

The Savior's Trumpet

Albion Lutheran Church

DECEMBER 2025



"Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!" Psalm 98:4

The hymn that comes to mind for me this December is "**Joy to the World!**" Why that hymn, you ask?

Well, the phrase, "**Joy to the World**" expresses the profound joy that comes from the birth of Christ. This is not just a momentary feeling but a deep-seated promise of salvation and hope. It serves as a reminder that joy is a gift from God, meant to be shared and celebrated. **As believers, we are called to reflect this joy in our lives and spread it to others, being an example of the love and grace that Christ brings to the world.**

*Joy to the World, the Lord is Come.
Let earth receive her king.
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing (repeat)
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow,
Far as the curse is found (repeat)
Far as, far as the curse is found.*

*Joy to the earth the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy (repeat)
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love (repeat)
And wonders, wonders of His love.*

You may be surprised by the history of this hymn! While most Christmas carols focus on the story of the nativity in the past, "**Joy to the World**" actually encourages Christians to look forward to the future. Claire Pfann, Academic Dean at University of the Holy Land, says, "*There is one Christmas carol that is unlike all others, having to do with the coming of Jesus. '**Joy to the World**' is not about the First Coming of Jesus, but about the Second Coming of Jesus.*" It is about when He comes again, finally, and rules in power, justice and mercy."

This hymn was originally part of a book of poems written by the great English hymn writer, Isaac Watts, in 1719. Based on the 98th Psalm, the poem was never intended to be a Christmas song... or any kind of song, for that matter. And Watts never knew that he had just written one of his most famous hymns.

A century later a Boston music teacher named Lowell Mason discovered the poem and set it to music. **Because it was released at Christmastime, it quickly became a holiday favorite and went on to become the most published Christmas carol in America.**

What brings you joy at this time of year? I get great joy from the worship music at Christmastime, and the chance to reflect on the great and wonderful gift God gave us in His Son, Jesus Christ. Because of His sacrifice, my sins are washed away by His blood, and I am once again restored into a close relationship with God the Father. **You can have that joy, too!! Give your heart, mind and life to Jesus Christ and you, too, will be singing, "Joy to the World."**

Join us to do this together on **Christmas Eve for our 4:30pm Candle Lighting Service**. We will join in taking the Lord's Supper and **rejoice** in His coming!! Blessings from our house to yours!!

Tammy



Joy to the
WORLD

**ALBION CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 4, 2025 ~ 7 PM**

All Present: Jeremy Brekken, Neil Brekke, Alan Brekke, Gary Parker, Doug Rossbach, Pastor Tammy, Jim Hanson, Virgil Goltz, Lisa Moldan, Linda Larson, Brian Olson, Nancy Drummer, Pat Hesse

1. Devotions by Jeremy Brekken
2. Secretary Report given by Lisa Moldan. M/S/C to approve report as is.
3. Treasurer's Report given by Lisa Moldan. M/S/C to approve report.
4. Pastor's Report:
 - a. Thanksgiving Service November 26th 7 pm, NO Communion
 - b. Christmas Eve Service December 24, 4:30 pm, Communion, Candle Lit
 - c. Advent Begins Nov 30th
 - d. Verse of the Day is posted on Albion's Facebook Page and our activity has increased 102% from the extra effort.
 - e. The sermons and prayers are also posted on the website.
5. Old Business:
 - a. Signs for the Sanctuary will be posted.
 - b. Project List has been posted. A light is needed in a room and Lexi noticed a possible leak in the loft. Trustees have been notified.
 - c. Fire Extinguishers are out of date. Virgil has been looking into having them maintained. Todd from Fairmont would come for \$95 and check them all, have them recharged (at our cost). M/S/C to have this done. Trustees will gather the extinguishers to central location.
 - d. Social Media Coordinator/Secretary Position: Lexi Brekken is interested in taking over these responsibilities. Cindy Mosenden will retire effective Dec 31, 2025. We would like to thank her for her years of service and dedication in her role.
 - i. M/S/C to hire Lexi as Albion's new secretary with addition of social media.
 - ii. M/S/C to do a 90 day trial of tracking hours at hourly rate
 - iii. Lexi will also train on the sound system as a backup for Jeremy.
6. New Business:
 - a. Thanks Linda for the new mailbox. Brian will install it.
 - b. Can look at the holder for the phone that does live stream—possibly could get a lateral holder for a bigger picture.
 - c. Could explore possibility of getting in touch with other LCMC churches in our area—Springfield, Comfrey, etc. Tabled until Lexi is onboard.
 - d. December 2nd 7 pm next meeting.
 - e. M/S/C to adjourn and end with Lord's Prayer.

Lisa Moldan, acting secretary

ALBION WOMEN OF THE WORD (WOW)

NOVEMBER 6, 2025

Meeting was called to order by Jeri Hanson. There were 15 present

We opened with a devotional prayer by Tammy Springer.

Bible Study By: Tammy Springer then led us through a Bible study from Ezra 8 and 9. A very interesting study of God's way and Us trying to follow his word and truth. It led to some interesting conversation and thought..

Treasures Report:

The new Budget for 2026 was looked at. There were several changes this year. Officers met and got the new WOW book brought up to date for next year 2026. They should be ready for hand-out in a month. Balance sheet information was read and passed.

Secretaries Report:

Minutes were read for October, 2025, and was read and passed.

Stewardship Report

A quilt is up for stitching and there are some ready for stitching.

There are also mission quilts to be done and some ready for tying. Monday and Thursday mornings are set aside...everyone welcome!

Janice Brekke brought some Sunday School information from 1988/90. There were 48 students at that time and by 1998 there were only 22. Lots of changes. Also presented were a few programs, a Mother and daughter program from 1952 and some balloon information from those earlier years. She also had some Godahl news and we were reminded of when the Godahl Tower went up and when it blew down in an ice storm.

Pastor's Report:

Pray for those on the prayer chain and others.

Reminder of Thanksgiving Eve service at 7:00 p.m.

Know everyone is welcome to the Adult Sunday School (10:30 on Sundays). It is very interesting with tying in today with the Bible. We have had some really good discussions.

Old/New Business:

Christmas Boxes.....coming up soon. Delivery is November 17-24.

East Sveadahl will be having their Christmas dinner/program on December 3rd at 6:30.

There will be a sign up sheet in kitchen to let them know how many of us will attend.

It was brought to our attention that LaSalle Village Inn may be a place for catering some of our funeral meals.

Regarding the Prayer Chain: Tammy to do a group text to those who pass it on

Lord's Prayer and Table Prayer were said.

Meeting closed - Jean Knudson/Pat Hesse.

Mary Froehling and Donna Schultz served a yummy lunch with BBQ's, chips, candy & nuts and a delicious dessert. Thank you!

Sharon Lee, Secretary

John 10:39 I have come to judge the world. I have come to give sight to the blind and to show those who think they see that they are blind.





Not So Silent Night

Join us on Sunday, December 21 at
9:00 AM for a special service presented
by the Albion Youth

PRAYER PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR YOUTH

In December we will be revealing our names to our prayer child in our Christmas cards. Names will again be available for the new year. If you were a participant this year, you need only draw a name. If you are a new participant, you can also pick up a packet of information about the project along with the name. All will need to sign their names with their code number. The reason for this is that if your prayer partner's name gets lost or forgotten, it can be found again. Praying for our children is an important part of our mission to protect them from the many temptations in the world.



RADIO SUNDAY

Thank you to all who sponsored our radio broadcasts in 2025. This is our mission outreach for those unable to attend services and for our local friends in the community. Please use the sign-up sheet on the downstairs bulletin board if you would like to sponsor a broadcast. It is broadcast on the 2nd Sunday of every month, Cost is \$65. A check can be put in the offering plate designating what & when it is for or it can be mailed to Albion Lutheran Church, 10454 250th Ave, St. James, MN 56081. Thank you in advance for your sharing. Many of the months for 2026 are already sponsored.



Operation Christmas Child



48 children will be receiving their first Christmas gift. Thank you to all who participated!! (last year we had 45)

"God's angels at work!"



ADVENT PRAYER

Our loving heavenly Father, in this Advent/Christmas season we thank You for the price-less gift of Your love, the Babe of Bethlehem. While we do not worship a story, we do bow before a sovereign God who clothed Himself in human flesh. Our Creator who has revealed Himself to His creation. Enable us to delight in this little Child who is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Help us to show our love for Him through our obedience and amidst the lullabies of Christmas remember why Jesus came: "...

*to bind up the broken-hearted;
to comfort all who mourn,
to proclaim the Good News
of His salvation."*

May this promise be for each of us today. Help us to grasp it, appropriate it and be changed by it, as we praise God for it. In the name of our gracious Father, loving Savior and blessed Holy Spirit. Amen.

FOOD SHELVES

Minnesota's food shelves are seeing overwhelming demand from families who need help. Please keep our local food shelves on your giving list during this difficult time. There is a box in the sub-kitchen to drop your donations. Cash donations can be included in your offering envelope. We will also take a door offering on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Donations will be distributed between Watonwan County Food Shelf and SHEAF in Sleepy Eye. Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

**The Barnabus
Fund logo
symbolizes a gift
given, a gift
received.**



MISSION The Barnabus Fund is named after Barnabus of the New Testament. His name meant "son of encouragement." He was a man of wealth who sold property and gave the proceeds to the apostles for relief of needy members in the church (Acts 4:32-37) The Barnabus Fund is available to assist members of Albion Lutheran Church facing financial hardship. No one individual or family should receive more than 10% of the balance of funds in the account unless approved by the Albion Church Council. The aim of the Fund is to provide people with emergency aid/short term assistance as a bridge to financial stability. The Barnabus Fund is administered by a member of the Church Council and is advised by Albion's Pastor.

EXAMPLES A few examples of assistance provided by the Barnabus Fund are:

- Financial assistance for an unemployed Albion Church member in need of medical care, travel for a family medical emergency, car repair, housing, utilities, groceries, etc.
- Financial support to share the cost of counseling for an Albion individual or couple.
- Payment of childcare and insurance for a single parent while looking for employment.

COUNSELING: Applicants to the Barnabus Fund are supported in prayer, friendship, spiritual counsel and whatever additional assistance is needed in the situation. The Fund is a tangible expression of Christ's love.

CONFIDENTIALITY: The Barnabus Committee will handle all requests in the strictest of confidence.

FUNDING: The Barnabus Fund is supported solely by financial contributions from Albion Church members.

Financial hardships do occur within our church family; the Barnabus Fund seeks to ensure that they are not overlooked. As Barnabus of old, we extend help and encouragement to those in need. Assistance given by the Fund is considered a gift.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the Barnabus Fund can make a check out to Albion Lutheran Church and indicate Barnabus Fund on the memo line. The Barnabus Fund has also been chosen to be the Mission Giving for the month of December.

ALBION PRAYER CHAIN

If you have prayer concerns for a loved one, please call the pastor and she will notify the prayer chain leaders. If you cannot reach the pastor, call one of the leaders and they will notify the other leaders:

Tammy: 507-381-0016
Cindy Mosenden: 507 439-6380
Janice Brekke: 507 439-6658



Cindy Mosenden, Church Secretary, will be retiring from her duties as of December 31, 2025.

Cindy has served Albion faithfully in this role for 26 + years!! We thank her from the bottom of our hearts and wish her the best!

There will be a Retirement Recognition for Cindy on December 28th, 2025, during the fellowship time after worship. Please join us in thanking Cindy for her service!



EAST SVEADAHN CHRISTMAS PARTY:

East Sveadahl WELCA invites you to our Annual Christmas Party, Wednesday, December 3, beginning with supper at 6:30 PM.

Please RSVP to Janet Bloomquist (507-327-0318) or Kris Sness (507-380-3462) by Wednesday, November 26.

The Albion WOW Annual Christmas Pot Luck

will be held on Sunday, December 7th
Following the morning worship

Please bring a dish to share and come join us for Food & fellowship.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7: WOW ANNUAL CHRISTMAS POT LUCK—FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE.

DECEMBER SERVING DUTIES:

Group A: decorate the fellowship hall

Group B: Pot Luck hostesses

Group C: Serve Sunday School Program fellowship. Bring 2 doz cookies or bars.

CHRISTMAS SHARE & CARE:

Group B: Bring 1 doz cookies or bars to Sunday School Room.

Group A: pack the gift baskets following the Sunday School Program.

DECEMBER USHERS

Alan Brekke
Travis Brekken
Tanner Olson
Chris Larson

DECEMBER WOW

NO MEETING
CHRISTMAS POT LUCK
December 7

ALTAR COMMITTEE

Linda Larson
Cindy Mosenden

JANUARY USHERS

Brian Olson
Rob Mosenden
Keith Brekken

JANUARY WOW

January 8, 2 pm
HOSTESSES
Jeri Hanson
Lisa Moldan

ALTAR COMMITTEE

Cindy Mosenden
Darcy Mosenden

Happy Birthday In December

1 DeAndre Parker
5 Brian Finstad
7 Gunnar Helling
9 Jacob Rossbach
11 David Larson
11 Cindy Mosenden
12 Evelyn Hagen
13 Anna Rossbach
16 Ryan Aspelund
18 Bob Springer
28 Travis Brekken
30 Alyssa Helling



SNOW BLOWING SCHEDULE

DECEMBER

1-10 Nate Frederickson
11-20 Ron Aspelund
21-31 Wayne Shellum

JANUARY

1-11 David Larson
12-21 Gary Parker
22-31 Chuck Parker



Albion Lutheran Church



10454 250th AVENUE
St James, MN 56081
12 miles NW of St. James on Hwy 4
Phone: 507-758-1027



PASTOR TAMMY SPRINGER
(507) 381-0016
tkputzin2012@mail.com
BOB SPRINGER
CELL (507) 381-0015
bobspring@mail.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 sewing	2 Church Council 7 PM	3	4 sewing	5	6
7 <u>2nd Sunday in Advent</u> 9:00 AM Worship Annual WOW Christ- mas Pot Luck following worship Program Practice	8 sewing	9	10	11 sewing	12	13
14 <u>3rd Sunday in Advent</u> 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Fellowship 10:15 AM Program Practice	15 sewing	16	17	18 sewing	19	20
<div>RADIO Sunday</div>						
21 <u>3rd Sunday in Advent</u> 9:00 AM Albion's youth present their Christmas program... followed by "treats & fellowship" <div>Food Shelf Sunday</div>	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight service w/Holy Communion - 4:30 p.m.	25 Merry Christmas 	26	27
28 <u>1st Sunday of Christmas</u> 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Fellowship MISSION SUNDAY	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE	<div>SECRETARY CONTACT INFORMATION:</div> <div>Cindy Mosenden: 507-439-6380 or cindymos1@gmail.com 20894 CR 6, Hanska, MN 56041 ~ Sunday bulletin information in due by Thursday noon. Newsletter articles are due the 20th of the month.</div>		

Albion Lutheran Church
10454 250th Avenue
St James MN 56081

Address Service Requested

December 2025



Remember that ADVENT,
the weeks preceding
Christmas, is a time of
preparation for the
birth of our Lord.

Four Key Attributes of **LCMC**
Lutheran **C**ongregations in **M**ission for
Christ

1. Christ-Centered
2. Mission-Driven
3. Biblically Grounded
4. Congregationally Focused

*"Always be ready to give an account to
anyone who asks you for the hope
that is in you; yet do it with gentleness
and reverence." I Peter 3:15*



Celebrate Christ's Birth
Join us for our
Christmas Eve Candlelight service
with Communion.
December 24th, 4:30 PM