

# LAMP

Monthly publication of the American Lutheran Church

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## STORIES INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2-5 COUNCIL MINUTES**
- 5 LENT OFFERING**
- 6 QUILTERS, PERSONAL CARE KITS**
- 7 WORSHIP WEDNESDAY/YOUTH**
- 8 GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL**
- 9 LSI NEWSLETTER**
- 10 LENT SERVICES**
- 11 CELEBRATIONS**
- 12 CALENDAR & DEACONS**



## Spring Renewal

As the world around us awakens with new life, spring is a beautiful reminder of God's power to renew and restore. Just as flowers bloom after the cold of winter, our faith is refreshed by His grace and love. This season invites us to embrace new beginnings, grow in faith, and share the joy of Christ's resurrection. May we open our hearts to His promises and step forward with hope and gratitude.

"Behold, I am making all things new." – Revelation 21:5

Blessings this spring!

# COUNCIL MINUTES

## **Church Council Retreat February 2, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 12:36 p.m. by President Christy Phillips.

Present: Pastor Mohr-Kelly, Maureen Even, Shirley Bergman, Amber Reuter, Mary Adams, Mike Waring, Chris Waring, and Sara Borland.

Absent: Cindy Gosse

Pastor Pat Mohr-Kelly led a prayer.

Council members voted on committee roles for 2025 with the following results:

President: Maureen Even

Vice-President: Sara Borland

Hospitality: Open

Parish Ed: Christy Phillips

Property: Mike Waring

Worship: Shirley Bergman

Youth: Sara Borland (With the help of Beth Stanek, Sara will report to council.)

Motion was carried.

Council meetings will be held the 2nd Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Sara Borland motioned to adjourn at 12:41 p.m. Second by Christy Phillips. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amber Reuter

Secretary

## **February 10, 2025 Council Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by President Maureen Even.

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

Absent: Sara Borland

Devotion and prayer led by Pastor Pat Mohr-Kelly. (Luke 9:57-62)

Cindy Gosse motioned to approve the agenda. Second by Shirley Bergman. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Shirley asked about an \$200 on-going offering designated for windows. Mike explained it is set aside specifically for that. Approximately 10 windows in the 1964 addition that will need to be replaced at some point. The previously quoted price, obtained several years ago, was \$2500 per window at that time.

Cindy pointed out that the bill for church water is continually going up each month. Shirley asked if there could be a leak. Maureen did have one toilet replaced downstairs and one sink has a leak. She is having Dave Petersen to check the upstairs toilet as there may be a problem with the seal. Cindy will look at the last few months and call City Hall to ask about the increase.

Pastor Pat Mohr-Kelly brought up transferring money to checking. Cindy transferred last month from checking to savings. Currently, there are enough funds in checking to cover bills and payroll.

Christy Phillips motioned to accept. Second by Mary Adams. Motion carried.

No transfer to the general funds.

#### Secretary Report:

Reports were sent for the January 13th meeting and the joint meeting on December 18th with Zion. The annual meeting notes were reviewed. Correction: Christy Phillips was absent on January 13th and Amber should be 1 year term for secretary.

Cindy Gosse motioned to approve the Secretary's meeting notes for January 13th and December 18th. Second by Mike Waring. Motion carried.

#### Committee Reports:

##### **Hospitality Reports:**

Pastor Mohr-Kelly suggested since there was no choice was made during the council retreat, we all share the leadership. February 23 would be the first Sunday to bring back fellowship. Shirley Bergman volunteered to make calls to get volunteers for fellowship volunteers for treats in March. Mike Waring, Mary Adams, and Amber Reuter can make coffee. Cindy Goose will type up instructions on making coffee to put in the cupboard.

**Parish Ed/Youth:** Christy Phillips shared they are back and running. This Wednesday may be questionable because of weather. March 2 they are planning for the bell choir to perform during the service that morning. On Palm Sunday bells and choir will sing. Bells before church and singing during the children's sermon. Two, possibly three, youth will receive Bibles at this service which the Church will provide.

##### **Property/Technology:**

Mike Waring said the problem with the south door has been fixed. The East door also has been having issues opening. He went to check it today, and it worked. The button needs to be pressed occasionally to keep it in good working order. There are routers in Pastor's office and there is an extension in the balcony. Reviewed the options. Mike Waring would contact Anthony Bahe. Anthony will volunteer time, but there is a cost to reroute.

Cindy Gosse made motion to have Heartland Technology provide the router and service. Second by Shirley Bergman. Motion carried.

Facebook sometimes has issues going Live. Mike Waring and Amber Reuter are discussing uses for YouTube.

Shirley Bergman said Eric Clark checked the fire extinguishers. They are good until June 2025.

Pastor Mohr-Kelly mentioned a larger TV needs to be purchased to replace TV in the Sanctuary so people can see it. Mike Waring will talk to Anthony about installing a new one. We need larger than 55 in., possibly a 65 in.

Cindy Gosse hasn't heard back on AED. Contacted Rick Wulfekuhle, Buchanan County EMA director, to find grants for AED. Buchanan County Health Center possibly has a foundation that we could get the funding for. It could be a few thousand dollars to purchase one.

Mike Waring says there is a lot of old electronics in Pastor's office. Old computer, monitor, large printer, old mics. Mary Adams mentioned old cords in storage that could go as well. Mike will check with Staples/Best Buy for tossing them before going to the landfill. Pastor Pat Mohr-Kelly said the large file cabinet only had a few files that Chris Waring said need to be kept. Mike will move the file cabinet so Cindy Gosse can use for treasurer reports.

#### **Scholarship:**

Pastor Pat Mohr-Kelly said there was one application. Mary Adams said it was delivered to Pat Winblade today.

#### **Worship and Music:**

Shirley Bergman brought up the usher responsibilities. She and Merritt Jones discussed what does the deacon and usher duties. Deacons will unlock door, turn on lights, and sound system. Ushers should be here 30 minutes before services start for usher duties

#### **Call Committee:**

No report.

#### **Pastor's Report:**

Fellowship will be in the Fireside Room. She would like to order some banners for outside. Large vinyl to put outside. Designs that are timeless. Amber Reuter will volunteer time for designing. She will work with Pastor Pat Mohr-Kelly to get pricing. 4 p.m. contemporary service on Sundays to start in March, April at the latest. Contemporary music on screen. Sara Borland has the CD of the music from the convention that we could use. Amber Reuter also researched sites for getting music.

Pastor Pat Mohr-Kelly discussed with Christy Phillips about a room to transform for a youth room. Rooms seemed like it would be too small. Pastor will look at rooms to evaluate.

Pastor Pat Mohr-Kelly would like to form prayer circles, known as small groups as well. Mary Adams asked about the organization. Prayer circles are usually a scripture, discussion on reading, and intercessory prayer



Pastor Pat Mohr-Kelly suggested a stewardship drive, during the Easter season before summer. Share excitement on what's happening. 7 weeks to generate stewardship drive. Pastor will line up a group to be on this committee.

Pastor Pat Mohr-Kelly would like to have a 6 months' evaluation of Pastor, state of the church, etc. President Maureen Even will call that meeting.

Cindy Gosse made a motion to go into a closed session at 7:45 p.m. Christy Phillips seconded. Motion carried.

Cindy Gosse motion to come out of closed session 8:31 p.m. Mike Waring seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

Evangelism: new banners

Stewardship: Pastor Pat Mohr-Kelly will get a group together covering the spiritual practices.

Campaign over the Easter season.

Audit committee: Mary Adams, Kaye Jones, and Connie Jones did it previously. Mary Adams would be willing to do it one more time. Need to find one to two more members who are willing.

President Maureen Even will line this up.

Old Business: None

Correspondence:

Deacon Assignment: March 2-Christy; March 9-Mike; March 16-; March 23-Mary; March 30-Amber

Committees: Reviewed the list of committees.

Lord's Prayer was said.

Motion to adjourn by Mike Waring. Second by Cindy Gosse. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amber Reuter

Secretary



**Special Offerings**

**Lent Offerings**

The Lent envelopes and the Noisy Offering are 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.



**2025**

## **Quilts for Lutheran World Relief**

**Thank you to the dedicated women of ALC  
for their time and talents!**

**Sharon McAtee, Kay Jones, Sheila Collins,  
Mary Adams, Shirley Bergman, Connie Jones,  
and Iva Ruehs**



## **Quilters in Need of Bedsheets**

The Quilting Ladies are in need of gently used or new bedsheets to use as backings for their quilts. All sizes, flat or fitted, are accepted. However, please note that we cannot use sheets with patriotic designs, camouflage, or writing.

If you have any sheets to donate, please bring them to the church. Your generosity helps us continue this meaningful ministry, and we appreciate your support!

## **PERSONAL CARE KITS**

Include the following items in each Personal Care Kit:



**We are collecting items for LWR Personal Care Kits. You may drop them off at the church. List of items needed.**

**.....Dark Bath Towels (see size listed)**

**.....Full size bars of soap, unopened**

**.....Adult size Toothbrush**

**.....Strong Toothed Comb**

**.....Metal Nail Clippers**

# Worship WEDNESDAY



## Worship Wednesday , Feb 26th

We celebrated God's love tonight by reading a bible story, making puppies completely out of hearts, and decorated and ate heart cookies.

## Worship Wednesday Schedule

**March 26th 6:15-7pm**

**April 9th 6:15-7pm**

**April 13th Palm Sunday**

**Playing Bells, Singing and Bibles being given to children**

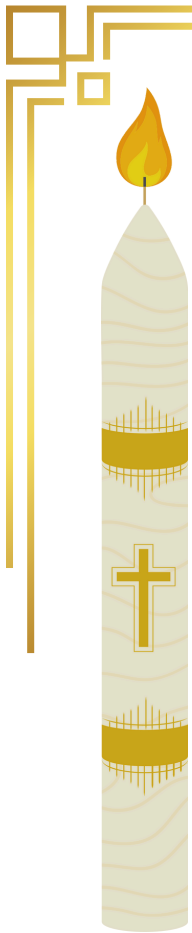
## Rolling in Generosity!

ALC Youth took on the TP challenge and delivered—  
314 rolls for the House of Hope!

*Who is the House of Hope?*

Our mission is to provide a safe and supportive place where young parents and children experiencing homelessness will become confident, independent, and successful members of our community. House of Hope envisions a future where every youth knows what it feels like to have a home.





There has been some inquiries why the Paschal Candle is not lit every Sunday.

It is customary for the Paschal candle to burn at all services from Easter through Pentecost (Book of Common Prayer, pp. 285-287). After the Easter season, the Paschal candle is typically placed near the font. It should burn at baptisms, representing the new life in Christ that we share in baptism.

The smaller candle near the lectern is called the Gospel Candle and is lit whenever the Gospel is read.

On Christmas Eve, we light our final candle - the Christ Candle. (At ALC this is the same candle we use as the Paschal Candle). This candle represents Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, whose birth we celebrate on Christmas. We acknowledge that all the hope, peace, joy, and love symbolized by the other Advent candles find their fulfillment in Jesus.



### **Seeking Participants for the Ecumenical Good Friday Drama**

We are looking for three individuals to take part in this year's Ecumenical Good Friday Drama at the Presbyterian Church. No acting experience required! If you can do a dramatic reading or stand at the front of the church in period clothing, we'd love to have you participate. This is a meaningful way to bring the Good Friday story to life for our community.

If you're interested or have any questions, please contact Chris Waring. Your presence will help make this a powerful and reflective service.





LSI serves Iowans of all ages; from families with newborns navigating parenthood, to Refugee and Immigrant elders, and children of all ages. One of the most vital populations LSI supports is young parents, especially those navigating the challenges of early motherhood.

Cheyenne F., a Family Support Specialist for LSI's Healthy Families America (HOPES) program, shares the impactful work she's doing with young mothers in need of support.

She shares that she had the privilege of working closely with NF, a young mom who has shown incredible growth and resilience.

The Healthy Families America (HOPES) program is an evidence-based child abuse prevention program that provides support to prenatal families and families with children ages 0-5. LSI's Family Support Specialists work with families like NF's to provide the guidance and resources needed to break cycles of abuse and neglect and build strong, healthy foundations for children and parents alike.

NF's journey began in June 2023 when she reached out for help. At 19 years old and pregnant, NF was living in Muscatine County and knew she needed extra parenting support. Through the HOPES program, Cheyenne began building rapport with NF right away and learned about NF's challenging upbringing, which included bouncing from foster home to foster home starting at age 6.

"NF had faced so much inconsistency and pain in her early years," shared Cheyenne. "It was clear that she had a lot of unresolved trauma, but it was equally clear that she wanted to make a positive change in her life, especially for her baby."

Throughout the course of their work together, Cheyenne and NF focused on building trust and creating a safe space for NF to share her experiences and challenges. NF revealed that after High School, she fell into a pattern of poor choices, including run-ins with the law. NF got pregnant, and although she knew the father, he didn't want to be involved in her pregnancy or her life. Despite this, she had two strong support networks: her foster parents and her current roommate.

Cheyenne shares that NF struggled with controlling her behavior, and she feared she might end up back in jail, which unfortunately happened. When she was incarcerated, Cheyenne made sure to stay in contact with her foster parents and provided them with regular updates and support.

When NF was released from jail, she confided in Cheyenne that she was considering running away with her baby, which prompted Cheyenne to share valuable resources with her to support her mental health, housing, and employment.

"I knew that if NF ran, it could jeopardize the progress we had made. But with the right guidance and resources, NF began to see a different path forward," Cheyenne shared.

Cheyenne expressed her excitement about NF's progress stating, "NF has made such huge strides. She started attending therapy twice a week and has also found a job at a local consignment store. She's enrolled in anger management classes and is committed to creating a better future for herself and her baby."

Today, NF's baby is thriving, meeting all developmental milestones. NF continues to meet regularly with Cheyenne and enjoys engaging in evidence-based activities that are tailored to her needs as a young mother. "I'm so thankful for the HOPES program. I don't know where I'd be without the support of Cheyenne," NF shared.

It's stories like NF's that remind us why the work we do is so important. With the right support, anything is possible.

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto: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](http://LSIowa.org) and [facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://facebook.com/LSI.iowa).



March 12	6pm Meal	7pm Service	ALC
March 19	6pm Meal	7pm Service	Zion
March 26	6pm Meal	7pm Service	ALC
April 2	6pm Meal	7pm Service	Zion
April 9	6pm Meal	7pm Service	ALC
April 17	Maundy Thursday	5:30 ALC/7pm Zion	
April 18	Good Friday	Noon to 3 ALC open for prayer and meditation	
April 18	Good Friday	7pm Ecumenical United Methodist	



**April 20th Easter Sunday**

6:30am Zion

8:30 ALC Coffee & Donuts

9am Service

# March Celebrations

## Birthdays

Jeff Niichel	1-Mar
Wendell Erpelding	4-Mar
Anthony Bahe	4-Mar
Lydia Emme	6-Mar
Shirley Bergman	8-Mar
Steffen Hoey	9-Mar
Mike Waring	11-Mar
Collin Gosse	12-Mar
Kayla Schutte	15-Mar
Piper Zelle	15-Mar
Melanie Distler	21-Mar
Cory Winkelpleck	21-Mar
Haley Borland	22-Mar
Brenda Schmit	28-Mar
Mike Mostek	29-Mar

## Baptism Anniversaries

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

## Wedding Anniversaries

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

## *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](mailto:kayejns@gmail.com) or the office [secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org](mailto:secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org) with any prayer concerns.

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

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

2025

APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pastor: Pat Mohr-Kelly Council President: Maureen Even Secretary: Chris Waring Church Phone: 827-6626 Web Address: <a href="http://www.americanlutheranjesup.org">www.americanlutheranjesup.org</a> Church e-mail: <a href="mailto:secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org">secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org</a>		01	02	03	04	05
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
5th Sunday in Lent 8:30am Worship & Communion 5pm 1st Communion Class		9am Quilting	Lent Soup Supper 6pm with service to follow at 7pm @ <u>Zion</u>	Womens Bible Study 9am		Quilts to Sumner In- Gathering
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Palm Sunday 8:30am Worship & Communion WW Bells and Singing Presentation of Bibles 1st Communion 	6:30pm Council Meeting	Prayer Shawl 10am	<u>LAMP articles due</u>	Maundy Thursday 5:30pm Service ALC 7pm Jubilee	Good Friday ALC open from noon to 3 for prayer and reflection. Ecumenical Service TBA	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Easter Sunday 9am Worship & Communion 		9am Quilting	6:15 Confirmation Class ALC			
27	28	29	30	01	02	
2nd Sunday of Easter 8:30am Worship & Communion			6:15 Confirmation Class Zion			



## Deacon Assignments for April

6th Mary Adams

13th Christy Phillips

20th Maureen Even

27th Amber Reuter

## Order Easter Lilly for Easter Sunday

If you would like to place an order for an Easter Lily in memory of a loved one, please contact Secretary Chris Waring at [secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org](mailto:secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org) or place a note in the offering. The cost is \$10 per plant. *All orders must be received by March 23rd.*