OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2026 EDITION 553

LAMP

Monthly publication of the American Lutheran Church

Pastor: Susan Friedrich
Council President: Maureen Even
Secretary: Chris Waring
Church Phone: 827-6626
Web Address: www.americanlutheranjesup.org
Church e-mail: secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org



Renewed by Grace, Remembered in Love

Rooted in God's Word and renewed by grace, we celebrate Reformation and give thanks for the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. God continues to renew the church, calling us to grow in faith and share Christ's love through our words and actions.

On All Saints Sunday, we remember those who have died and give thanks for the faith and love they shared with us. As we hold their memories close, we find comfort in Christ's promise of resurrection and eternal life.

Together, these Sundays remind us that we are part of a family of faith stretching across generations. May the grace that sustained those before us strengthen us to encourage one another, serve our neighbors, and face tomorrow with hope.

COUNCIL
MINUTES

American Lutheran Church
September Council Meeting
September 14, 2026



The meeting was called to order at 6:26 pm by President Maureen Even. Present were Maureen Even, Pastor Susan Friedrich, Sara Borland, Mike Waring, Connie Hamilton, Mary Adams, and Sheila Collins. Cindy Gosse and Christy Phillips were absent.

Pastor Susan led devotions by inviting us to share our feelings about the September 12th passing of congregation member Randy Frush. She shared information about the items she takes to home communion and other visits and closed with prayer.

Sara made a motion to approve the revised agenda. Second by Connie. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – The checking account balance at the end of August was $1,760.42. The Mid America Total Twelve Energy bill decreased at the church from $485.00 to $393.00 per month and at the parsonage from $121.00 to $97.00 per month. Mary made a motion to receive the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Second by Sara. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report – Mike made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2026 council meeting. Second by Connie. Motion carried.

Committee Reports
Hospitality – Beginning October 1, 2026 we will move Sunday fellowship from the fireside room to the basement to accommodate more people.

Parish Ed/Youth – Worship Wednesday and Confirmation classes have begun. There are five Confirmation students. Parents and any adults are welcome to attend classes. We marked this faith milestone at the September 13th service with the students and their parents. The students will participate in the "Dirty Feet Retreat" at camp EWALU.

Property/Technology – Sara made a motion to ratify the new concrete bid of $1,864.00 from Kite Construction for repair of the east side entrance steps, surrounding concrete, and concrete repair on the west and north sides of the bell tower. Second by Connie. Motion carried. McGraw's Carpets of Independence started work today on the parsonage flooring and hope to finish by Friday this week. Mike and Maureen are working on staining and coating the quarter round.

Scholarship – Sue Hoey has volunteered for the Scholarship Committee.

Worship and Music – Pastor Susan and Shirley Bergman met with the three adult accompanists. They would like to work as a team to fulfill our needs. They will determine a schedule and are satisfied with the current monetary compensation.

Call Committee – No report.

Pastor's Report – Notice the donation pail near the entrance to the sanctuary to help raise funds for next year's VBS and their mission to provide a community well in Africa. We had a back-to-school blessing on August 23, 2026 for all involved in the school system. Confirmation classes have begun (see Parish Ed/Youth). Connie Hamilton is training to distribute communion to our shut ins. She will likely alternate home communion and other visits with Pastor Susan. Pastor Susan shared a

letter from JHS superintendent Chad Kohagen clarifying the school district's role regarding LifeWise Academy; an independent organization offering to provide release time religious instruction. The school is required by law to allow this, but does not sponsor, endorse, or promote it. Families choose to participate or not. ALC has declined participation previously, since we have our own youth religious instruction, outside of school time. Pastor Susan's father has some new health concerns requiring extra medical appointments.

New Business
Portico Insurance costs through the NEIA Synod will increase by 15%. A webinar on this subject is being offered by the Synod on September 18.
God's Work Our Hands – On October 7 we will prepare and deliver a meal to approximately 34 House of Hope residents in Waterloo. At the back of the sanctuary is a sign up sheet for volunteers to help with this project.
Lutheran Disaster Response Training through the Synod will be October 6 from 2:00 to 6:00 pm at St. John's Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls for anyone interested.

Old Business – None.

Correspondence – None.

Deacon Assignments for October
4 – Mike
11 – Mary
18 – Connie
25 – Sheila

Fellowship openings for October were filled.
The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.
Sara made a motion to adjourn. Second by Connie. The meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Collins,
Secretary

Upcoming Events: Council Meeting October 12, 2026 at 6:30 pm.



Wear Red for Reformation Sunday — October 25

Join us in wearing red to worship on Sunday, October 25, as we celebrate Reformation Sunday! Red symbolizes the fire of the Holy Spirit. Together, we give thanks for God's grace and the gift of faith in Jesus Christ.

From Pastor Susan...

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. Ephesians 2:8-10

There is a popular Christian theology that is prevalent in many books, songs, movies, and other practices that are labeled "Christian" in our culture – if you do what God wants you to do, then God will bless you. It has to do with the belief that what we do or don't do affects how God responds to us.

It is prevalent, but it is not Lutheran.

Lutherans do not believe that if we try to make certain choices and do good things that God will make things better for us than for the person who doesn't make that effort. As Lutheran Christians, we firmly hold on to God's grace. God's grace is given freely to us because of Jesus Christ. God loves us just as we are. We are saved by grace through faith alone, not because of anything else.

Fryer said that they all sat there, looking at that stark arrow, most probably thinking the same thing she was thinking, "He thinks we're all going to hell."



Pastor Kelly A. Fryer writes about an experience she had in seminary. It was beautiful day, but she was in class, having trouble paying attention. She wasn't the only one, because the professor suddenly slapped his notebook shut and stopped lecturing. Before leaving the room, he took a piece of chalk and drew a gigantic arrow pointing straight down on the board. He stood back and said, "If you understand that, you understand everything you need to know about what it means to be a Christian...who also happens to be a Lutheran." And then he left the room.

The next time they gathered for class he drew the same arrow on the board. He had their full attention as he began to speak. "Here's what this means," he said. "God always comes down. God always comes down. There is never anything we can ever do to turn that arrow around and make our way up to God. God came down in Jesus. And God still comes down in the bread and wine, in the water, and in the fellowship of believers. God ALWAYS comes down."1

God always takes the initiative in forgiving us and continually making us into a new creation.

When Martin Luther translated the above verse from Ephesians into German – so that more people could read the scriptures – he actually wrote, "For grace alone you have been saved." Yes, we are created for good works, work that cares for others and God's creation in the best way we can – not in order to receive God's blessing, but to be a blessing for the sake of the world God loves so much.



God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does.

~ Martin Luther

Only by Grace

Pastor Susan

Pastor Susan Friedrich

You and your friends are cordially invited to attend the Independence Area Women's Connection affiliated with Stonecroft Ministries.

When: Monday, November 9, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Where: Immanuel Lutheran Church, 512 5th St., Independence, Iowa

Feature: A fund-raising Silent Auction will be held.

Speaker: Kristen Hovey, Fort Dodge, IA— "Bummer to Believer" Kristen compares her life to an orphaned lamb in need of a shepherd. She is a former parole officer, has worked with the victims of human trafficking and now promotes the need for human organ donations.

Cost: $15 for Event and Brunch

Reservations and Cancellations:

Call Sue Doan at (319) 361-9445 or email at doansr@hotmail.com by 10 AM, Monday, November 2nd.

Please Note: Reservations not honored require payment.



Communion Class
All Ages Welcome!

Join us for a Communion class from 9–11 a.m. on October 24th. Everyone is welcome, whether you currently receive Communion or are preparing to begin. Parents are encouraged to attend, too! Come learn more about this gift of God's grace.

Pre-registration is requested.
email:
secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org



All Saints Day – Remembering the Saints

As we prepare to observe All Saints Day, we will remember with gratitude the members of American Lutheran Church who have died during the past year.

We also invite you to remember other loved ones who have died and remain close to your heart. A Book of Remembrance is available on the table by secretary office. Please write the names of family members, friends, or others you would like to have remembered in prayer during our All Saints Day worship.

Together, we give thanks for all the saints who have gone before us and for the ways their lives continue to touch ours.

Fall Quilting



Come enjoy a morning of quilting and fellowship on Tuesday, October 20, at 9:00 a.m. Whether you're an experienced quilter or simply want to lend a hand, we'd love to have you join us!





Worship Wednesday: Growing Together in God's Love

Worship Wednesday is underway! Children in preschool through sixth grade are invited to join us Wednesdays from 6:00–7:00 p.m. for music, Bible lessons, crafts, snacks, and games.

Each week brings new opportunities to learn about God's love, grow in faith, and build friendships. Whether you've been coming regularly or are joining us for the first time, there's a place for you!

Invite a friend to come along and share in the fun!

Upcoming Lessons:

- Oct. 21 – The Greatest Commandment
- Oct. 28 – The Beatitudes
- Nov. 4 – Christmas Program Practice Begins

Come join the fun—and bring a friend! Everyone is welcome!

Thanksgiving Offering to Support the Food Pantry

This year, gifts received in our ***Thanksgiving envelopes*** will support the Independence Area Food Pantry, helping provide food for our neighbors in need.

Monetary donations allow the pantry to purchase food through the Northeast Iowa Food Bank at a fraction of retail prices, making your generosity go further. The pantry also welcomes donations of shampoo, body wash, laundry detergent, feminine hygiene products, toothpaste, and cleaning supplies.

As we give thanks for our blessings, thank you for sharing with others in our community!

INDEPENDENCE AREA FOOD PANTRY
319-334-2451

Backpack Program: Collecting Donations Now



ALC's months to provide **peanut butter** for the Backpack Program are January and June 2027. The need has increased to **49 SMALL jars** each month, helping provide food for children in our community.

The program also welcomes **individual macaroni and cheese cups** as an *optional addition* to our peanut butter commitment. Any number of cups would be appreciated!

We are accepting donations now! Please place SMALL jars of peanut butter and individual mac and cheese cups in the shopping cart by the front doors.

Thank you for your generosity and continued support!

God's Work. Our Hands - Serving House of Hope
Sharing a Meal, Sharing God's Love

ALC youth, Landon Bergman, Kash Niichel, Neva Winklepleck, Charlie Stanek,Layne & Lauryn Witt along with Mary Adams, Connie Hamilton, Cindy Gosse, Heather Bergman & Katie Niichel, Beth Stanek helped prepare potatoes for a baked potato bar meal for House of Hope on October 7th. Maureen Even, Teresa Merkel, Pat Waege, Teri Schares and Chris Waring delivered and served the meal to the women and their children. It was a wonderful experience for our volunteers and the families—a chance to connect, share a meal, and show God's love through service.







House of Hope has served the Cedar Valley since 1995. Founded through the efforts of concerned local church leaders, it began by welcoming seven single-mother families and a house mother. Since then, the organization has grown to provide housing for 15 families, established the Pillars Program for young women aging out of foster care, and expanded outreach services to more than 125 families each year. Its Empowerment Center represents another step toward ensuring that any single mother can access support, resources, and community.

With a vision of ending cycles of poverty and homelessness, House of Hope's work is guided by empowerment, respect, accountability, and stewardship. We are grateful for the opportunity to support this mission.
Thank you to everyone who helped prepare, deliver, and serve the meal!
Learn more at houseofhopeccd.org.







House of Hope
Empowering Women.
Building Futures.
Enriching Communities.

NOVEMBER Celebrations

Birthdays

Brian Hayek	9-Nov
Sue Hoey	9-Nov
Todd Westpfahl	13-Nov
Cody Clayton	13-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 Jones	12-Nov
Hunter Weber	14-Nov
Dorothy Thompson	18-Nov
Jacob Leach	20-Nov
Cindy Gosse	22-Nov
Kenny Schares	24-Nov
Ryder Costello	25-Nov
Amber Reuter	26-Nov
Denny Becker	28-Nov
Thomas Jones	29-Nov
Beth Stanek	29-Nov

Wedding Anniversaries

Greg and Crystal Lysne	11/6/2010
Brady and Maddi Ahmann	11/13/2021

🙏 Prayers

Remember our members in your prayers: Wendell, Shirley, Bill, Sharon, Jeanne, Emelia, Lori, Marie, Kaye, & Christy, Kevin, Wendy Frush and family in the loss of her mother Kay Pint

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



Christa Leach has been called to active duty with the 434th Air Force Reserve Unit in Grissom, Indiana. Jordan and Justin are still members of the 185th Air Refueling Wing in Sioux City. Jeryn Loyd is stationed at Fort Knox and in the Army Reserves Cassidee is stationed in Iowa City and Cole is currently home. Cody Clayton is back from Fort Benning, Georgia Basic Training and will report to Dubuque. Karsten Nuehring is currently at Fort Lee in Virginia for his AIT training
Please contact the church office to add other names who serve. We remember them in our prayers.

2026 NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
All Saints Sunday 9am Worship & Communion			5pm Confirmation 6pm Worship Wednesdays			
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
24TH Sunday after Pentecost 9am Worship Communion		9am Quilters	6pm Confirmation 6pm Worship Wednesday			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
25TH Sunday after Pentecost 9am Worship & Communion	6:30 Council Meeting		6pm Worship Wednesday 6pm Confirmation LAMP Articles Due			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Christ the King Sunday 9am Worship & Communion		9am Quilters				
29	30	01	02	03	04	05
1st Sunday of Advent 9am Worship & Communion						

Pastors Vacation 11/23-11-

Pastor; Rev. Susan Friedrich
Council President: Maureen Even
Secretary: Chris Waring
Church Phone: 827-6626
Web Address: www.americanlutheranjesup.org

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//

November Deacons/Readers

1st	**Mary Adams**
8th	**Maureen Even**
15th	**Shiela Collins**
22nd	**Mike Waring**
29th	**Maureen Even**

November Noisy Offering: ELCA Good Gifts





Our Noisy Offering throughout November will support ELCA Good Gifts! This program provides gifts such as farm animals, seeds, tools, and access to clean water to help families meet daily needs and build lasting sources of food and income.
Bring your coins and help us make a joyful noise as we share God's love with our neighbors around the world!

