

THE AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WINDOM

Volume 55, No 1.....January 2012



*"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD,
plans for your welfare and not for your harm, to give you a
future with hope." Jeremiah 29:11*

I like to keep a calendar. I have one on my computer that has all of my work things, visits, meetings and obligations. It also has our family activities on it, so I know when the girls have piano or dance lessons. Of course, there is a calendar on the desk of my study and another on a dry erase board in the parsonage kitchen; Elizabeth calls that one the "Control Center."

Each week I stand in the kitchen and I coordinate my calendars with the "Control Center". I evaluate the things I have accomplished on the calendar as I erase them and I make notes of the things that still need doing. Some weeks are very productive and others seem to pass by almost unnoticed. Some others are full of the kind of quiet blessings that really are moving and others move by at such a fast pace one can hardly keep up.

As we start a new year as a congregation, it is noteworthy that we have all made some significant changes. In the last 6 months, Pastor Tim and I have said hello and the congregation said farewell to Pastor Terry and Pastor Todd. We have had 22 confirmands, several large events, many baptisms and too many funerals. We have made some changes in worship and we will likely leave unchanged some powerful traditions. We have gathered together as a congregation for worship and meetings, we have sold a parsonage and accomplished many more things. Even as I reflect on the past year, we look forward to the new year to come.

The beginning of a new year gives us the opportunity to evaluate how we have been doing as a congregation in building God's preferred future for us and for the world. A great question in a congregation is "How do we evaluate our work?" What is success for us as we strive together to:

**Welcome All,
Walk Together,
Reflect Love,
Serve Creation?**

Together we will try to answer some of these questions as we minister together as a congregation. As we begin a new year together, we can continue to trust that the same God who has been faithful to this congregation in all of its history will continue to be faithful to us as we put new events on our calendars and continue to more forward together.

God Bless,
Pastor Jay



A special "THANK YOU" to all who have remembered us during the Christmas Season. We do appreciate your kind words, your prayers, your cards, your gifts and your treats. We are all blessed to serve in this place we call "American Lutheran".

May God be with you in the New Year as we all seek to do His will in this place and in the world.

Your ALC Staff & their families

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR TIM....

Greetings,

It's that time of year again, a New Year! I love this time of year because it seems that people really take to heart the old familiar song, Auld Lang Syne. With a new year, we seem to get a new start, a fresh look at life. We let the things of the past remain in the past and take time to think and talk about the things of the future.

In order to make sure our focus is on the future, we like to create New Year resolutions or set some goals that we would like to accomplish this year or maybe it's finally that year where you get married, retire or graduate. Truly this is a time for us to be refreshed and renewed, able to be excited and able to dream about the future. Sometimes you can even feel the pressure or stress of the past year lift away and you can say awww.

The Good News is that we do not have to wait until this time every year; we can receive this new start weekly, if not daily, through Christ's work in this world. In our weekly service, we start off the service by having Confession and Forgiveness. This is a chance for us to confess the sins of the past week, day, or maybe few minutes. Then we get a new start with the Absolution. If you are carrying around the guilt or shame of the things of the past, now you have given them to God and you are able to feel the relief from the pressure of the guilt or shame and be able to say awww.

As we start the year, trust in the forgiveness that has been given in the Absolution to you by Christ. In that freedom, you will be able to realize the new start that you have everyday, not every year.

May God's peace be with you throughout this NewYear.

Pastor Tim Wrenn

Creating Spiritual Disciplines – Pastor Tim

"Superficiality is the curse of our age.... The desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people, or gifted people, but for deep people." -Richard Foster, "Celebration of Discipline"

"The spiritual life is first of all a life. It is not merely something to be known and studied, it is to be lived."

-Thomas Merton, "Thoughts in Solitude"

"Everybody thinks of changing humanity and nobody thinks of changing himself." --Leo Tolstoy

In this New Year many of you might be thinking about making a resolution or goal oriented toward a spiritual discipline. This can be manifested in several different ways, something simple like praying everyday or a challenge such as reading through the Bible.

Spiritual disciplines are wonderful ways to help us live our faith even more. They help us to be more aware of how God is working in our lives, the lives of others and in the world that is around us. A spiritual discipline in and of itself does not produce change, but instead it leads us to places where we can change.

There are also dangers when doing a spiritual discipline, one of the most common ones is becoming too strict and legalistic about the discipline. This takes away the life-giving spiritual aspect and makes the discipline turn in on itself, which takes life away.

Some of the ways to help avoid this danger might be to consider putting "check-in" times throughout the year. These times help you to evaluate both where God has led you and if the discipline has become more of a burden.

If this is something that you decide to do this year, either by yourself or with a partner, consider asking God through the Holy Spirit to guide you to a discipline. Truly God is at work in our lives and can help to lead you to places God has in mind for us.

For more information either Pastor Jay or I would be happy to talk to you about spiritual disciplines. I would also recommend to you a classic book on this subject, "*Celebration of Discipline*" by Richard Foster



MINI BUS DRIVERS are needed for Sunday morning pick-up for our 8:30 am Worship Services. A regular license is all that is needed. If you can drive on occasion, it would be appreciated. There is a sign-up sheet on the parking lot bulletin board OR call the church office or talk to Keith Pohlman.

NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP

ONE SERVICE AT 9:00 A.M.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

BETHANY AT 10:30 A.M.

COME & WORSHIP WITH US!!!!

TIME & TALENT

YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT ANALYSIS SHEET IS THE BLUE SHEET IN THE CENTER OF THIS NEWSLETTER. THE STEWARDSHIP BOARD DECIDED TO SEND THIS OUT NOW FOR YOUR REVIEW. PLEASE CAREFULLY READ THROUGH ALL THE OPTIONS AND INDICATE WHICH ONES YOU WILL CONTINUE WITH AND WHICH NEW ONES YOU WOULD LIKE TO TRY. BRING THEM FILLED OUT TO CHURCH WITH YOU AND PLACE IN THE OFFERING OR MAIL/BRING TO THE CHURCH OFFICE.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Dear Women of the ELCA,

Happy New Year! It seems funny to say that as 2011 just flew by. I guess I'm getting older. My wish for you is for good health and happiness in the coming year.

We start off the New Year with some changes for our winter W.ELCA meetings. We are going to join the Sewing ladies on January 3 and 17 as well as February 7 and 21. The times are 9:00am to 3:00pm. There will be work for all abilities. Hot soup will be served at noon and you can bring along a sack lunch to go along with it if you like. Also bring some goodies to go with coffee. The W.ELCA board will meet at 2:00 on January 3. Please come join us for the day or any part of the day. We were able to give away many of the quilts to the Christmas Cheer Box and Shalom Hill Farm this past month. Many quilts are ready to be tied.

We have been asked to serve lunch to the Shetek Conference Pastors on January 19. Romelle Wojahn has agreed to head this up. Come help if you can.

Booklets for the new year will be ready early in January for you to pick up. Check to see where your Circle duties are.

I'll be heading to Arizona after the lutefisk supper and will be thinking of you as I spend time with my siblings. I will return before Easter. Have a good winter.

Your Servant in Christ,
Karen Skarphol

Dates to Remember:

January coffee hour served by W.ELCA Board
January 3 & 17 - Sewing Days 9:00-3:00
January 3 - W.ELCA Board 2:00 pm
January 19 - Circle Day – 9:15 am and 1:30 pm
January 19 - Serve Shetek Conference Pastors

CIRCLES for January 19:

Abigail & Eunice – 9:15 am at church.

Mary & Rebekah – 1:30 pm at church.

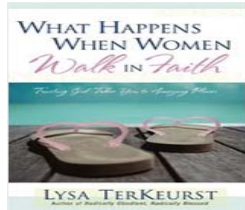
FRIENDSHIP GROUP:

January 6 – 5 pm at Godfather's

January 13 – 11:30 am meet at church; B & B Diner, Mt. Lake

January 20 – 5 pm Jack Slades Steakhouse

January 27 – 6:30 pm Hillside Manor



**Thursday Noon Women's Group with
Tera!**

**Join us beginning January 5th for our
New Book Study**

***“What Happens When Women Walk in
Faith”***

Every Thursday from 12-1 pm

**Pick up your lunch and join us for this
relaxed**

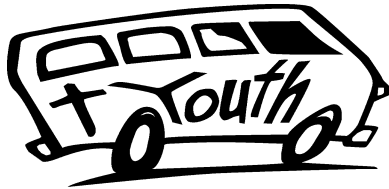
Casual study with friends!

Cost for the book is \$10.50.

Please contact Tera to sign-up!



ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, January 22
1:30 pm
Church Fellowship Hall
Reports Due January 11



CHALLENGE THE PASTOR!!!!

Confirmation students and older: Do you feel the Call of Duty? Pastor Jay is hosting an afternoon of video game fun to play the game Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3. December 30 from 12:30 until 4. If you can, bring your XBOX, Xbox 360, Play Station and MW3. Also bring your Bible and a snack to share! Meet at the church and bring a friend.



Dig! For 10th, 11th, and 12th Graders

Dig! is a time of study, fellowship and discussion just for the 10th, 11th & 12th Graders. Dig! will meet together on Wednesday nights in the youth room, 8-9:30PM starting January 4th. Pastor Jay and Pastor Tim will lead these evenings of fun and study. Invite a friend!

JOIN US FOR YOUTH GROUP...

All 7th-12th Graders come and join us on Sunday, January 8th from 7-8 pm in the Youth Room (this is after serving the Lutefisk supper that evening – give Tera a call if you can help serve).

Sunday, January 22nd from 5-7 we will meet for Bible Trivia with Prizes!!!!

Got a cell phone? Do you wanna receive TEXTS regarding youth group whereabouts & other events? Text Tera at 822-3377 to get added to her list.



BREAKFAST CLUB

For 7th-12th Graders

--Happy Chef--

**Every Monday morning at 7 am
Start your week with food, devotion &
conversation.**

**Thank you all who participated in our
December Fundraiser.**



FIFTH QUARTER

At the High School

**Friday, January 20th immediately following
the basketball game.**

Dodgeball, open gym, games, music and food.

Call/Text/Message Tera with any questions

822-3377.

SEE YOU THERE!

It's Free!!

Sponsored by Ministerial Association

Ends at 11:00 pm



MT. KATO SKI TRIP!!

Sunday, January 29th

Leave church at 12:15pm

**Cost is \$25 Ski Lift Ticket/Bus or
Tubing/Bus; \$17 Ski/Snowboard rental**

Beginning lessons available for \$3

Account money may be used.

Sign-up on Youth Board.



ICE SKATING

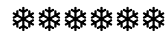
**at the Arena after school till 5
pm**

**Cost is \$2 admission; \$2 skate
rental if you need. Snacks
Provided**

KOK (KD-1st) - January 4

AMIGOS (2nd-3rd) - January 11

WOW (4th-6th) - January 18



**SUNDAY SCHOOL resumes on
January 8th – Come & join us!!**

DOUGHNUTS WITH DAD!!!

**Dads of Sunday School Students are invited to join the fun
on Sunday, January 15th during opening time 9:45 am to
10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall for Doughnuts & Juice!**

MUFFINS WITH MOM!!!!

**Moms of Sunday School Students are invited to join the fun
on Sunday, January 29th during open time 9:45 am to 10:00
am in Fellowship Hall for Muffins & Juice!**

BAPTISM REUNION

It is a Baptismal Reunion Party!!! We are celebrating babies baptized in the year 2011!!! Please join us in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, January 22nd during the Sunday School Hour from 9:45 am to 10:45 am for Cake & Coffee! Feel free to invite your sponsors. Hope you can join us!

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS...

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS in 8th & 9th Grade will begin classes on Wednesday, January 4th. You will switch teachers and rooms. Eighth Graders plan on attending the Retreat on Feb 11-12 at Augustana College.



**ADULT EDUCATION HOUR FOR JANUARY
will be on HEALTH & WELLNESS!!**

**We will have a variety of speakers and information available to
help you become a Healthier Active YOU! ☺**

9:45 am to 10:45 am in the Skylight Court.

COME JOIN US!!!!

**THE ADULT EDUCATION HOUR
on Sunday, January 15 will be a**

**discussion on the 2012 Budget Proposal
and the Trust Fund Proposal**

LIVING LUTHERAN

**Come and join Pastor Jay's discussion
Group on Sunday, January 29
At 8 pm in the Meeting Room**

January 2012



14 Keeley Island Dr
Slayton, MN 56172
507-763-3567
slbc@frontiernet.net
www.shetek.org

CANEWS FROM CAMP

SLM... CHRIST-CENTERED RENEWAL & LEARNING FOR ALL AGES!

Mark Your Calendar

- *Cross Country Skiing – Jan. 7 2012
 - *Snowshoe Hike – Jan. 8 2012
 - *Valentines supper – Feb. 12th 2012
 - *Service in the cities – Feb. 17-19th (grades 7-9)
 - *Mother/Daughter Scrapbooking Retreat – Feb. 24-25th
 - *Pre-marriage workshop – March 17th 2012
 - *Confirmation Retreat – March 23-24, 2012
 - *Confirmation Retreat – April 20-21, 2012
 - *Pre-marriage workshop – May 5th 2012
- Any questions call (507) 763-3567 or check out our website at www.shetek.org



Help send kids to camp... Become a Pelican/Timber member

Call for a Brochure Today (507)763-3567

New Year's Reflections

Looking back on the months gone by,
As a new year starts and an old one ends,
We contemplate what brought us joy,
And we think of our loved ones and our friends.
Recalling all the happy times,
Remembering how they enriched our lives,
We reflect upon who really counts,
As the fresh and bright new year arrives,
And when we ponder those who do,
we immediately think of you.
Thanks for being one of the reasons we'll have a
Happy New Year!
By Joanna Fuchs

Day Camp 2012

Bring Shetek to your Church!!
Sign up for Day Camp Today.
For more information: contact
Kristin at 507-763-3567 or visit
our website www.shetek.org



Wish list

Save your caps...need 1000 milk jug caps, LED Christmas lights, Eureka
Timberline tents 4 person, Canister Vacuum, Kitchen towels, Bath
Towels, Golf cart,
LED Christmas lights, Kitchen Towels and Wash clothes.

Thank you!!



**ALC LUTEFISK & MEATBALL
SUPPER**

Sunday, January 8

5-7 pm

Adults \$12; 12 & Under \$4

Tickets available on Sunday
mornings or in the church office
during the week.

Take-outs available.

Sponsored by ALC Spiritual Life &
Fellowship Board.

BITS & PIECES....

-THANK YOU from Caroline Froderman. I would like to thank the First Responders/EMT's/Ambulance crew and ushers who helped with caring for my mother, Karon Witke on Sun, Dec 11.

-To activate ALC's Prayer Chain, please call one of the following women ---- Rosalie Brodin 831-2330; Lavonne Swenson 831-5018; Esther Shelley 831-4317; DeLorris Quiring 831-4104.

-SHARING CENTER DONATIONS may be left in the cart near the Chapel. Cash donations may be sent directly to the Sharing Center at PO Box 173.

-Shetek Lutheran Ministries is looking for students who would be great camp counselors for the coming summer camping season. If you have are interested in a job at the camp, please contact the director, Marv Nysetvold at marv@shetek.org.

HOLIDAY FAIR 2011

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Total</u>
Monetary Donations			
Holiday Fair	\$90.00	\$0.00	\$90.00
Lefse	\$165.00	\$132.43	\$32.57
Pampered Chef	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Crafts	\$2,183.31	\$0.00	\$2,183.31
Baked Goods/Lefse	\$5,026.90	\$0.00	\$5,026.90
New & Nearly New	\$864.90	\$0.00	\$864.90
Unique Treasures	\$152.00	\$0.00	\$152.00
Lunch	\$2,399.00	\$434.23	\$1,964.77
Theme Baskets	\$491.00	\$0.00	\$491.00
Matching Funds	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
General Expenses	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$254.40</u>	<u>-\$254.40</u>
	\$11,972.11	\$821.06	\$11,151.05

Detailed Expenses:

Lunch:

Hy-Vee	\$89.93
Hy-Vee	\$93.00
Bergen Meats	\$75.00
Marge Paschke	\$141.00
Hy-Vee	\$14.12
Hy-Vee	<u>\$21.18</u>
	\$434.23

Lefse:

Hy-Vee	\$132.43
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Advertising:

KDOM	\$96.00
Citizen	\$158.40
Quick Print	<u>\$0.00</u>
	\$254.40

*Penny paid for these charges at Quick Print.

Disbursements:

ALC Renovation Debt	80%	\$8,920.84
Shetek	5%	\$557.55
Sharing Center	5%	\$557.55
Decorating Fund	5%	\$557.56
Malaria Campaign	5%	<u>\$557.55</u>
		\$11,151.05

THANK YOU

**For making this the most profitable
Holiday Fair ever.**

**As you can see, our funds were divided five ways
and each received generous amounts.**

ALC'S FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of 12/27/11:

Income: \$507,375

Expenses: \$514,446

Carryover from 2010: \$2,509.27

THANK YOU to all those who have contributed financially to ALC in 2011! As of December 27th, ALC is in need of approximately \$5,000 to meet our 2011 commitments. This would include paying off the operating loan, paying all bills and sending all mission checks held. **The financial books are closing at noon on January 2, 2012. Please have all 2011 contributions in by this time.**

Christmas offering of \$8,626 was received. Total Advent offering was \$729.

Renovation Loan Update:

The Renovation Loan currently has a balance of \$11,325. 40% of the 19th Street Parsonage sale was applied, along with 80% of the Holiday Fair proceeds and half of the Holiday Home Tour proceeds.





USHERS FOR JANUARY....

First Service – Greg Hanefeld, Bruce Gross, Paul Voth Sr, Dean Schoeb, Bernie Woizeschke, Marv Einertson

Second Service – Ron Jorgenson, Scott Rahn, Rahn Larson, Rick Quade, Paul Thorkelson, Ken Fast

Saturday Services – 7th – Kermit Twait; 14th – Milo Holmen & Myrna Anderson; 21st – Cheryl Hochstein & Monica Amundson; Jan 28 – Kermit Twait.



FROM THE CHURCH RECORDS:

BURIALS: *Avis Hanson*
 Hank Twait
 Arlene Rezac
 Carl Ott

MARRIAGE: *Norman Kunkel & Annette Peters*

MEMORIALS: *Renovation Fund* – In memory of Gert Hunter,
 Bud Bolin, Amy Hay, Henry Twait, Avis Hanson
 & Carl Ott
 Music Fund – In memory of Bud Bolin
 Youth Fund – In memory of Amy Hay
 Organ Fund – In memory of Arlene Rezac
 Media Fund – In memory of Ernie & Gen Carlson

GOD'S BLESSINGS IN THE NEW YEAR!!!!!!