

THE LAMP

A Monthly Publication of American Lutheran Church

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LSI ARTICLE AND STORY

2024 EDITION ISSUE 529

March is National Professional Social Work Month

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.

March is National Professional Social Work Month, a time to recognize social workers and thank them for all they do. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we are grateful for the many social workers who have dedicated their lives to serving our communities across the state!

At LSI, we believe every Iowan deserves the independence they need to thrive. LSI's Host Homes is an innovative way LSI is serving adults with disabilities. Through this program, an individual moves from Supported Community Living into a private family home with a carefully selected mentor. This program is built entirely around an individual's goals and interests, and LSI's extensive matching process ensures the mentor and mentee are a great fit.

Take a moment to read the following story from a Host Homes mentee:

“My journey with LSI's Host Homes started in early 2023. I've known my mentor for a few years while he provided hourly services to me. We learned about Host

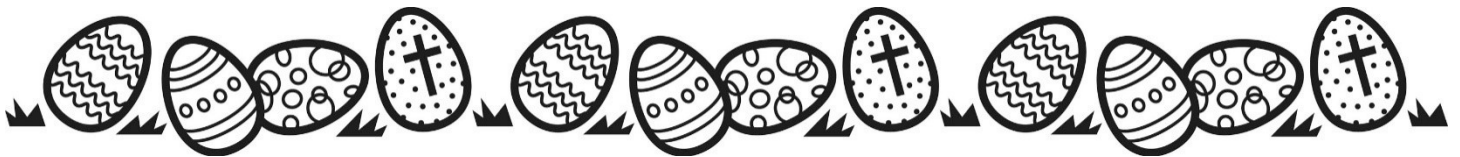
Homes and thought it would be a good fit for us. I moved into my mentor's home where he helps me maintain a daily routine with schoolwork, household tasks, daily living skills, improving independence, and more.

I attend a college nearby and go to classes a few days a week. I am able to navigate the local bus system to access my community to attend classes and visit friends. My mentor is always available to transport me into the community as needed.

This summer, I went on a trip across the country with one of my classes. While on this trip, I was able to maintain my independence with limited support, but I knew my mentor would be available by phone to assist me with my coping skills and problem solving. This trip was a big success for me knowing I had support only a phone call away.

I like LSI's Host Homes Program because my mentor supports me in the way I want to be supported, assists me with some daily tasks I struggle with, and understands me."

If you are interested in becoming a Host Homes mentor and helping a fellow lowan achieve independence, please visit LSIowa.org/HostHomes for more information.



American Lutheran Church
January Council Meeting
January 17, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Christy Phillips at 6:31 pm. Present were Christy Phillips, Shirley Bergman, Sue Hoey, and Beth Stanek. Joining by Zoom were Barb Hayek, Cindy Gosse, and Sheila Collins. Mitchell Hayek was absent.

Christy Phillips led devotions.

Sue Hoey made a motion to approve the agenda. Second by Barb Hayek. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – The checking account balance at the end of December 2023 was \$17,097.51. Beth Stanek made a motion to transfer \$7,097.51 to the

General Savings and Emergency Fund. Second by Shirley Bergman. Motion carried. Barb Hayek made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Second by Sheila Collins. Motion carried.

Approval of the Budget for 2024 – In response to suggestions from the Budget Hearing:

- An interview expense of \$1,000 will be added.
- Property insurance will increase to \$7,500.
- The Pastor's Package amounts will be removed with a notation that these amounts are to be determined at the time a Pastor is called. The budget will be amended at that time.

Barb Hayek made a motion to approve the 2024 budget with the above changes. Second by Beth Stanek. Motion carried. The amount budgeted for Synod and Non-Synod Benevolence will remain the same. The title of the General Savings and Emergency Fund will remain the same.

Secretary's Report – Cindy Gosse made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2023, Council meeting with two corrections and the minutes of the January 7, 2024 Budget Hearing as written. Second by Barb Hayek. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Hospitality – No report.

Parish Ed – Wednesday Worship was canceled last week due to the weather. The committee is still looking for new members, possibly including an older youth member. The first communion was canceled due to weather. A new date is being determined.

Presidents – Church secretary, Chris Waring, submitted a list of her ongoing activities. Christy Phillips has set up an agenda for the annual meeting. There will not be a Synod Assembly this year. Synod Assembly will alternate annually with a new Synod event titled NEIA Synod Creative, Collaborative, Congregations Event.

Property – (For full report, see binder outside the Secretary's office).

Parsonage: Eric Clark adjusted the furnace duct so the door to the furnace room will now close.

Church: The committee recommends purchase of Levelor Blinds made by American Blinds for replacement of the blinds in the Pastor's study and the Secretary's office. Barb Hayek made a motion to purchase the above-

mentioned blinds with money from the Improvement Fund. Second by Cindy Gosse. Motion carried.

Scholarship – No report.

Technology – Mike Waring has been working with Anthony Bahe to improve the quality of the newly installed microphone system.

Worship and Music – (For full report, see binder outside the Secretary's office). The committee met on January 10. Hymns were chosen through April 7. Chris Waring is willing to serve on the committee. The Lenten message is still being worked on. The Jesup Ministerial Association is working on an ecumenical Good Friday service. Alyssa Hoey is seeking to participate in a worship service and request a noisy offering to assist with a mission trip to Jamaica. She is leading a team to work with the deaf.

Youth – The Youth are about to start their Little Caesars Pizza Fundraiser. They have gotten their hotel assignments for the National Youth Gathering and they are on budget.

Call – The committee will conduct an interview of a prospective Pastor on January 26. Chris Waring can no longer serve on the Call Committee now that she is a paid employee (per NEIA Synod guidelines). Cindy Gosse made a motion to appoint Beth Stanek to the Call Committee. Second by Barb Hayek. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee – Has found one member of the congregation willing to run for council: Maureen Even.

New Business

Dr. Merritt Jones will continue to be Head Usher for 2024. Mike Waring will continue to be Financial Secretary for 2024.

Cindy Gosse made a motion to designate the Lenten and Easter offerings to NEIA Synod Lay Leader Ministry Training. Second by Barb Hayek. Motion carried.

ALC will celebrate our 90th Anniversary in July. We will ask Chris Waring to check on available dates with the city for an outside service in the park pavilion. Activities to be determined.

Pulpit supply is filled through May 19, except for Easter Sunday.

Correspondence

Received requests for donations from the Jesup Fire Association and ELCA Ministries.

Deacon Assignments for February

4 – Sheila Collins
11 – Reader only
18 – Sue Hoey
25 – Christy Phillips

Sheila Collins made a motion to adjourn. Second by Barb Hayek. The meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Collins, Secretary



LWR Personal Care Kits We are collecting the following items for LWR Personal Care Kits, our goal is 45 kits! Each kit will include on each of the following:

- One Light weight bath size towel (between 20"x40" and 52"x27"), dark in color
- Two or three bath sized bars of soap equaling 8-9oz., any brand in original wrapping
- One adult sized toothbrush in its original package. Multi packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business size envelope, no plastic bags or wrap.
- One metal nail clipper

Combs for these kits have already been purchased.

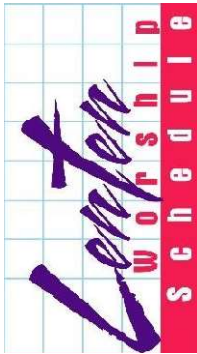
We will need these items no later than March 31st.



Parents and Kids LOVE Camp EWALU

ALC has funds set aside to help families with the cost and EWALU also has Grants for those that qualify.

Pamphlets with information and registration are located on the table by the entrance doors or online at <https://ewalu.org/> Check out their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/EwaluBibleCamp/> or their Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/campewalu/?hl=en>



February 28 6pm Soup Supper 7 pm Zion

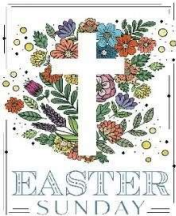
March 6 6pm Soup Supper 7 pm ALC

March 13 6pm Soup Supper 7 pm Zion

March 20 6pm Soup Supper 7 pm Zion

Maundy Thursday **March 28 7 pm ALC**

March 29 Good Friday Ecumenical 7pm at Methodist Church, Jesup



March 31st **Easter Sunday:**

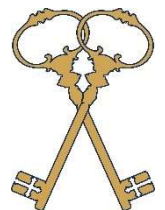
7am Zion 9am ALC

Announcements

Thank you letters or notes received in February!

- \$321 Donation for Mission trip to Jamaica
- ELCA Good Gifts \$650 , Worship Wednesday youth picked out animals they wanted purchase with these monies, equipping God's people around the world and around the corner with what they need to live abundant lives.

The key to the Secretary's office will no longer be left in the usher stand. If you need something in the office. You may contact Chris Waring or stop in during the office hours. If you have a key, please email Chris so a record can be documented.





American Lutheran is gearing up to commemorate its **90th Anniversary on July 28th!** We're seeking enthusiastic individuals to join the planning committee for this special celebration. If you're interested in contributing to this memorable event, please reach out to Maureen Even at 563-880-8872 or Secretary Chris Waring at secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org. Your involvement is greatly appreciated!

Join us for the **Ecumenical Good Friday Drama** on March 29th at 7 pm at First Presbyterian Church in Jesup. We invite four members of our congregation to take part in the Good Friday Drama. **We are seeking one individual for dramatic reading and two to don event-appropriate attire, (PROVIDED)standing under the spotlight during the performance.** Your participation will contribute to a meaningful and impactful service. We look forward to your involvement in making this event memorable. Please contact Secretary Chris Waring at secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org or catch me in the office with questions and to volunteer!



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- she has returned home but is in quarantined. Send cards to 454 5th Street, Jesup, 50648

Dennis Becker has health problems and needs your prayers. You can mail him a card at Gold Canyon RV Resort 6601, E Hwy 60 Site 506, AZ 85118

Council President Christy Phillips as she recovers from a surgery. You can mail her a card at 1139 Langley Rd, Unit 8, Waterloo, IA 50702

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 call or email the church office. secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org or 319-827-6626



The ALC and Zion **Call Committees** have jointly proposed a candidate for the Pastor position to both councils. Please join in prayer for guidance and discernment throughout the ongoing process.

First Communion: Lauryn Rae Witt and Layne McKay Witt, daughters of Shane and Brea Witt, Danni Kopplin daughter of Danny and Erin Kopplin celebrated First Communion during service on February 18, 2024



The ALC Youth group fundraiser through Little Caeser's was a success, be on the lookout for their spring yard cleanup fundraiser!

Please follow their journey by joining the ALC Youth Group Facebook Group by scanning the QR code or receiving updates via the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary.



The Tale of Three Trees


There is an old story that has been told for many years, about three trees growing on a hillside, each of them with hopes and dreams. The first tree looked up at the stars and dreamt of being made into a beautiful treasure chest, covered with gold, encrusted with jewels, and containing valuables. The second tree looked at the river flowing out to the sea and dreamt of being made into a strong sailing ship, to travel across the oceans carrying important cargo. The third tree looked down at the village in the valley, bustling with people leading busy lives with no time for God. She didn't want to be made into anything she dreamed of growing tall on the hillside, pointing people towards heaven.

One day a wood cutter came to the trees carrying an axe. The first tree was pleased when he was cut down and taken to a carpenter's workshop. But instead of being crafted into a treasure chest he was roughly constructed into a feeding trough for animals, covered with dirt and filled with straw. The second tree was delighted when he was taken to a boatyard. But instead of being made into an ocean going ship he became a small fishing boat, placed on a lake. The third tree was sad when she was cut down. All she wanted was to grow tall and point people to God. She was devastated when she was roughly split into beams, chopped into planks, and dumped in the corner of the wood yard. She felt rejected, abandoned, hopeless. Time passed, and their trees forgot their dreams.

But then one golden starlite night a young couple came into the stable containing the feeding trough made from the first tree, and said, 'This manger will be perfect for our newborn baby.' And the first tree realized he was holding the greatest treasure of all. Years later a tired traveler and his friends got into the boat made from the second tree, and when the wind blew and the waves broke over the boat, the traveler stood up and commanded the storm: 'Quiet, be still' and it became perfectly calm. The second tree realized it was carrying the greatest cargo of all, the king of heaven and earth. Then one Friday morning the third tree was startled when her beams were yanked from the forgotten wood pile. She flinched as she was carried through a jeering crowd. She shuddered as a soldier nailed a man's hands to her. Now she felt worse than ever, harsh, cruel. But on the Sunday morning, when Jesus rose from the dead, the third tree knew that God's love had changed everything.

He made the first tree beautiful. Hemade the second tree strong. And whenever anyone thought of the third tree they would be pointing to God.
 Author Unknown Submitted by Christy Phillips

2024 MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	01	02
					Chris Out of Office	
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
3rd Sunday in Lent 8:30am Worship & Communion		9:00am Quilting	6:15-7pm Wednesday Worship 6pm Soup Supper ALC 7pm MidWeek Lent ALC	9:30am Women's Bible Study	Chris out of office	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
4th Sunday in Lent 8:30am Worship & Communion	6:30pm Council Meeting		6pm Soup Supper ZION 7pm MidWeek Lent ZION		Chris out of office	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
5th Sunday in Lent 8:30am Worship & Communion		10 am- 12pm Prayer Shawl Chris out of office	6:15-7pm Wednesday Worship 6pm Soup Supper Zion 7pm Worship Zion			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Palm Sunday 8:30am Worship & Communion		9:00am Quilting		 7pm Service @ ALC	7pm Ecumenical Good Friday Drama @ United Methodist	
31	01	02	03	04	05	06
Easter Sunday 7am Zion 9am ALC Both services Worship & Communion		Council President: Christy Phillips Secretary: Chris Waring Church Phone: 827-6626 Web Address: www.americanlutheranjesup.org Church e-mail: secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org				

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

Council Meeting:
6:30pm Monday March 11th

Women's Bible Study
8:30 am March 7th

Quilting:
9am March 5th and 26th

Prayer Shawl:
10am March 19th

Worship Wednesdays
6:15-7pm March 6th and 20th

Maundy Thursday:
March 28th at ALC
Good Friday Ecumenical Drama
March 29th 7pm United Methodist, Jesup

Lent Midweek Soup Supper and Worship
March 6th at ALC
March 13th and 20th at Zion

Easter Sunday
March 31st 7am Zion 9am ALC

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.

Secretary out of office:
March 1st, 8th, 15th, 19th -24th
Contact Council Vice President
Maureen Even at 563-880-8872
for an emergency

Deacon Assignments for March:

3rd Maureen Even
10th
17th Maureen Even
24th Barb Hayek
31st Christy Phillips

Ushers for March

Teri and Kenny Schares

PASTORS COMING TO ALC:

Mar. 3rd Pastor Thoresen
Mar. 10th Pastor Dennis Hanson
Mar. 17th Pastor Phil Borleske
Mar. 24th Pastor Dan Mixdorf
Mar. 28th Pastor Dan Mixdorf
Mar. 31st Pastor Phil Borleske



MARCH

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

1-Mar	Jeff Niichel	15-Mar	Piper Zelle
4-Mar	Wendell Erpelding	16-Mar	Easton Hill
4-Mar	Anthony Bahe	20-Mar	Mitchell Hayek
7-Mar	Hunter Johnson	21-Mar	Melanie Distler
9-Mar	Steffen Hoey	22-Mar	Haley Borland
11-Mar	Mike Waring	23-Mar	Alaena Milner
12-Mar	Collin Gosse	24-Mar	Elyse Putnam
14-Mar	Hannah Mihm	27-Mar	Ryan Even
15-Mar	Kayla Schutte	28-Mar	Brenda Schmit
		29-Mar	Mike Mostek

Wedding Anniversaries

Jim and Cindy Gosse	3/14/2009
Bryan and Rayla Tonne	3/16/1991

Baptism Anniversaries

Olivia Frush	1-Mar	Camden Seehase	19-Mar
Neva Erpelding	8-Mar	Sue Rigdon	25-Mar
Ella Frush	10-Mar	Teri Schares	26-Mar
Kayla Putnam	10-Mar	Larry Phillips	27-Mar
Ray Zummak	10-Mar	Carmen Nuehring	28-Mar
Brinley Bergman	11-Mar	Braylen Seehase	29-Mar
Madison Ruckdaschel	19-Mar	Jeryn Loyd	30-Mar