretary

American Lutheran Church
ALC / ZLC Joint Council Meeting
November 12, 2023

A Joint Council meeting with American Lutheran and Zion Lutheran was held at Jubilee. Brad Jesse called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led devotions.

Present from ALC were Shirley Bergman, Barb Hayek, Beth Stanek, Sue Hoey, and Sheila Collins. Joining by phone was Christy Phillips. Cindy Gosse and Mitchell Hayek were absent.

Present from ZLC were Brad Jesse, Doug Frush, Craig Frush, Don Palmer, Chelsea Powers, and Leland Sommerfelt.

Special service times for Christmas, Lent, and Easter were discussed. ALC needs to finalize their times at their next council meeting. ALC will need to find a lay leader or supply pastor for February 11, 2024.

Concerns were expressed about no activity towards finding a pastor. Representatives of the Call Committee from each congregation will contact the NEIA Synod for feedback on our site profiles and inquire about any interest shown in our search.

The current service times of alternating 8:30 and 10:00 every four months was discussed. We realize there is no way to please everyone. The consensus was to keep the times unchanged but be open to further discussion if warranted.

ZLC will find out if any of their youth are interested in attending the National Youth Conference and participating in the planned fund raisers.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Collins,
Secretary

Letter from Our Bishop

Dear Friends:

In November I learned that Kris Meyer was moving out of state and would no longer be able to continue to serve as the Vice President of the Northeastern Iowa Synod. The Synod Constitution calls for the Bishop, with the approval of the Executive Committee of the Synod Council, to *“arrange for the appropriate care of the responsibilities of the officer until an election of a new officer can be held.”* (S8.55)

After careful consideration, prayer, and conversation with the whole Synod Council, Linda Groe has been appointed, and accepted, to serve as the Synod VP until an

election can be held at the next Synod Assembly in 2025. Her term as VP officially begins December 15th.

- Linda was elected to the Synod Council at the 2021 Synod Assembly. We felt it was important to have a VP that was elected to leadership by the Synod Assembly rather than bringing someone into this role who is new to the work of the Synod and Synod Council.
- Linda has served as the Chair of the Registration Committee at several Synod Assemblies and is the one who has presented the registration reports to the Assembly.
- Linda is a member of St. John Lutheran in Waukon. Her congregational involvement includes, Altar Guild, Choir, Bell Choir, LYO, WELCA, and Bible Study leader. She enjoys golf, scrapbooking, and reading.

Please join me in prayers of gratitude for the work of our outgoing VP, Kris Meyer, and prayers of blessing for our new VP, Linda Groe. The January/February 2024 issue of the Northeastern Star will include a more detailed article about this change in Synod leadership.

**Rev. Kevin T Jones, Bishop
Northeastern Iowa Synod ELCA**

201 20th St. SW

PO Box 804

Waverly, IA 50677-0804

Office: 319-352-1414

Cell: 319-240-3748

(he/him)



Thank you to everyone that provided Gift cards, purchased gifts or donated funds for gifts to be purchased. Secretary Chris delivered them to Bremwood on December 14th.

Total value was close to \$1200. When Chris delivered, she asked how the participation was from other congregations and she was told many who have given in the past did not this year. So bless each and every one from this congregation.

2023 Christmas Program

A Christmas to Believe In

Narrators: Brinley Bergman and Keaton Lsyne, Mary: Carsyn Nichel, Joseph: Kash Nichel, Angel: Lauryn Witt, Elizabeth: Layne Witt, Zechariah: Kash Nichel
Shepards: Landon Bergman, Kyler Lsyne, Kyle Neuhring, Angles: Neva Winkelpleck, Charlie Stanek, Ella & Nora Frush, King Herod: Layne Witt, Wisemen: Landon Bergman, Kyler Lsyne, Kyle Neuhring



A big thank you to Katey Nichel, Crystal Lysne, Olivia Frush and all the children in the Children's Christmas program. It was a nice program. All of you did a great job.



Announcements

Wednesday Worship will resume on January 10, 2024.

In anticipation of the upcoming **Annual Meeting**, please email your reports to Chris at secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org no later than January 3rd.

INDEPENDENCE AREA FOOD PANTRY– Will be relocating to 1413 1st St. W, Independence (formally Buchanan County Public Health) They will be closed January 10-12th, 2024. Will reopen on January 15th, 2024 Questions? Please call 319-334-2451

To volunteer to help with the move:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E48A4A62EA2FCC25-45763296-relocating>

First Communion: We will be celebrating First Communion during service on January 14th.

ELCA National Youth Gathering: We have six high school members (along with 3 adult leaders) who are excited to attend the **ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans next July!**



Thank you from the Youth Group

The Youth Group and families would like to send sincere thanks to everyone who has supported us thus far in prayer and generosity as we prepare for our journey to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July 2024. Since we announced our journey in worship just in November, we've raised more than \$2,500 through fundraisers and generous contributions.

We recognize several people have generously contributed funds through offering, and many of you through noisy offering, thank you!!! A special thank you also to those that donated baked goods for our bake sale: Shirley Bergman, Pat Winblade, Barb Hayek, Mary Adams, Iva Ruehs, Connie Jones, and the Youth Group Families!



Please follow our journey by joining the ALC Youth Group Facebook Group by scanning the QR code below, or receive updates via the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary.

Prayer Shawl: Prayer shawl will meet **every third Tuesday** from 10-12. Please contact Sharon McAtee at 319-827-6154 if you are in need of a shawl.

Please keep in your prayers: Emelia Dahl Jacobson - Send cards to Emelia at Hiawatha Care Center, Room 53, 405 North 15th Avenue, Hiawatha, IA 52233. **Stephanie Winkelpleck** has returned home and is recovering. You can send cards to her at the following address: Cindy Gosse, 505 10th St., Jesup. Thank you all for your continued prayers and support.

Scholarship Program: ALC is once again participating in the Educational Partners in Covenant (EPIC) Scholarship Program for the 2023-2024 school year. Through this program ELCA colleges; Grand View, Luther, and Wartburg, match grants from churches, dollar for dollar. ALC has allocated funds for this scholarship in their annual budget. Scholarship applications are available on the bulletin board by the secretary's office. They must be completed and returned by March 1st, 2024 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 or 319-827-6788.



Support Lay Ministry Training with a Gift Today!

The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Matthew 9:37



PLEASE CONSIDER GIVING A GIFT TODAY!

Help create a Lay Ministry Training Program that gives congregation leaders the tools and support they need when congregations are without a pastor or deacon.

At any given time, 30 congregations in the Northeastern Iowa Synod have no pastoral leadership. These congregations are being led by dedicated volunteers, many of whom feel like they are left on their own to figure things out without training or support.

With your help, the new Lay Ministry Training Program will ensure that lay leaders are:

- Equipped with the skills to preach and lead worship.
- Surrounded with the support of teachers mentors and classmates.
- Affirmed through a vetting process.

Your financial gift will keep the costs low for congregations and students while providing a quality and comprehensive program.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

YES! Make a one-time tax-deductible gift of \$_____ to support Lay Ministry Training in the Northeastern Iowa Synod.

Name _____

DONATE ONLINE!

Address _____

Use the QR code

below or donate City _____ State _____

Zip _____

online at **www.**

Phone _____ Email _____

neiasynod.org/give.

You can give through your congregation, or mail your check directly to: *Northeastern Iowa Synod, 201 20th St. SW, P.O. Box 804, Waverly, IA 50677-0804.*

Please indicate "Lay Ministry" on the check's memo line and make the check out to: *Northeastern Iowa Synod. The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.*

— Matthew 9:37

EVENTS

Sunday worship services will be at **8:30am** from **January-March**

Budget Hearing:

Sunday January 7th following Worship

First Communion:

January 14th

Council Meeting:

Monday January 8th 6:30pm

Annual Congregational Meeting:

Sunday January 21st following Worship

DEACONS FOR JANUARY

Jan. 7th Christy Phillips

Jan. 14th Sue Hoey

Jan. 21st. Maureen Even

Jan 28th Christy Phillips/Madyson Dahl

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Military members: Christa Leach has returned from deployment and is still with the 434th Air Force Reserve Unit in Grissom, Indiana. Jordan and Justin continue their monthly drills with the 185th Air Refueling Wing in Sioux City. Jeryn Loyd is a student at Iowa State and currently home from Arkansas in the Army Reserves as Cassidee and Cole. Please contact the church office to add other names who serve. We remember them in our prayers.

If you know of anyone else serving in the armed forces, please contact the church office (secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org) or (827-6626). We'd like to remember them in our prayers.

PASTORS COMING TO ALC:

Jan. 7th Pastor Urlaub

Jan. 14th Pastor Dan Mixdorf

Jan. 21st. Karen Weltzin

Jan 28th Pastor Dennis Hanson

-

Celebrations

January Birthdays

Rayla Tonne	6	Greg Lysne	20
Connie Gosse	10	Jordyn Bergman	23
Cyndi Nuehring	10	Chris Waring	23
Grayson Pearce	17	Ron Gosse	27
Sara Borland	18	Renee McAtee	27
		Ray Zummak	30

January Baptisms

Jones, Kaye	1
Niichel, Kash W.	5
Nuehring, Kohl M.	8
Nuehring, Kyle A.	10
Gosse, Connie	16
Clark, Emily L.	21
Phillips, Amanda L.	22
Clark, Katie E.	22
Tonne, Rayla	25
Clark, Jacob R.	25
Phillips, Christy L.	26

Heavenly Humor

What did God's people say when food fell from Heaven? "Oh man-na!"

What did pirates call Noah's boat? "The *arrrrrrk*."

How are toddlers and those who attempted to build a tower to Heaven similar? They all babble.

Why didn't anyone want to fight Goliath? It seemed like a *giant* ordeal.

2024 JANUARY

SUNDAY						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	01	02	03	04	05	06
	New Years Day	9:00am Quilting	No confirmation	9:30am Women's Bible Study		
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
1st Sunday in Christmas 8:30am Worship & Communion Budget Hearing following	6:30pm Council Meeting		6:15-7pm Wednesday Worship 6:30pm Confirmation ALC		Chris out of office	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Baptism of our Lord 8:30am Worship & Communion First Communion		10 am- 12pm Prayer Shawl	6:30pm Confirmation Zion			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
2nd Sunday in Epiphany 8:30am Worship & Communion Annual Meeting following		9:00am Quilting	6:15-7pm Wednesday Worship 6:30pm Confirmation ALC			
28	29	30	31	01	02	03
3rd Sunday in Epiphany 8:30am Worship &			6:30pm Confirmation Zion			
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
Council President: Christy Phillips Secretary: Chris Waring Church Phone: 827-6626 Web Address: www.americanlutheranjesup.org Church e-mail: secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org						

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12-31-1997

THIS YEAR, FOR NEW YEARS, I AM RESOLVING TO DO ALL SORTS OF BAD THINGS SINCE I NEVER EVER STICK TO MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS