

**THE AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF WINDOM**

VOLUME 52, No. 12.....December 2009

DECEMBER WORD

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace, mercy, and peace in Jesus' strong name!

Advent is the beginning of a new church year. During these four weeks, we hear the voices of PREPARATION, REPENTANCE, and PRAISE. We prepare for the coming of Jesus, the Savior, we repent of our sin, and we praise God!

This focus is perfect for the beginning of our JOURNEY OF DISCERNMENT. During the month of December, we will be reviewing our PAST as a congregation. Why is this important? First, because the Journey of Discernment is a preparation for the future. Second, because some things which happened in the PAST may necessitate forgiveness and repentance in order to let go and move on. Third, what happened in the PAST brought us to where we are now. Fourth, we learn that God's grace guided and provided for us through it all, and for that we can praise God! Fifth, our PAST provides the foundation for the future.

This is like the Holy Bible. God's Word tells us the story of God's grace-filled activity from Creation through the early years of the Christian Church. This Holy History is what we Christians return to and rely upon as our faith foundation. Each Sunday, we return to this Holy History by reading an Old Testament reading, a New Testament Reading from one of the epistles, and a Gospel reading. Without this Holy History, the Church as we know it, would not exist. Similarly, it is this Holy History and American's Story that continues to guide and provide for our discovery of God's will for American. Indeed, the more we value and understand our past the more God equips us for DISCOVERING GOD'S WILL for American.

Would you help tell AMERICAN'S STORY? There are many ways you can tell MY AMERICAN STORY. 1) In this month's MESSENGER is a page called MY AMERICAN STORY. Fill it out, put it in the YES box in the narthex, drop it off in the office, or mail it in. MY AMERICAN STORY can be anonymous, OR if you would like a one on one or to be part of a small focus group, just sign your name and we will be in touch; 2) You can go on line and fill out MY AMERICAN STORY. Just go to our website at www.alcofwindom.com and on the right side of the home page is a link "My American Story" and click on that to go to the sheet. And you are done!; 3) There will be an opportunity to meet for a small group Table Talk on **Sunday, 13 December, between services**; 4) You can fill out your MY AMERICAN STORY during worship on Saturday, 5 December, and Sunday, 6 December, and place your responses in the YES box in the narthex; 5) The walls in Fellowship Hall are lined with paper and markers for you to write your memories of important times for you at American. And, if you have some pictures or printed memories, feel welcome to put them up!; 6) All organizations and boards will have the opportunity to respond during their regularly scheduled meetings in December.

It is important that you tell MY AMERICAN STORY so the Transition Team can be accurate in their guiding American into the future. Our past must be understood, respected and honored. Hence, your MY AMERICAN STORY is vital for our discerning God's will for American's future.

The main question is: "As you remember your time with American Lutheran Church, write what made you: GLAD, SAD, or MAD." And remember, if you would like a personal meeting to talk about MY AMERICAN STORY, check one of the boxes and fill out your name and contact information, and a member of the Transition Team or I will be in touch.

Finally, it is a JOY to introduce our Transition Team. The responsibilities of the TT are: 1) Guide the Journey of Discernment (JOD) process; 2) Design surveys and process survey data; 3) Report results to congregation and Church Council; 4) Advise as requested. Please note that the TT is NOT the Call Committee,

and that the Church Council has final authority in all church matters.

The members of the TT are listed below. Thank you to all! Feel welcome to talk with them any time.

God's blessings this Advent Season!

Pastor Ron

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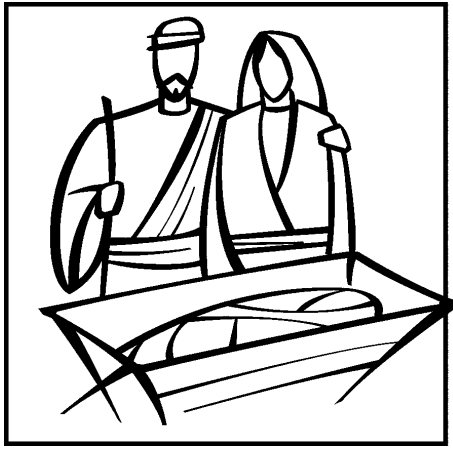
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A CHRISTMAS PRAYER FROM YOUR STAFF...

*Lord Jesus, at this joyous season
When we celebrate your birth,
Flood each heart with kindness
Until it spreads through all the earth.
Let the star the wise men followed
Light our paths forever,
And the song that woke the shepherds
Still abide in our hearts today.*

*Your ALC Staff wishes you a very blessed
Christmas and God's peace in the New Year.*

*Pastor Ron Letnes
Pastor Terry Frovik
Tera Elness
Gayle Derickson
Wendy Pigman
Jim & Karen Skarphol*



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2 --- Advent Service

- 7 pm Advent Service – Holden Village Prayer Service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 --- 2nd Sunday in Advent

- 8:30 & 11:00 am WORSHIP with Holy Communion
- Lutheran Social Service weekend –Richard Anderson of Lutheran Social Service, guest speaker.
- Noisy Offering for Lutheran Social Service
- 8:30 am Kids’ Worship & Praise Choir sings

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 --- 3rd Sunday in Advent

- 8:30 am WORSHIP with Handbell Choir
- 11:00 am Christmas Program for N-4th Grade

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16 --- Advent Service

- 7 pm Advent Service at Bethany Lutheran for all

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 --- 4th Sunday in Advent

- 8:30 & 11:00 am Christmas Cantata “*On This Very Night*”

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24 --- Christmas Eve

- Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship:
4:00 pm; 6:00 pm; 10:00 pm with Holy Communion
(Note a change from 5:30 pm previous years to 6:00 pm)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25 --- Christmas Day

- 9:00 am Chapel Worship
(The 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Service to be aired on KDOM Radio at 10:30 am Christmas Day.)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27 --- 1st Sunday after Christmas

- 8:30 & 11:00 am WORSHIP with Holy Communion
(No Sunday School)

SATURDAY --- 5:30 pm Chapel Worship; Holy Communion 12 & 19.



ALC is blessed to hear another Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 20 at both the 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship Services. It is entitled “*On This Very Night*”. Invite your friends and neighbors to share in the hearing of this cantata. Thank you to all those who are singing in the choir and to David Rupp for directing.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC

For our Christmas Eve & Day Worship Services we invite congregational members or college youth coming home for the holidays to share special music with us. If you are willing to do this, please call the church office and indicate the time that works for you.

Musical talents are also wanted for the Living Nativity. If you would like to share in the Skylight Court on December 9, contact Priscilla Jacobson at 831-3314.



If you would like to provide a poinsettia to help decorate your church, please bring to the church anytime during the week. The Decorating Committee will be decorating the church for Christmas on December 1.



December 13th at the 11:00 am Service our Sunday School students in grades Nursery-4th grade will share their Christmas Program. Come and enjoy the children as they share their version of the Christmas Story with us.

PRESENTING THE ANNUAL

LIVING NATIVITY

"Come and get into the spirit of Christmas"

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

FROM 5:30 to 8:00 pm

The American Lutheran Church
of Windom

(To drive-by Nativity:
from 10th Street turn south on Prospect Ave)

Bring a food item for the Sharing Center

- * *View the manger scene by vehicle or walk by*
- * *Come and pet the animals - inside & outside*
- * *Carriage Rides*
- * *Music inside the Skylight Court*
- * *Cider & popcorn in the Skylight Court*
- * *Holiday Bake Sale by ALC Youth*

Turkey Noodle Soup & Chili Served by the
Youth- 5:00 to 7:00 pm
\$4.00 suggested donation



Dear Women of the ELCA,

May our Lord bless each of you this season of Advent awaiting the birth of our Savior.

What a wonderful November we had! The good weather and large gathering we had for our Holiday Fair was tremendous. We are reminded to be so thankful for all who were so helpful in participating in the many jobs and hands it took to undertake the fair. Thanks to our leaders, Gayle, Karen and Wendy. You did a tremendous job that keeps working for our church.

Our Love Boxes were packed too and delivered on November 21st. Thanks again for all who contributed to touch the lives of someone who needed a little uplift. This is really a special event of caring and serving.

Our Wednesday, December 2 meeting is fast approaching. We will have our Christmas meeting starting with a family potluck at 5 o'clock. Our program will follow with devotions and "Name that Christmas Song" with a sing-a-long with Karen Wojahn. Following that, we will exchange and reveal our identity with our secret prayer partners. We welcome you all to come to this traditional Christmas Party celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ with food, music and singing before our 7 pm Advent Service.

We both want to thank you all for making our year as your co-presidents a blessed event in serving the Women of the ELCA. May you all have a blessed Christmas and a wonderful year.

Blessings & Peace,
Judy Woizeschke & Irene Menken, co-presidents

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- December 2 – W.ELCA Board Meeting at 4:30 pm
W.ELCA Potluck Supper and Christmas Program at 5 pm
- December – Sunday morning coffee by associates.
- December 9 – Living Nativity from 5:30 to 8 pm
- December 17 – Circle Day

CIRCLES FOR DECEMBER 17....

ABIGAIL & EUNICE - 9:15 am All bring goodies.
MARY & REBEKAH – 1:30 pm ALL bring goodies.
SARAH – Sue Ellen Schadt, 695 22nd Street.

FRIENDSHIP GROUP....

December 4 – Out-to-eat at B & B at Springfield (weather permitting),
Meet at church at 10:30 am for rides. PLAN B is to meet
at Jack Slades at 5 pm
December 11 – Christmas Party at Hillside Manor, 6:30 pm. Bring a
snack and item for the Sharing Center.
December 18 – Senior Dining Center – 11:15 am. You need to call the
day before to reserve a place.
December 25 – NO Meeting – have a blessed Christmas.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

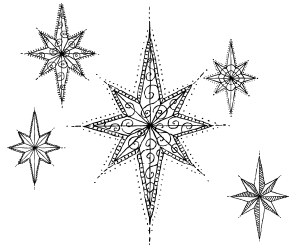
ALC's Prayer Shawl Ministry is up and running (knitting)! The first 3 Prayer Shawls have been completed and they have been delivered to 3 of our grateful members. Our knitters and crocheters are busy creating Prayer Shawls. We are receiving requests for these Prayer Shawls for members of our church family who are in need of prayers and a little extra comfort.

If you are currently knitting or crocheting a Prayer Shawl or have completed Prayer Shawls, THANK YOU! If you know of someone who is in need of one, let the church office know and the pastors will deliver them as they become available.

Funds are still needed to purchase yarn. The approximate cost of yarn for one Prayer Shawl is \$15. Donations may be sent to the church office or placed in the offering plate. Please mark your donation "Prayer Shawl Ministry". Information and patterns are available in the church office.

FIRESIDE AT THE PARSONAGE

Pastor Ron has been hosting "Fireside" at the Parsonage on Sunday evenings. A time of fellowship, food, singing, praying, sharing, etc. Because of busy schedules, Fireside will meet only on December 13 from 5-8 pm.



NEWS & NOTES FOR OUR YOUTH

THE ALC Youth Breakfast Club is serving breakfast on **Sunday, December 6th from 9 am to 1 pm.** Cost is \$5.00. Join us for an assortment of egg bakes, cinnamon rolls, fruit, juice & coffee. All proceeds to benefit the ALC Breakfast Club. **EVERYONE WELCOME TO BREAKFAST ON DECEMBER 6.**

There will be NO after-school groups in December for KOK, Amigos and WOW. We will resume in January and go Ice Skating!



Following the Christmas Program on December 13th at the 11 am Service, Christmas goodie bags will be handed out. If you would be willing to make a monetary donation to purchase fruit, peanuts and candy for this year's bags, please see Tera or drop off to Wendy in the church office.

Mark your calendar for NO Sunday School on

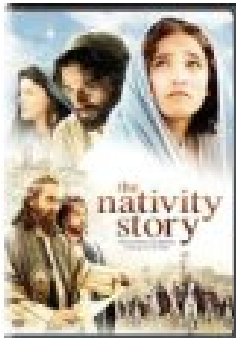
December 27 and January 3. Enjoy your Christmas break.

“God is Good” apparel would make a wonderful Christmas gift for any age. Youth through adult sizes are available in long sleeve tees for \$15 and Hoodies for \$30.

**ALL 7th, 8th & 9th Grade Sunday School Students are encouraged to be here on December 20 at 9:45 am for rehearsal for the rock n’roll style liturgy called “My Rock and My Redeemer”.
Parents and other singers also needed to make it complete!!!**

YOUTH GROUP

ALC Youth Group (7th-12th Graders) will meet for Bible Study & Supper on December 13 from 5-7 pm.



**JOIN US FOR FAMILY
NATIVITY NIGHT
We will enjoy “The
Nativity Story” on the
BIG screens in the
Sanctuary and indulge in
goodies afterwards.
Sunday, Dec 6 at 7pm**

“WALK BY FAITH” – the low-impact exercise class for beginners, intermediate or highly experienced walkers is held every Monday evening from 6:15 to 7 pm in the Youth Room. Come join the group! If you have questions, talk to Tera 822-3377.

BITS and PIECES

1. THANK YOU from Joyce & Al Reinken.

Dear Fellow Christians, THANK YOU for the beautiful prayer shawl that Pastor Frovik delivered to me. It comforts me and brings me peace to know all the prayers that are said for me. Also thank you for the wonderful gift of a Love Box that was delivered to our door. Al and I are enjoying all of the goodies.

2. Former members, Joel & Lori Helgeson, have a son (Joseph or Sepp) who is with ELCA's Youth for Global Missions and is spending the year in Slovakia. You can go on his website and see what he is doing.

<http://sepparound.blogspot.com/>.

3. JANUARY 4 at noon is the deadline for 2009 giving!

4. Mark your calendar for **JANUARY 5 at 8 am**. Lefse makers are needed to make the Lefse for the annual Lutefisk Supper that will be held on January 10.

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

6. HELPING HANDS FUND --- Thank you to those who contributed last month to replenish this fund. If you have a heart to help out those who are in immediate need, checks may be written to ALC for the Helping Hands Fund.

7. THANK YOU from Carolyn Torkelson for all the calls, visits, food, prayers, calls and visits from our pastors, and for your concern following the car accident she was involved in.

8. ALC'S NEW COOKBOOK is available on Sunday mornings and during the week in the church office. Cost is \$11. They make wonderful Christmas gifts!!! All proceeds will be used to help pay-off ALC's renovation debt. If you have corrections on a recipe, please call the church office.

9. ALC'S ANNUAL LUTEFISK SUPPER is scheduled for January 10. Tickets will be available on Sunday mornings or during the week in the office. \$12 for adults; 12 & Under \$4.

ALC FINANCIAL REPORT

AS OF 11/24/09 -

Income: \$387,738
Expenses: \$413,508
2008 Carryover: \$4,039.92
Borrowed: \$19,000
Missions Held: \$13,816

These figures do not include November end-of-month commitments and mission checks.

* \$7,000 was applied to our operating debt with \$19,000 remaining.

The Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas offerings have been designated half to operating debt and half to missions.

You have received the 2010 ALC Stewardship information in your November Messenger. Please take the time to fill out the 2010 Estimate of Giving Pledge Sheet and Time & Ability Sheet and return as soon as possible. Thank you to those who have already responded.

Bell Tower Update: Balance left to pay off this debt \$8,958. Check the Steeple container in the Skylight Court and for \$50 you can buy a "Steeple People" and have your name on one of the people that our Sunday School children have colored.

Renovation Update:

The Renovation Loan currently has a balance of \$152,682. Monthly payments of \$2,574.29 are being made. If you would like to make a contribution towards this debt, you may do so by placing it in the blue renovation envelope or mark your check "Renovation" and place in the offering plate or mail to the church.



USHERS FOR DECEMBER....

1st Service – Don Fossing, John Berge, Kermit Twait, Ron Vought, Lloyd Brand, Keith Bloomgren, Jay Mickelson, Steve Nasby.

2nd Service – John Holt, Richard Holt, Loring Paschke, Bruce Turner, Paul Turner, Steve Haglund.

Saturday Service – Bob Byers, Pat Tepley, Betty Kipfer, Dully Holmen, Earl Flatgard, Stan Severance, Myrna Anderson.



FROM THE CHURCH RECORDS:

BAPTISMS - *ADDISON BRIELLE SPIELMAN, daughter of Andrew & Paige Spielman*
TILDEN ANDREW-TONINATO ANDERSON, son of Brent & Marcie Anderson
EVERLYN PEARL LINDVALL, daughter of Tyler & Barbara Lindvall

BURIAL - *Afrom Zimmer*

WEDDING - *Kyle Ludewig & Jessica Kalash*

MEMORIALS -

Restoration Fund – In memory of Carol Zurn & Afrom Zimmer. In honor of Harley Volberding’s confirmation by Vern & Alice Huebert.

Missions – In memory of Carol Zurn.

Music Fund – In memory of Wilfred Eckhardt.



