

# LAMP

Monthly publication of the American Lutheran Church

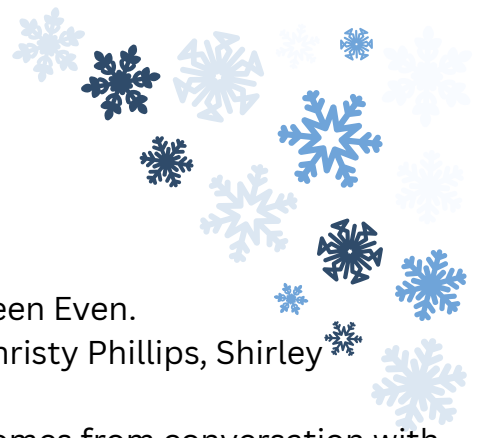
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## New Beginnings, Faithful God

As we enter January, we pause to reflect on the blessings of the past year and the promise of the one before us. God's presence remains constant, even as seasons change. With gratitude and hope, we step into the new year trusting that God will continue to do new things among us. Please remember our Annual Meeting on January 18, with brunch to follow, as we gather to reflect, plan, and continue our shared ministry together.

# COUNCIL MINUTES



## **December 8, 2025 Budget Workshop**

The budget workshop was called to order at 5:31p.m. by President Maureen Even.

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

Pastor led us in devotions: Mark 13 and St. Teresa of Avila; God's call comes from conversation with good people.

- Motion by Sara to approve secretary salary budget at 15 hrs a week at \$17.75 (\$0.50 increase, 5 fewer hours), Mary second, 1 abstain. Motion carried.
- Motion by Sara to approve 3% increase to head organist, Cindy second, 1 abstain. Motion carried.
- Motion by Cindy to structure EPIC scholarship \$600 max per person annually or budget divided equally amongst qualified applicants if exceed 2 people, Sara second, Motion carried. (Need to put this at the top of the application form)
- Motion by Sara to keep synod benevolence the same from 2025 (\$13,500), Mary second, motion carried.
- Motion by Sara to submit the proposed budget amount \$174,886 + \$13,500 (synod benevolence) to the congregation for approval on Jan 11. Cindy second. Motion carried.

## **December 8, 2025 Council Meeting**

The meeting was transitioned to normal meeting at 6:38 p.m. by President Maureen Even.

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

Motion by Cindy to approve agenda with the removal of Discovering Hope discussion, Shirley second, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Deposits for November includes everything except the last Sunday, which will appear in December.

Motion to approve Treasurer's report by Mary, second by Christy. Motion carried.

Secretary Report:

Motion by Shirley to approve the November minutes with small change sent to Amber. Second by Cindy. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

- Hospitality Reports: Christmas sacks next Saturday.
- Parish Ed/Youth: Getting ready for the Christmas program.
- Property/Technology: Elevator repairs underway with Schindler, part is backordered until January.
- Scholarship: no report
- Worship and Music: Special music on Dec. 21 - Jared and Marissa Merkel during the worship service, Charlie Stanek to play prelude. Jessica to sing on Dec. 24 @ 7 pm, Marcia & Scott to play on Dec. 28 (possibly Owen)

Call Committee: reaching out to Pastor Bracket about how to proceed with the video; our MSP has been split from Zion. Stephanie Winkelpleck and Amber Reuter agreed to serve as additional people on the Call Committee starting in the new year.

- Pastor's Report: visits have been limited due to weather. She's been conducting Confirmation classes, Christmas program practice, Advent programming

#### New Business:

- AED training - ready to install; need to communicate training opportunities & recruit people to be trained. Cindy to get with Chris to coordinate & put an announcement in the bulletin.
- Pastor reported she is moving to Dubuque Jan 21 with firm last date is June 30 (last Sunday June 28). After her move in January until end of June she will drive from Dubuque for Sunday morning worship, confirmation education with Jaidyn, confirmation at 3, 4 pm worship, stay over Monday for planning and call on shut ins. Lay leaders to cover Worship Wednesdays, Amber to cover Bible recap. She will stay for Monday council when needed. Will figure out mid-week Lent if needed. Other work & prep from home. Using church old church laptop. Instead of a \$500 pay increase to get back to contracted amount, we would pay IRS mileage rate 74 miles both ways; \$103.60 each week.
- Motion by Sara to not change Pastor's rate of pay by \$500 as discussed in November, Christy second. Motion carried.
- Motion by Sara to pay Pastor IRS mileage to and from Dubuque weekly starting Feb 1, paid monthly based on 74 miles each direction, Mary seconded. Motion carried.
- Nominating Committee - we have a full ballot: Christy Phillips, Connie Hamilton for council seats, Sheila Collins for secretary, Dorothy Thompson & Beth Stanek for nominating committee.

#### Old Business:

- The mitten tree collected 23 coats, 7 snow pants, 17 pairs of gloves, 10 hats, 3 hat & glove sets were donated to the school.
- Lion's shoe drive: over 2,000 pairs of shoes have been donated so far.
- Food Drive: 330 pounds of food donated to the food pantry in November.

#### Correspondence:

- Salvation Army: information to sign up to ring the bell.
- All Creation Sings: new hymnal available; request to order 2 copies to have at the church
- Letter from Bishop Jones; suggestion to donate to ELCA World Hunger for his visit
- EWALU asking for donations
- Thank you from Lutheran World Relief for our congregational gift of \$200

#### Fellowship & Deacon Assignments for January

The Lord's Prayer was said.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Cindy at 7:57 p.m., Second by Christy. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Borland, Vice President

(standing in for Amber Reuter, Secretary)



If you sit in a different pew, you're visiting 😊





# CHRISTMAS program

A big thank-you to Beth, Christy, and Angie for sharing your time and talents! Thanks as well to the parents for getting the kids to Worship Wednesdays on time for practices. And of course, thank you to the children for a wonderful Christmas program—you made it truly special!



## ANNUAL MEETING

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Congregational Meeting & Brunch – January 18

Please join us on Sunday, January 18, for regular worship at 9:00 a.m. (there will be no 4:00 p.m. service that day). Following worship, we will gather for our Annual Congregational Meeting, where we will come together to discuss and decide important matters for the future of American Lutheran Church.

Items for action include:

- Approval of the 2026 budget
- Election of Church Council members
- Election of the Nominating Committee
- Discussion of pastoral leadership opportunities moving forward

After the meeting, we will brunch together and continue the conversation in fellowship.

All are welcome to attend! We value your presence, your voice, and your partnership in ministry. Voting reminder:

To vote, members must have received communion at least once during the 2024–2025 church year and have made a contribution of record. We need 25 voting members present to conduct official business—your participation truly matters.

We hope to see you there!

## Pastor Availability Update

The weekend of January 24 marks an exciting transition, as Pastor Pat and Rich move to their new home in Dubuque. Pastor Pat will continue to travel to Jesup for Sunday worship services and activities and will be in the church office on Mondays.

In the event of an emergency, please contact Pastor Pat at 412-801-1539 or Church Secretary Chris Waring at 563-920-0857. Please do not leave emergency messages on the church phone, as it is not checked or answered daily. Chris works part-time hours, so your patience is appreciated. Thank you for your understanding and support during this transition.



### It's Not Too Late to Join In!

#### Welcome to The Bible Recap

This year, we're reading the entire Bible together—and you're invited to jump in anytime! We're using The Bible Recap plan, which provides a daily reading schedule along with short summaries and videos by Tara-Leigh Cobble.

Each day, we'll read the assigned passages on our own. Then on Sundays after fellowship (or during, as works best), we'll gather to talk about what we read and what stood out to us.

The plan links directly through the YouVersion Bible App—it's free and easy to use.

Let's try it—together!

👉 Join the plan here:



Scan to get FREE Bible app

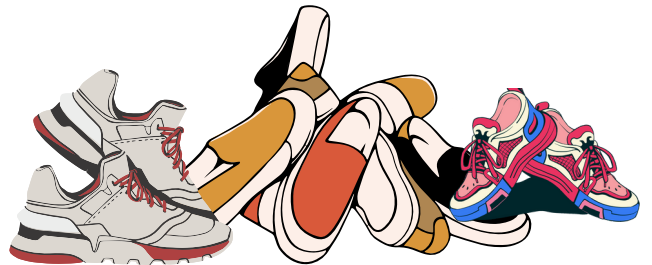
Women's Bible Study  
February 5th 9am



Quilters meet 9am  
Tuesday February 10th & 24th



Need Readers  
February 15th  
Need Deacon  
February 15th



### Soles4Souls Shoe Collection – Thank You!

Soles4Souls Update from Mike & Chris Waring  
We are excited to share the impact your generosity is already making!

So far, we have collected close to 3,000 pairs toward our district goal of 10,000 pairs by August 2026.

Your donations have helped us:

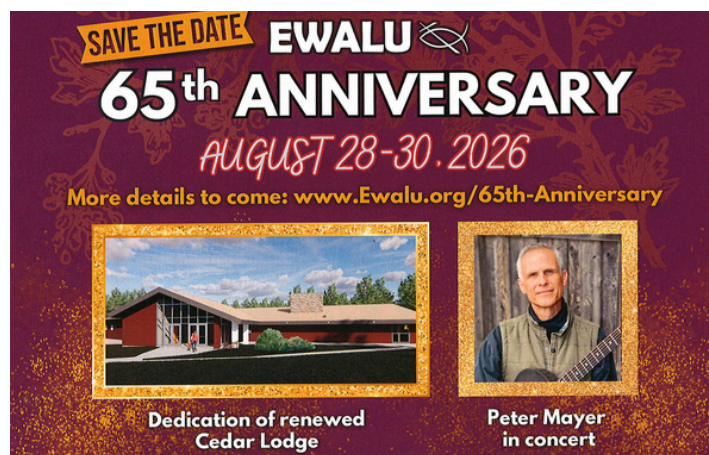
Thank you for continuing to donate and for spreading the word to your family and friends. Every pair brings us one step closer to earning FREE shoes for children who qualify right here in our community.

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



# around

## AND ABOUT



American Lutheran Church is once again participating in the Educational Partners in Covenant (EPIC) Scholarship Program for the 2026-2027 school year. Through this program ELCA colleges; Grand View, Luther, and Wartburg, match grants from churches, dollar for dollar. ALC has allocated funds of \$1200 for this scholarship in their annual budget. Scholarship applications are available on the bulletin board by the secretary's office. They must be returned by March 1st, 2026 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

*Ash  
wednesday*

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18. This sacred season invites us into a time of reflection, prayer, and renewal as we prepare our hearts for Easter.

We will offer two Ash Wednesday services at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM, both including the imposition of ashes. All are welcome to join us as we begin Jesus' journey to the cross together and enter into this meaningful season of faith.

### FIND SYNOD NEWS –

- Sign up for the synod's weekly E-News digital newsletter at [www.neiasynod.org/blog/e-news](http://www.neiasynod.org/blog/e-news).
- Follow the synod Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/neiasynod](http://www.facebook.com/neiasynod).
- Check out the synod website at [www.neiasynod.org](http://www.neiasynod.org).



## Birthdays

Rayla Tonne	6-Jan
Connie Gosse	10-Jan
Cyndi Nuehring	10-Jan
Clyde Schmit	11-Jan
Jan Rachuy	14-Jan
Sara Borland	18-Jan
Ella Frush	20-Jan
Greg Lysne	20-Jan
Olivia Frush	22-Jan
Jordyn Bergman	23-Jan
Chris Waring	23-Jan
Ron Gosse	27-Jan
Renee McAtee	27-Jan
Ray Zummak	30-Jan
Lainey Mostek	31-Jan

## Baptism Anniversaries

Kaye Jones	1-Jan
Kash Niichel	5-Jan
Kohl Nuehring	8-Jan
Kyle Nuehring	10-Jan
Katie Stalheim	13-Jan
Connie Gosse	16-Jan
Michael Mostek	16-Jan
Clyde Schmit	20-Jan
Emily Hanks	21-Jan
Katie Clark	22-Jan
Amanda Phillips	22-Jan
Jacob Clark	25-Jan
Rayla Tonne	25-Jan
Christy Phillips	26-Jan
Danny Kopplin	30-Jan

## Wedding Anniversaries

Rayann & Rock Vogel 2-Jan

## 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

## FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
4th Sunday in Epiphany 9am Worship & Communion 3pm Confirmation 4pm Praise Worship	Chris & Mike gone.....thru the 9th					
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
5th Sunday in Epiphany 9am Worship & Communion 3pm Confirmation 4pm Praise Worship		9am Quilters	6pm Worship Wednesday LAMP Articles Due-			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Transfiguration of our Lord 9am Worship & Communion 3pm Confirmation 4pm Praise Worship	6:30pm Council Meeting		ASH WEDNESDAY 2pm Worship Service 6pm Worship Wednesday 7pm Worship Service	Pastor: Pat Mohr-Kelly Council President: Maureen Even Secretary: Chris Waring Church Phone: 827-8626 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>		
22	23	24	25			
First Sunday in Lent 9am Worship & Communion 10am Annual Meeting 3pm Confirmation		9am Quilters	6pm Worship Wednesday		Chris gone	
01	02	03	04	05	06	07



## Prayers

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

**Prayer Chain:** Contact Kaye Jones [kayejns@gmail.com](mailto:kayejns@gmail.com) or the office-secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org

## February Deacons

1<sup>st</sup> Maureen Even      15<sup>th</sup>  
 8<sup>th</sup> Sheila Collins      22<sup>nd</sup> Maureen Even

## February Readers

1<sup>st</sup> Maureen Even      15<sup>th</sup>  
 8<sup>th</sup> Sheila Collins      22<sup>nd</sup> Maureen Even

