



JANUARY 2025

GALILEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

WALKING WITH JESUS, SHARING GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE,
SERVING ALL FAITHFULLY.

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 galileelc.org
 (262) 691-2380
 galilee@galileelc.org
 N24W26430 Crestview Dr.
Pewaukee, WI 53072

PASTOR AMANDA



Ah January – the month we all spend writing the wrong year on everything that needs a date. January – the month we all spend making well-intentioned plans to be better, stronger, wiser versions of ourselves. January – the month of new hopes and new beginnings! New Year's Resolutions, goal setting, reflecting on the year just passed and looking at what we can expect from the coming year, whatever we call it, January is a month where we look at who we are and who we have been, and try to find ways we could be better.

I have made many New Year's Resolutions in my life, I have set many goals at the start of the year. Some of them have been quite successful – I once read the Bible in a year, I read a book a month another year, I got in pretty good shape one year (then I got married and had a baby). But many of my resolutions have fallen flat – usually by

February!

There's something about our culture that has us always striving for more. We are told from a young age that we can be whatever we want to be. The "American Dream" at its roots is that each successive generation would do better than the one before. We got to the moon and immediately started shooting for Mars, and beyond!

This striving for more has brought us to great things, but it is also exhausting. There is a burning desire at the core of many of us to believe that we are enough – that we have done enough, that we have enough, that all our work will be enough. But it is hard to know what "enough" looks like when the world is set up to make you always strive for "more."

But maybe just because you could read more, clean more, exercise more, think more, sing more, or strive more, doesn't mean that you aren't already enough. Maybe, just maybe, the God of all creation created you to be just as you are – and that God's creation is not just enough, it is truly good.

God says in Isaiah 43, "Do not fear for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." God chooses you, just as you are this day, to be God's beloved child. God calls you by name, and no matter who you are today, or who you become tomorrow, God promises to love you as a good parent loves their child.

So make your resolutions – or don't. Strive to be a better version of yourself – or don't. Strive to make this world a better place for all humanity – or don't. Whatever you do, do it all knowing that the God who created you and this whole broken, beautiful world loves it, and you, with a love beyond comprehension. Do it knowing that whether you succeed or fail to meet the goals you set, you are already enough for God, who has chosen you to be God's child not because of what you have accomplished, but because of the love God has for you. Do it trusting that the God who chose you will never leave you, nor forsake you! You are beloved – right now, and in and among everything that 2025 has in store for you.

DECEMBER UPDATE FROM THE LEADERSHIP BOARD

EMAIL SECURITY

We recently have seen an uptick in people trying to use emails from Galilee staff to try and coerce our members to buy gift cards under the auspices of generally some urgent manner. I know that Pastor Amanda has sent out some recent emails on this topic but quite frankly this is too important of an issue to not mention it multiple times, so I wanted to take a moment to highlight this issue. My day job is in IT services and this threat is very real and growing. Email security is the number one way that “bad actors” (what we call people with bad intentions) will try to swindle you or to gain access to critical information that you may have stored in your on-line accounts.

A few simple thoughts I would encourage you to consider:

- If you receive an email from a Galilee staff member asking you to purchase a gift card, please do two things – First, report the message to the Church office so that we can alert others. Second, after reporting it please delete the message from your inbox. No one from the Church, including Pastor, Patricia, Sam or Karen, our Financial Secretary, will ever ask you to make this kind of purchase. Neither will anyone from the Leadership Board. If someone does ask you make this kind of purchase, whether they are from Galilee or simply a friend or family member, please CALL them (do not reply to their email as the person sending you the email may not be who they appear to be) and verify if the request is real.
- Aside from Galilee, if you ever receive an email that presses you for a quick response pause before responding. One of the most common ways that email frauds start is creating a false sense of urgency to respond. Your natural reaction may be to respond quickly but you need to think about who is sending you this request, why are they sending it and does it make sense that this person or organization may be making this request. Look for other clues that these types of emails may be bad:
 - What time of day did the email come in? Would this person or organization send an urgent email in the middle of the night, as an example?
 - Look at the email address used for replying – does the address make sense? Confirm if the email address is exactly what you may have in your records for this person. As an example, if they use an email address ending in @gmail.com and the mail you have received says their name, but the email address is not an exact match you should try and verify that this is really them. Again do not reply to their email – call them, tell them about your concern and ask them to confirm that they sent a particular email.
 - I hear a lot about people receiving emails from their bank that requested account information or social security numbers. Your bank should not be requesting this through email. If you receive an email from your bank or some similar organization asking for information stop and ask yourself if it makes sense that they would be asking for this type of information. There are other things that may not make sense. Anytime you question an email, particularly one with embedded links you can click on or someone asking you for information that may be your private information, pause and review that message. The types of trickery we are seeing in network security today is unfortunately very prevalent. If you have a question, confirm if the email is legitimate.
 - Learn what you can about email security and then apply it when you read your messages. While there is no guarantee that a bad message can be avoided, these steps may help you to be more secure. Email is a wonderful tool, but it can present problems.

If something seems off in a message, question it. Do what you can to confirm that the messages you are responding to are real. While we all want to help others, there are unfortunately some people out there who are trying every day to create new ways to harm you through email. Do not be afraid of email but realize that you need to be observant of what you are receiving.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please mark your calendars for Galilee’s Annual Congregational meeting. It is scheduled for Sunday, January 19th, at 10:15 AM. Please note that both Sunday School and the Adult Education hour will not be held on this day so that all of the Congregational Members who wish to attend may do so. You will see an agenda for the meeting in the Annual Report which will be sent out in the first part of January.

LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

As we wrap up the end of the year, this will be my final opportunity to provide these updates as I will be stepping down as President following the Annual Congregational meeting. The last two years have represented an incredible experience for me. The most important lesson for me is to have faith. Faith in the processes that exist for the Church to have success. Faith in the Congregation to make the choices that are best for all of us. Faith in my fellow Leadership Board members – they are an incredible group, and I am grateful to have served with them. Faith in our Pastoral Leaders, not just in the way that they guide us but realize that the gifts that they bring are unique and rise when most needed. Most of all, Faith in God. Admittedly, I have not always realized in life the times that God was with me but particularly in the last two years of my life I have sensed when he was holding me up and giving me the guidance I needed. My hope for everyone at Galilee is that you realize a similar faith to what I have experienced. I know that many of you do.

As we move forward into next year, we will have much to celebrate. By Spring we will no longer have a mortgage. Our building projects for a new roof and updated main floor bathrooms should be complete. We will continue to align our Congregation with our mission and vision statements. We will continue to realize the gifts that Pastor Amanda brings to us. Most importantly, we will be together, experiencing what God has in store for us. In doing so, we will walk with Jesus, sharing God's love and grace and serving ALL faithfully!

Carl Spencer
Leadership Board President

COMING UP AT GALILEE:



If you have any questions, please contact Barb Barthel at 262-691-0711.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



2025 Annual Meeting
Galilee will hold its Annual Congregational Meeting on January 19th following the worship service. This meeting is a constitutional requirement for the congregation, and at it we will hear about ministry from the past year and discuss where we are headed in 2025, as well as approving a budget for the congregation in the upcoming year. All voting members of Galilee are encouraged to attend the meeting.

There will be no Sunday School or Adult Forum on January 19th so that the leaders of these important ministries can attend the congregational meeting.





GALILEE GAME NIGHTS

ALL AGES WELCOME

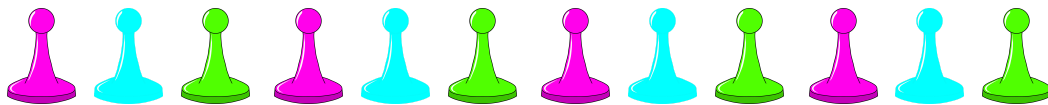
- **JANUARY 11**
- **FEBRUARY 8**
- **MARCH 8**

6-8 P.M.



GAME NIGHTS AT GALILEE

Do you like to play board games? Or maybe you just like snacks and hanging out with your Galilee friends? Either way, come to Galilee's Game Nights this winter! On the second Saturday each month from January to March we will gather after Saturday worship in the Fellowship Hall from 6:00-8:00pm to share snacks and play games together. Bring a snack to share and your favorite board games and meet with fellow Galileans to spend the evening! Pastor Amanda will make sure there are games there for the littles as well – all ages are welcome. Our first Game Night will be on **January 11th** – see you then!



Partners With Meru Mission Trip – 2025

Pastor Amanda and Deb Kohler are joining the Greater Milwaukee Synod delegation traveling to the Diocese of Meru (Tanzania, Africa) departing Milwaukee on January 21 and returning on February 6. While there, they will be visiting Diocese ministries supporting health (hospital & orphanage) and education (schools & seminary), along with the Mt. Meru Coffee project, Telescopes for Tanzania and a Massai Lutheran Village. They will be worshipping both weekends at Galilee's partner parish in Ndoombo and will be experiencing home visits including with recipients of Galilee's 2010 Heifer Project. Please keep Pr. Amanda, Deb and all eighteen travelers in your prayers during this journey half-way around the world! You can follow their journey via Galilee and Partners with Meru Facebook posts.



ADULT FORUM WITH JACK BECK

Professor Jack Beck is a renowned biblical scholar and geographer who has made presentations at Galilee's Adult Forums the last two years. We are pleased to announce that Jack will be returning to the Adult Forum for a three part presentation, "Jerusalem Travel Psalms" on February 2, 9 and 16, 2025. The Book of Psalms is filled with poetic reflections that explore who God is, how he thinks about us, and how he encourages us to live our best lives. Some of

these psalms took shape as the inspired poets walked to Jerusalem for worship, harvesting theological insights along the way. In this study, we will explore three Jerusalem travel psalms to see how they reflect the ancient travel experience enroute to the Holy City and still speak to our travels through life today," - Jack Beck.

Galilee's Adult Forums follow the Sunday morning worship services from 10:15 to 11:15. Please plan to attend these sessions and bring your Bible and a friend!



Thank You to Our Worship & Arts Design Team!

Thank you to Karen Buelow and Penny Van Weele for making sure our church building is decorated for the changing seasons at Galilee! They are our "behind the scenes" team, sharing many hours each month creating themes that tie into the scripture.



There will be **NO Go-Getters** in the month of **January or February**.

thank you

SEASON OF GIVING



Thank You for Supporting Galilee's "Partnerships Season of Giving"!

Generosity has once again shined brightly at Galilee during the holiday season! Thank you to everyone who donated high-need items for the Pewaukee Food Pantry, Hope Center, The Women's Center, and Outreach for Hope. Thank you for sharing Galilee's Facebook posts promoting our First Annual "Community Donations Drop-Off Saturday" on November 30! A Thrivent Action Team grant was used to serve chili, cornbread, cookies and juice to our neighbors making a donation on Donation Drop-Off Saturday. The grant also helped fund two Hope Center Outreach Breakfast meals. We collected five carloads of high-need items which were delivered to our

partners by mid-December! Thank you to Joyce Mikulice for serving as "Chili & Cornbread Host" and the Barth family for helping bag donations on Donations Drop-off Saturday! Thank you to Laurie & John McGroarty, Pam Graham and Bill Braunschweig for delivering the donations to our partners! It was great to see so many of our neighbors support us!



Thank You: Angel Tree Donations!

Thank you to everyone who granted "Angel Tree" wishes for children attending La Casa De Esperanza daycare! Seventy (70!) gifts were purchased, wrapped and returned to Galilee in time for Mary Winter & Jill Plesh to deliver them in time for their Christmas party. Your generosity supported children who may not otherwise receive a gift at Christmas!



HAT & MITTEN TREE + GENTLY USED COAT DRIVE



Hat & Mitten Tree Donations

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the "Hat & Mitten Tree"! Items were split between Hope Center and Outreach for Hope. From Outreach for Hope grant recipient, Grace Interfaith "Your warm and loving donation came at the perfect time for today's cold snap - our families were truly touched by this thought-filled donation. There was genuine excitement and joy in the air! Please share our gratitude with the generous members of Galilee - God is so good!" We also received a huge thank you from Emaus Lutheran Church!





Thank you, Pastor Chris Manke!

Thank you to Pastor Chris Manke, Outreach for Hope Executive Director, for serving as Galilee's Guest Preacher on December 7th & 8th! Pastor Chris shared an update about the ministries supported by Outreach for Hope during adult education hour on Sunday. He also filled his car with items from the "Hat & Mitten Tree" for delivery to Outreach for Hope grant recipients, including our urban partner St. Paul's in Milwaukee.



Women's Advent Gathering

Women's Advent Gathering 2024. What a Great Time of Singing & Sharing!

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2024 Women's Advent Gathering on December 3! A special thank you to Mary Winter for organizing the gathering, Jan Janzow for accompanying the Christmas hymn sing-along, and everyone who brought an appetizer or dessert to share!



A Capital C.H.R.I.S.T.M.A.S!

Galilee's Sunday School and led worship on Sunday, December 15. The service featured youth in leadership roles and shared an awesome Christmas program under the direction of Ava Prins!



Welcome New Members!

We welcomed new members into the life and ministry of Galilee on Sunday, November 24th. Not pictured is new member Rue Hammon. Please take a moment to say hello!

JESSICA & BRANDON BARTEL



GAIL LAMP



JOHN & LAURIE MCGROARTY



BEVERLY WENDLING



CONNIE STELZER



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 1

Ley Kler
Colleen Koehn

January 4

David Roberts
Daniel Bowman
Naomi Ackley
Ellen Feldman

January 6

Dick Winkelman
Shaun Graham

January 8

Leah Braunschweig

January 9

Estella Levas

January 10

Suzanne Schroeder

January 12

Duane Vitek

January 13

Doris Stolz

January 14

James Praeger

January 15

Richard Winkelman
Katelyn Connolly
David Fancher

January 16

Roger Weiland

January 17

Shelly Dohlby
Carmen Glover

January 18

Karen Roberts

January 19

Pamela Graham

January 21

Janet Millard
Marjory Kloth
Cortney Sullivan

January 22

Marilyn Morgan

January 23

Dana Sobotik

January 24

Gloria Musil

January 25

Jacob Raschka
Penny Williams

January 27

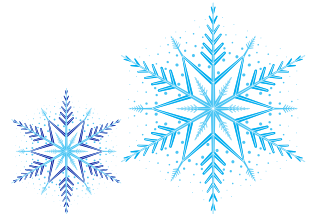
Harold Sloan
Thomas Brinkman

January 29

Paw Lu Lu
Deacon Lukomski
Kathryn Berg

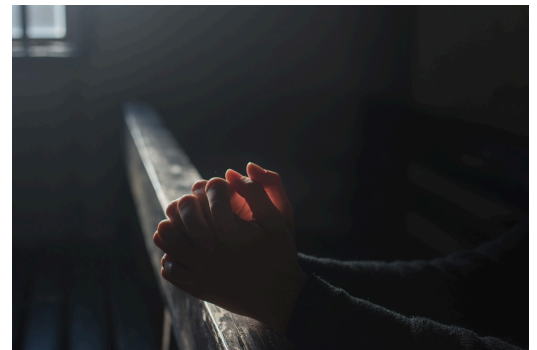
January 31

Nicole Plesh



PRAYER NEEDS

Please keep in your prayers - Patricia Alters, Eli Austin, Cathy Bartlett, Gary Benrud, Mary Benrud, Steve Bower, Carol Burkhart, Donna Chudada, Pastor Joy McDonald-Coltvet, Judy Corcoran, Bev Coshun, Isaiah Cramer, Oretta Dueno, Kari Elizabeth, Donna Frederick, Timothy Graham, Paul Hintze Jr., Jill Johnson, Marjory Kloth, Bill Koehn, Margo Krumnow, Alice Lamp, Liz, Heidi Mag, Ray Makeever, Ray Mansker, Dan Maske, Eliana Metzger, Lynn Meyer, Michael Mielke, Helen Mueller, Calla Nelson, Dennis Olson, Diane Praeger, Janet Praeger, Carol Puestow, Chris Roughen, John Ruf, Olivia Taylor, Penny Williams, Nancy Wojcicki, and *the family and loved ones of Derek Hehn and Aung Win.*



Pray for our
military.

Mike Anderson
Andrew Connolly
Jeremy Fossier
Tim Gilestad
Bill Groth
Benjamin Maske
Morgan Mosher
Andrew Richardson

Are you or someone you know in
need of prayer?
Simply contact the church office at
(262) 691-2380
or
email galilee@galileelc.org
with your prayer requests.

MINISTRY STAFF

Pastor: Pastor Amanda Applehans, email: pastoramanda@galileelc.org

Director of Music & Worship Accompanist: Patricia DeBlaey, email: patricia@galileelc.org

Choir Accompanist: Jean Nelson, email: jeancyf@galileelc.org

Financial Administrative Assistant: Karen Streit, email: finance@galileelc.org

Office Coordinator: Samantha Scantlin, email: galilee@galileelc.org

Church office is open Monday—Thursday 8:30-4:30pm

MINISTRY COORDINATORS

WELCOMING

Hospitality - Susan Keller & Vivian Dethloff | susieqz2@aol.com & dethloff5@gmail.com

Connecting - Mary Winter | marywinter1322@gmail.com

EQUIPPING

Worship & Arts - Diana Conway | dlmc@milwpc.com

Faith Formation - Pastor Amanda Applehans | pastoramanda@galileelc.org

Administration - Building & Grounds | Nicholas Riegert | riegs4@sbcglobal.net

Administration - Church Office & HR | Kathy Taylor | htmachine@centurytel.net

Godly Play - Sue Olson | olsonmsusan@gmail.com

SENDING

Partnerships & Global-Gifting - Deb Kohler | deb.kohler.mke@gmail.com

Compassion Care - Ann Dee Austin | anndeeaustin@gmail.com

Columbarium - Bill Braunschweig | bbraunschweig1@gmail.com

LEADERSHIP BOARD MEMBERS, 2024

Carl Spencer - President | carlspencerv66@gmail.com

Steve Dethloff - Vice President | dethloff5@gmail.com

Darrin Kehl - Secretary | dlkehl@quad.com

Terri Drover - Member at large | terdrover@sbcglobal.net

Mary Dehler - Member at large | biddymarka@gmail.com

Andrea Smith - Treasurer | andreamsmith3@wi.rr.com

January

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29 <u>9a Worship Service</u> <u>10:15a Education Hour</u>	30 <u>7:30p AA - Fellowship Hall</u>	31	1 <u>OFFICE CLOSED</u> <u>4:30p</u> Choir rehearsal, prep <u>6p</u> Vocal Choir Rehearsal <u>7p</u> Bell Choir Rehearsal	2 <u>8p</u> AA - Room 41 <u>8p</u> Boy Scouts Troop 87 - Fe	3 <u>Office Closed</u> <u>12p</u> 12 Step Group - Room	4 <u>7:30a</u> Men's Bible Study - Fi <u>5p</u> Worship Service
5 <u>9a Worship Service</u> <u>10:15a Education Hour</u>	6 <u>7:30p</u> AA - Fellowship Hall	7	8 <u>9:30a</u> Text Study <u>1:45p</u> Grace Group <u>4:30p</u> Choir rehearsal, prep <u>6p</u> Leadership Board Meeting <u>6p</u> Vocal Choir Rehearsal <u>7p</u> Bell Choir Rehearsal	9 <u>8p</u> AA - Room 41 <u>8p</u> Boy Scouts Troop 87 - Fe	10 <u>Office Closed</u> <u>12p</u> 12 Step Group - Room	11 <u>8a</u> Women's Bible Study - G <u>5p</u> Worship Service <u>6p</u> Galilee Game Night
12 <u>9a Worship Service</u> <u>10:15a Education Hour</u>	13 <u>7:30p</u> AA - Fellowship Hall	14	15 <u>9:30a</u> Text Study <u>4:30p</u> Choir rehearsal, prep <u>6p</u> Vocal Choir Rehearsal <u>7p</u> Bell Choir Rehearsal	16 <u>8p</u> AA - Room 41 <u>8p</u> Boy Scouts Troop 87 - Fe	17 <u>Office Closed</u> <u>12p</u> 12 Step Group - Room	18 <u>7:30a</u> Men's Bible Study - Fi <u>5p</u> Worship Service
19 <u>9a Worship Service</u> <u>10:15a Education Hour</u>	20 <u>10a</u> Encore: Breast Cancer S <u>1p</u> Knitters & Crocheters - C <u>7:30p</u> AA - Fellowship Hall	21 <u>3p</u> Loss & Living Gathering.	22 <u>9:30a</u> Text Study <u>4:30p</u> Choir rehearsal, prep <u>6p</u> Vocal Choir Rehearsal <u>7p</u> Bell Choir Rehearsal	23 <u>8p</u> AA - Room 41 <u>8p</u> Boy Scouts Troop 87 - Fe	24 <u>Office Closed</u> <u>12p</u> 12 Step Group - Room	25 <u>8a</u> Women's Bible Study - G <u>5p</u> Worship Service
26 <u>9a Worship Service</u> <u>10:15a Education Hour</u>	27 <u>7:30p</u> AA - Fellowship Hall	28	29 <u>9:30a</u> Text Study <u>4:30p</u> Choir rehearsal, prep <u>6p</u> Vocal Choir Rehearsal <u>7p</u> Bell Choir Rehearsal	30 <u>8p</u> AA - Room 41 <u>8p</u> Boy Scouts Troop 87 - Fe	31 <u>Office Closed</u> <u>12p</u> 12 Step Group - Room	1 <u>7:30a</u> Men's Bible Study - Fi <u>5p</u> Worship Service
2 <u>9a Worship Service</u> <u>10:15a Education Hour</u>	3 <u>7:30p</u> AA - Fellowship Hall	4	5 <u>9:30a</u> Text Study <u>4:30p</u> Choir rehearsal, prep <u>6p</u> Vocal Choir Rehearsal <u>7p</u> Bell Choir Rehearsal	6 <u>8p</u> AA - Room 41 <u>8p</u> Boy Scouts Troop 87 - Fe	7 <u>Office Closed</u> <u>12p</u> 12 Step Group - Room	8 <u>8a</u> Women's Bible Study - G <u>5p</u> Worship Service <u>6p</u> Galilee Game Night

Galilee Lutheran Church

N24W26430 Crestview Dr.
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Galilee's monthly calendar is now available on our website. Go to <https://galileelc.org> and click on 'More' at the top of the page, then 'Church calendar' in the drop-down menu.

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

SATURDAYS AT 5:00 PM

SUNDAYS AT 9:00 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL & ADULT EDUCATION

SUNDAYS AT 10:15 AM



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.