

LAMP

Monthly publication of the American Lutheran Church

Pastor; Pat Mohr-Kelly, patmohrkelly@gmail.com
Council President: Maureen Even
Secretary: Chris Waring
Church Phone: 827-6626
Web Address: www.americanlutheranjesup.org
Church e-mail: secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org



Preparing Our Hearts for Easter

As we move through the season of Lent, we prepare our hearts for the most sacred days of the church year. Soon we will gather during Holy Week to remember Christ's great love for the world and to celebrate the joy of Easter morning.

Even as winter gives way to the first signs of spring, we are reminded of God's promise of new life. The resurrection assures us that hope is never lost and that God is always at work bringing light out of darkness.

May this season renew our faith and fill our hearts with the hope and joy of the risen Christ.

Christis risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

COUNCIL MINUTES



**American Lutheran Church
PreCouncil Meeting and Council Meeting
February 9, 2026**

A preCouncil meeting was held beginning at 5:15 pm to discuss the results of the cottage meetings and to set future goals. Present were Pastor Pat Mohr-Kelly, Maureen Even, Sara Borland, Mary Adams, and Sheila Collins. Connie Hamilton joined at 6:00 pm.

Pastor Pat opened the meeting with devotions from Matthew 17 and led us in prayer.

There were many good suggestions from the cottage meetings. The main themes were discussed and the following goals established:

1. Improved communication especially with young families/Worship enrichment.

Sara will coordinate a monthly contemporary 9:00 am worship service beginning April 12. The Worship and Music Committee will work on ways to make worship more inclusive.

2. Intentional Welcome.

The Hospitality Committee will work on ways to welcome new members (follow up correspondence) and new ways to encourage fellowship.

3. Engagement/Outreach.

Council will work on social events outside of worship that also include the local community.

Examples: game nights, movie nights, occasional Be Our Guest meals, potlucks, youth events.

At 6:30 the general Council meeting began. Pat Winblade joined the meeting to discuss the Scholarship funding addressed in the December 8, 2025 Council minutes. After discussion, Sara made a motion to amend the funding as follows: If there is one applicant, they will receive the college's maximum match, not to exceed \$1200.00. If there are two or more applicants, the \$1200.00 budgeted amount will be split equally or to the Scholarship Committee's discretion. Second by Connie. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report Sara made a motion to approve the January 12, 2026 minutes as written and to approve the February 1, 2026 minutes with the amendment to committee assignments made by Pastor Pat. (Connie Hamilton to Hospitality and Mary Adams to Worship and Music). Second by Pastor Pat. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report The checking account balance at the end of January was \$8,372.53. Since the balance is under \$10,000 no transfer will be made to the General Savings Fund. Mary made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Second by Sheila. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Hospitality – No report.

Parish Ed/Youth – Some help with Wednesday night worship is being sought. There are five students in confirmation class. Four will be confirmed on Mother's Day May 10, 2026. The students' faith statements need to be approved by council prior to that date.

Property/Technology The elevator is still waiting on software to fix the call button on the lower level. The Property Committee will be asked to investigate the cost of replacing the carpet in the sanctuary and maintenance on the bell.

Scholarship - See above.

Worship and Music – Hymn choices are being made. Organist coverage is being planned until Shirley Bergman's return. In the coming weeks, we need to evaluate the continuation of the 4:00 pm service due to low attendance.

Call Committee – They have sent questions for council concerning updating the Ministry Site Profile. Maureen will contact Pastor Brackett of the NE Iowa Synod about the time frame for the potential new interim Pastor.

Pastor's Report – Sara will take over the 4:00 pm service so Pastor can go home on Sunday afternoon, except when she stays over for the council meeting on the second Monday of the month.

New Business

- Lenten and Easter offering envelopes will be designated as 50% to the Independence Area Food Pantry and 50% to the Jesup Ministerial Association.
- Mary made a motion to accept the lawn mowing bid from Maxwell Kopplin to mow both the church and the parsonage lawns for a total of \$50.00 per mowing. Second by Connie. Motion carried. Maureen will let him know.
- Motion by Mary to continue collecting the noisy offering for the next three weeks to give to Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Waterloo to help with their water damage caused by broken pipes. Second by Sara. Motion carried.

Old Business

- Chapter 5 of Discovering Hope concerned evangelism.
 - Fellowship is covered through March 8 by online sign up (set up by Sara).
- Correspondence ELCA appeal to combat world hunger.



Deacon Assignments for March

1 Mary Adams

8 Maureen Even

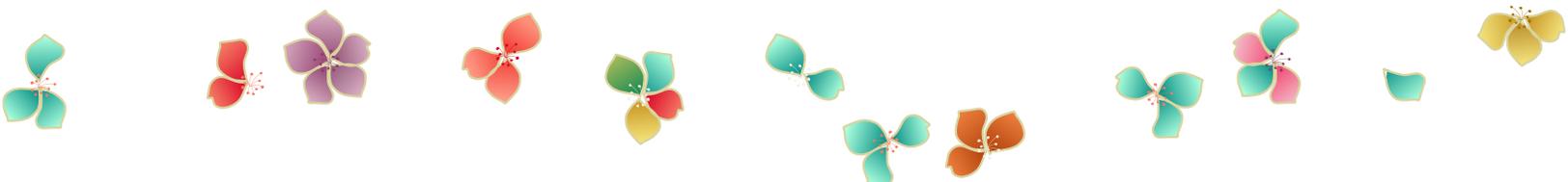
15 Connie Hamilton

22 Sheila Collins (Connie Reader)

29 Sheila Collins

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Sara made a motion to adjourn. Second by Sheila. The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Collins,
Secretary





Fellowship Volunteers needed!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050448A5A628AAF94-61890755-alcfellowship#/>



Scan QR code, use the link
or leave message for
Chris 319-827-6626



Our **March Noisy Offering** will support the EWALU building project. Your loose change—and even a few quiet dollars—will help strengthen the ministry and facilities at EWALU so they can continue serving youth and families for years to come. Thank you for making a joyful noise with your generosity!



Soles4Souls Update from Mike & Chris Waring

- We are excited to share a new update on our
- Lions Club Soles4Souls shoe collection — and
- it's all thanks to your generosity!
- Together, we have now collected more than
- 3,300 pairs of shoes toward our goal of 10,000
- pairs by August 2026. Every pair donated is
- helping create opportunity and keeping usable
- shoes out of landfills.
- Your support is already making a real
- difference, and the momentum is growing!
- Thank you for continuing to donate and for
- helping spread the word to your family, friends,
- churches, schools, and businesses. Every pair
- brings us one step closer to earning FREE shoes
- for children who qualify right here in our
- community.

Together, we can reach 10,000 pairs — and change lives with every step!

Stay Connected & Explore ELCA Resources

Looking for helpful resources or ways to stay connected? The enhanced search on ELCA.org makes it easier than ever to find what you need. You can explore the ELCA resource library, congregation profiles, articles from Living Lutheran, and the ELCA's seeker site to learn about key topics, discover helpful tools, and connect with communities of support.

You can also stay up to date with news from our Northeastern Iowa Synod. Sign up for the synod's weekly E-News digital newsletter at:

www.neiasynod.org/blog/e-news

Follow the synod on Facebook for updates, events, and ministry highlights:

www.facebook.com/neiasynod



Maundy Thursday: A Night of Love, Service, and Sacrament

Maundy Thursday marks the beginning of the Three Days of Holy Week—Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. On this night, the Church remembers the final evening Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion.

The word Maundy comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, meaning “command.” It refers to Jesus’ words to his disciples in John 13:34: “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” This command to love and serve one another lies at the heart of the meaning of Maundy Thursday.

During that final meal with his disciples, Jesus did two powerful things. First, he instituted the Lord’s Supper, giving his followers bread and wine with the promise, “This is my body... this is my blood... given and shed for you.” From that moment on, the Church has gathered at the table to receive this gift of grace in Holy Communion. Jesus also washed the feet of his disciples, an act normally done by a servant. In doing so, he showed them—and us—that true leadership in God’s kingdom is expressed through humility and service to others.

Many Lutheran congregations observe Maundy Thursday with a service of Holy Communion and reflection. Often the service concludes with the “stripping of the altar,” when the altar is cleared of its linens, candles, and paraments. This solemn action reminds us of Jesus’ abandonment and prepares us for the events of Good Friday.

Maundy Thursday invites us to gather at the Lord’s table, to remember Christ’s command to love one another, and to follow his example of humble service. As we enter the most sacred days of the church year, we walk with Jesus from the table to the cross, trusting in the promise that the story does not end there. Easter is coming.



Easter Week Schedule

April 2nd

Maundy Thursday Service with Communion

2pm and 7pm



April 5th

Easter Sunday

9am




Join us at Ewalu!
SPRING WORK DAY
SATURDAY, MAY 2
9AM to 4PM (stay as long as you wish)
Work projects for all ages!

EWALU
Camp & Retreat Center

Join volunteers, families, and church groups to help Ewalu get ready for the summer season. Take time to explore camp and meet staff and other volunteers ... come Friday evening to spend the night at Ewalu, free of charge (RSVP required).

A variety of projects are being prepared for all ages and abilities. If you can't be here for the weekend, we have plenty of things for volunteers at any time. Just give us a call!

📍 Camp Ewalu main site, 37776 Alpha Ave., Strawberry Point, IA
(camp entrance is 3 miles west of town, on Iowa Highway 3)

For more information:
📞 563-933-4700
🌐 www.ewalu.org/event/spring-work-day

WORK DAY SCHEDULE

Saturday, May 2:
Volunteer Work Day
8:00 a.m. Arrival, Breakfast at Creation Center
9:00 a.m. Work Projects
12:00 p.m. Lunch
1:00 p.m. Work Projects
4:00 p.m. Departure

Contact with questions:
📞 Paul Frantsen at 563-933-4700 or email property@ewalu.org
Let us know you're coming:
📞 Diane Parker at 563-933-4700 or email office@ewalu.org

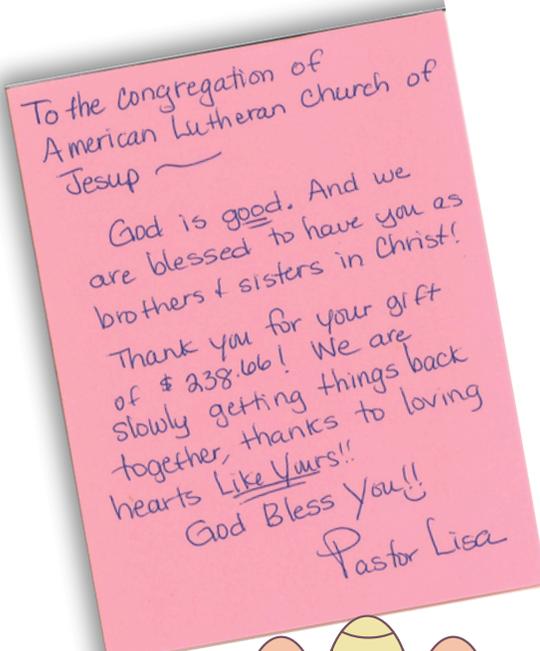


Let's Pack the Pews!

As part of our process to call a new pastor, a group of us is putting together a video of everything our wonderful congregation has to offer. We'd like to film some moments during and after worship on **Sunday, April 12**, as we pray, sing, and share fellowship together. Some individuals may also be asked to be interviewed that day and will be contacted ahead of time.

So, let's pack the pews on April 12 to show a new potential pastor all the life and joy we have at ALC!

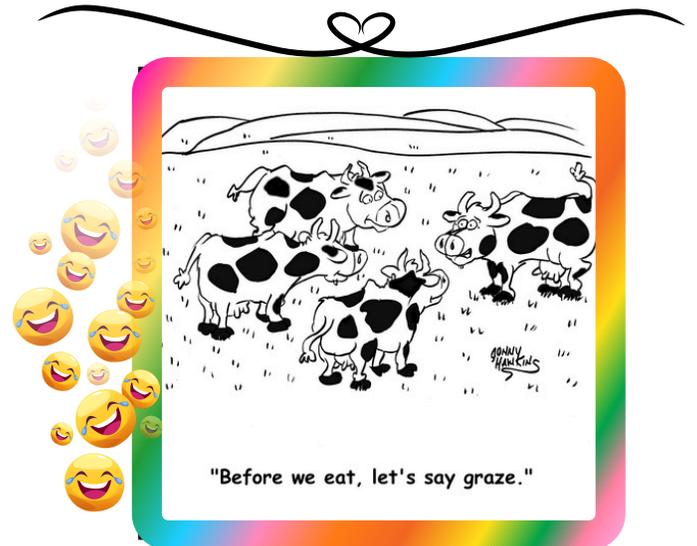
P.S. Filming may take place during other services or activities at the church and in the community in the coming months as well. Smile!



One of the two notes from Our Savior's Lutheran Church total donation \$535.66

Thank You

The family of Bob Fratzke would like to thank the members of American Lutheran Church for their support during Bob's recent illness and his passing, also for the flowers and memorials given in his name. A special "Thank You" to Pastor Pat, Chris and Mike Waring. It was greatly appreciated. Eleanor, Ronda, Robin and Dean and family



Food Pantry Stats

2025 Pantry Visits

| Town | Visits per Year |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Aurora | 95 |
| Brandon | 117 |
| Fairbank | 88 |
| Hazleton | 447 |
| Independence | 1720 |
| Jesup | 342 |
| Lamont | 48 |
| Out of County | 98 |
| Quasqueton | 175 |
| Rowley | 72 |
| Stanley | 9 |
| Walker | 36 |
| Winthrop | 190 |
| Homeless | 8 |
| Total Visits | 3445 |

Average Pounds Distributed per Month: 35,882 lbs



Current Pantry Wish List

- Baking Mixes
- Canned Meat
- Box Meals
- Laundry Soap
- Hygiene Items

Independence Area Food Pantry – Serving Our Neighbors

The Independence Area Food Pantry supports individuals and families throughout Buchanan County who are facing food insecurity. The pantry operates entirely on community support and receives no government funding, relying on donations of food, volunteer time, and financial contributions.

Donations of fresh farm produce, commercially processed meats, and eggs are welcomed and help provide nutritious meals for those in need. Volunteers are also essential to the pantry's work, assisting with tasks such as office duties, picking up donations, and stocking shelves. Individuals, families, and groups are encouraged to get involved.

Financial gifts of any amount help purchase food and essential supplies. Donations can be made online at:

www.cfneia.org/donations/independenceareafoodpantry

www.paypal.com/US/fundraiser/charity/1695127

Checks may also be mailed or dropped off at:

Independence Area Food Pantry
1413 1st St. W

Independence, IA 50644

Your generosity helps provide nourishment, hope, and dignity to neighbors in need throughout our community.

– *January Rowland, Director*



You can also support the pantry through your church offering. Simply note "Food Pantry" on your offering envelope, and we will make sure your gift is directed to the Independence Area Food Pantry.



Birthdays

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| Rayann Vogel | 1-Apr |
| Krisha Tonne | 2-Apr |
| Chris Jones | 5-Apr |
| Logan Krivanek | 8-Apr |
| Iva Ruehs | 13-Apr |
| Natalie Schares | 14-Apr |
| Laurie Even | 15-Apr |
| Bryan Tonne | 20-Apr |
| Pat Winblade | 25-Apr |
| Alyssa Hoey | 26-Apr |
| Kristin Hoey | 26-Apr |
| Steve Hanson | 28-Apr |

Baptism Anniversaries

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| RRon Gosse | 2-Apr |
| Jeanne Thompson | 8-Apr |
| Greg Lysne | 9-Apr |
| Kyler Lysne | 10-Apr |
| Danni Kopplin | 12-Apr |
| Cory Winkelpleck | 13-Apr |
| Shane Witt | 13-Apr |
| Shirley Bergman | 15-Apr |
| Luke Gosse | 17-Apr |
| Kayla Schutte | 17-Apr |
| Mike Waring | 18-Apr |
| Wendell Erpelding | 19-Apr |
| Elliot Ahmann | 21-Apr |
| Shawn Even | 21-Apr |
| Brea Witt | 24-Apr |
| Lauryn Witt | 24-Apr |
| Layne Witt | 24-Apr |
| Chris Waring | 26-Apr |
| Krisha Tonne | 27-Apr |
| Mitchell Hayek | 28-Apr |

Wedding Anniversaries

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Clyde and Brenda Schmit | 4/1/1978 |
| Alan and Kelly Wolf | 4/2/2000 |
| Jeff and Katey Niichel | 4/3/2004 |
| Jeff and Missy Weber | 4/24/2010 |
| Rich and Pat Mohr-Kelly | 4/28/2000 |
| Jeff and Sara Borland | 4/29/2000 |



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//>

2026

APRIL

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--------------|---|--|---|----------|
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 |
| |  | | 6pm Worship Wednesday | Maundy Thursday 2 and 7pm Worship with Communion |  | |
| 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 | 11 |
| 3rd Easter Sunday 9am Worship & Communion  | | | 6pm Worship Wednesday | | | |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 2nd Sunday of Easter PACK THE PEWS 9am Worship & Communion 3pm Confirmation | 6:30pm Council Meeting | 9am Quilters | 6pm Worship Wednesday LAMP Articles Due- | Pastor: Pat Mohr-Kelly Council President: Maureen Even Secretary: Chris Waring Church Phone: 827-6626 Web Address: www.americanlutheranjesup.org Church e-mail: secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org | | |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | | | |
| 3rd Sunday Of Easter 9am Worship & Communion 3pm Confirmation 4pm Praise Worship | | | 6pm Worship Wednesday | | | |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 01 | 02 |
| 4th Sunday of Easter 9am Worship & Communion 3pm Confirmation 4pm Praise Worship | | 9am Quilters | 6pm Worship Wednesday | | | |

Prayers

Remember our members and friends in your prayers: Wendel, Gene, Shirley, Jeanne , Bill , Sharon, Jeanne, Debbie, Lori and Marie

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



April Deacon/Readers

5th Connie Hamilton 19th Sheila Collins
 12th Maureen Even 26th Mary Adams

