



# January 2021

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The American  
**LUTHERAN**  
WINDOM, MN Church  
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Please Join Us in House, on Facebook, our Website, KDOM Radio, or  
Local Cable Channel 3 for Worship!

**\*\*Beginning January 3rd, 2021, The American Lutheran Church of Windom will resume in-person worship and other in-person activities.\*\***

### Our Vision:

People experiencing a life-giving relationship with God.

### Mission:

Living God's grace, we cultivate community to love and serve.

### Values:

Relationships  
God. Each other. Creation.  
Belonging  
Affirmed. Included. Valued.  
Faith  
Active. Inquiring. Hopeful.

### Sunday, January 3

9:00 AM Worship w/Holy Communion  
(Recorded and posted on Facebook and YouTube by 12 Noon and on our Website Monday morning.)

### Wednesday, January 6

5:30 PM WOW (Worship on Wednesday) w/ Noisy Offering

### Sunday, January 10

**Sunday Noisy Offering**  
9:00 AM Worship  
(Recorded and posted on Facebook and YouTube by 12 Noon and on our Website Monday morning.)

### Wednesday, January 13

5:30 PM WOW (Worship on Wednesday) w/Holy Communion

### Sunday, January 17

9:00 AM Worship  
(Recorded and posted on Facebook and YouTube by 12 Noon and on our Website Monday morning.)

### Wednesday, January 20

5:30 PM WOW (Worship on Wednesday) w/Holy Communion

### Sunday, January 24

9:00 AM Worship w/Holy Communion  
(Recorded and posted on Facebook and YouTube by 12 Noon and on our Website Monday morning.)

### Wednesday, January 27

5:30 PM WOW (Worship on Wednesday)

### Sunday, January 31

9:00 AM Worship  
(Recorded and posted on Facebook and YouTube by 12 Noon and on our Website Monday morning.)

# Pastor's Message

*Ephesians 1:20 Christ rules over all forces, authorities, powers, and rulers. He rules over all beings in this world and will rule in the future world as well. 22 God has put all things under the power of Christ, and for the good of the church he has made him the head of everything. 23 The church is Christ's body and is filled with Christ who completely fills everything.*

**Welcome to a new year, 2021!** Friends, we enter a new year with confidence, knowing that we belong to Christ, who *rules over all beings in the world and will rule in the future world as well!* It's good to know who's in charge, isn't it?

*"You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized."* These words were spoken over you. They are the words spoken during baptism, right after the newly baptized has just been doused with water three times, in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Baptism is what joins us together into one body of Christ, the church. That reminds me of a song! Listen for this song in worship in January.

*We are the church, the body of the Lord,  
we are all God's children and we have been restored.*

We are children of one Father, who have been put back in working order through the blood of Jesus! Good to be reminded isn't it? And Praise God!!

*The church is not a building where people go to pray;  
it's not made out of sticks and stones, it's not made out of clay.*

We have a beautiful building, and we'll use it when we can, but we are no less the church when we are not in the building.

*You can go to worship but you cannot go to church,  
you can't find a building that's alive no matter how you search.*  
The life of the church is you, the body! Thank you for being the church!!

*The church is not a business, a committee or a board;  
it's not a corporation for the business of the Lord.*

We do have business to do, especially this month with the Annual Meeting, and we need people to serve on committees and boards, but the church is simply, as Luther explains\*, a community of people who are in Christ by faith and in whom the Holy Spirit is at work to make them holy.

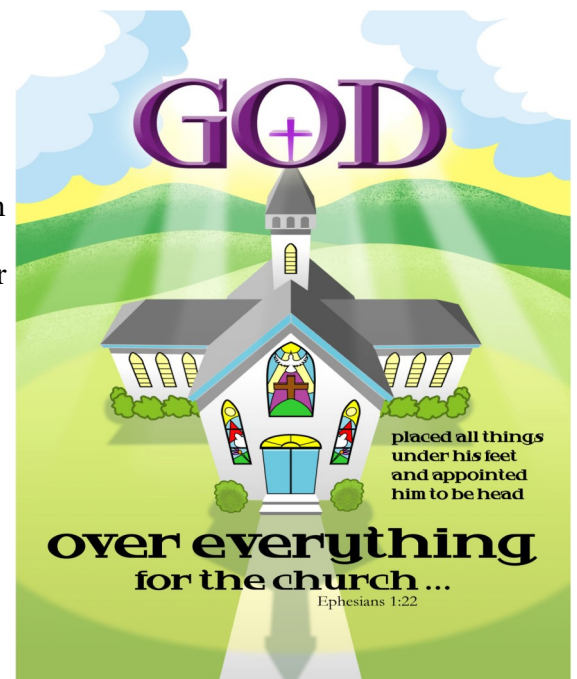
*The church it is the people living out their lives,  
called, enlightened, sanctified for the work of Jesus Christ.*

I give thanks for your lives, for your faith, for your clinging to the Gospel with hope. I am thankful for the holy work that you do day in and day out, however you spend your days: your care in relationships, the work that you do with your hands, your working for justice, peace, and your unwavering hope in the life to come.

*We are the church, the body of the Lord,  
we are all God's children and we have been restored.*  
"The Church Song," by Jay Beech, ©1988

Again, welcome to a new year, Church! We are God's people, together, and we move forward in hope and confidence because we belong to Christ!

Pastor Sarah





# Worship & Music Notes

from Jane Cartwright, Worship & Music Coordinator (831- 5032)

Week of:

Dec. 30/Jan.3: Boy in the Temple, Luke 2:41-52

January 6/10: Jesus' Baptism, Luke 3: 1-22

January 13/17: Sermon at Nazareth, Luke 4:14-30

January 20/24: Fish for People, Luke 5:1-11

January 27/31: Healing on the Sabbath Luke 6:1-16

February 3/7: Roman Centurion and  
Raising the Widow's Son, Luke 7:1-17

WOW! Where did the year go? What started as a year of clear vision slogans, 2020 quickly took unpredictable twists and turns; it will be a year that will live for a long time in memories. It was a year of uncharted pathways; journeys that surprised many with pain and sorrow. American Lutheran Church's weekly worship was revamped for online viewing. The staff presented online devotions. Celebrating Easter was recorded in an empty church. Soon, warm weather allowed the option to safely worship Sunday morning at the lake with congregational members. By Thanksgiving, we were counting the numerous blessings that had blossomed over months. But as we gathered for Christmas, rising numbers within the county brought about the need to record the candlelight worship service without congregation present. No matter how many hills and valleys, you have faced this year, know that you have not been forgotten. The Lord is your constant companion, your healer, the one who lifts you up each day to lead you on your faith journey. In 2021, may you continue your journey with renewed faith in your heart.

*Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10*

Thank you! Thank you to the many individuals who assisted with video scripture recordings. I have certainly appreciated working with each and every one of you as we prepared to share God's word every week. Weekly worship planning meetings have had to explore new ways to share the Gospel. A special shout out to ALC's great technology group that is willing to seek solutions to make new pathways possible. The church has not been closed. We all are waiting for the day when we are able to gather consistently to worship and sing praises to the Lord.

Important Dates in January:

New Year's Day, January 1

Epiphany, January 6

Jesus' Baptism January 10

Martin Luther King Jr., January 18



## Noisy Offering This Month: GLOW Quilts

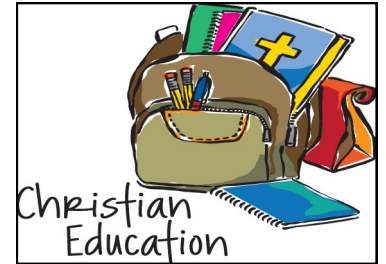
GLOW Quilting Ministry-GLOW makes quilts during the months of January through April for the Sharing Center, Christmas Cheer Box, Lutheran World Relief and anyone in need. This is one mission in action activity that the women of ALC do year after year.

**Tune in to ALC's Worship  
Broadcasts on Sunday at 10:30  
AM on KDOM 103.1 FM  
Thursdays at 10:00 AM & 6:30  
PM on Windom Cable TV,  
Channel 3**

# Christian Education & Youth News:

Greetings ALC Family!

What a year! I'm sure you have heard that a million times! But it's true! How else do you put it? What other words do you use? As I am typing this, I am somehow not surprised that we are in a blizzard warning 2 days before Christmas and we are having to reschedule the recording of the Christmas Eve service to earlier in the day. But, God has a plan in all of it! I do truly believe that!



December was my last month as Christian Ed Coordinator and Youth and Family Coordinator and I want to take a minute to say how blessed and thankful I am that I was given the opportunity to be in both of those roles. But I must pass the torch and give someone else a chance to use their talents in these positions. I will continue helping out by leading BAM Zoom sessions and being on the Youth and Family Board. I am very hopeful that we will soon be able to be back in person!

Thank you for all the support I had the last few years in both of these positions! I was a joy and an honor to serve on American Lutheran Church Staff!

Happy New Year to All!

Melanie Shamp



BAM News:

We will continue to use Zoom at least through January and February. BAM packets will be ready for pickup after January 1st!

## Happy New Year!

Here's to hoping that the new year is in every way complete. With happiness, success, good health, and all that makes life sweet. We hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



*"Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his presence continually. Remember the wonderful work he has done, his miracles, and the judgement he uttered."*

1 Chronicles 16: 11-12

From ALC Staff!



## Good to Know

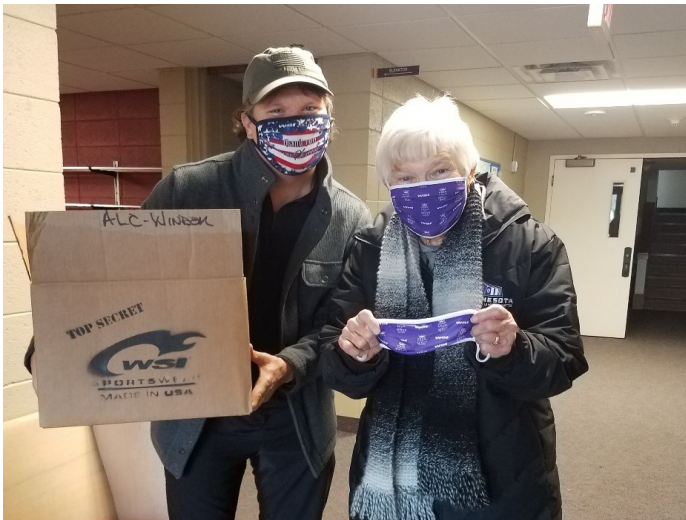
**Beginning January 3, 2021, The American Lutheran Church will resume in-person worship and other in-person activities. This includes in-person worship on both Wednesdays and Sundays, Confirmation classes, Bible studies, and other meetings may resume in the church.** Worship services will continue to be recorded on Sundays for online use for those who would like to continue with the digital format. Sunday's Service will be posted on our YouTube channel and Facebook page by noon Sunday and posted on our Website Monday morning. Zoom may also be used for some activities for those who prefer the digital format, like the women's Bible study for example. Stay Safe Minnesota Guidelines will continue to be followed when entering the Church. We can't wait to get everyone back into the Sanctuary! Thank you for your dedication to ALC! You are the Church!

### Annual Meeting

The American Lutheran Church's Annual Meeting will be held in person with an option to participate via zoom at **10am on January 24th**, after worship, in the Fellowship Hall. The Meeting ID number is 827 7296 8384 and the password is Annual (case sensitive). We will also have a link posted on our website and Facebook page with all the information needed to log in.



**ALC's Annual  
Lutefisk Supper  
for January 2021 is  
CANCELED due to  
Covid-19.**



**A huge THANK YOU to Joel and the Team WSI!!** Joel Wiens stopped by ALC the Sunday before Christmas. He noticed the offices were rearranged from what he remembered attending here as a boy! Joel brought us a box of 500 facemasks from his company *WSI Sports* as a gift for Christmas. In 2020 WSI turned over its manufacturing from sportswear to PPE and joined the country in fighting the pandemic. We are grateful that Joel remembered his home congregation. **Stop by and pick up a mask at church!** *Keep Calm and Serve God! (Joel is pictured here with his mother Irene Menken.)*

# Thank You!

Thanksgiving **THANK YOU:** There were 50 Thanksgiving meal boxes packed. Thank you to all the Businesses and people that donated to this great cause! Everyone who received a meal was so appreciative and grateful for that blessing!

A big **THANK YOU** to all who participated in, donated, and came out and supported our Living Nativity! There was 237 pounds of food and \$552.00 donated to the Windom food shelf!

A huge **THANK YOU** to Doctor Mary Olson for continuing with the annual Living Nativity Bake Sale even during this difficult time. She made all the baked goods and donated all the proceeds to the ALC Youth programs, again this year!

# Good to Know

## Applying Bible Principles

"God Owns It All" is the chapter heading in a book by a Christian author who presents this chapter first as the foundation for money management and giving.

God does own it all! That is the teaching of Psalm 24:1 which says, "The earth is the Lord's." Psalm 50:10 says that all of the beasts of the field belong to God, and that the cattle on a thousand hills are His. Haggai 2:8 says that God even owns the silver and gold in all the mines.

Now, God allows us to use what rightfully belongs to God, but God continues to retain the ownership. We are managers and stewards of what God has entrusted to us. Someday, when we stand before God, we shall give an account of what kind of job we have done in managing the resources which God has allowed us to use.

That's why every spending decision becomes a spiritual decision. Every time we use some of God's money, we are making a decision which has eternal ramifications.

Are you using money and possessions as if they belong to you, or are you making spending decisions with the full realization that it all belongs to God?

## HELP WANTED:

The American Lutheran Church of Windom is seeking a part-time youth coordinator and Christian education coordinator to help with our Bible And Me (BAM) Sunday school program and also our teenage youth groups. Both positions are for 10 hours a week. Apply for one or both. An application form is available in the church office or visit:

[www.alcofwindom.com](http://www.alcofwindom.com).



Are you interested in **SPONSORING THE RADIO BROADCAST** on Sundays? The cost is \$57 for a Sunday service sponsorship. Please contact the ALC office if you are interested in a sponsorship.

**\*\*Altar Guild is on for  
January 12th, 2021  
at 2PM\*\***

Did you know that you can see sermons on the **ALC WEBSITE**? Don't miss out. Go to <http://www.alcofwindom.com> and click on the Media tab to hear a sermon that you might have missed.

Have you recently cancelled your telephone landline or changed your cell phone number? Please let the church office know, so that we can stay in touch with you!

**ALC Prayer Chain Request Change:** All prayer chain requests will now be handled through the church office. To activate ALC's Prayer Chain please call the church office at 831-1794 or an email may be sent to [winalc@windomnet.com](mailto:winalc@windomnet.com) If you are not part of the ALC Prayer Chain and would like to be, please send the church your email address. Thank you!



HAVE YOU BEEN receiving weekly emails from us here at ALC with weekly happenings? If not, and you would like to, please call the church office to update your email address and keep you posted on events!

If you or a loved one are hospitalized, going through any medical treatments or need pastoral care of any kind please call the church office to let us know.

## Bits and Pieces

**PRAYER SHAWLS:** If you know of someone in our church family who could use a Prayer Shawl, call the church office.

**KEEP SAVING** those empty printer ink cartridges. They are turned in for cash for our Education Department. The container is located in the hallway by the offices.

**KEEP SAVING** your canceled stamps. Correctly cut stamps by leaving 1/4" to 1/3" boarder around the stamp. You can turn your stamps in at the church office.

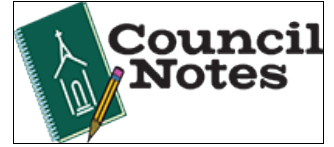
**CONTINUE** to remember the Windom Area Sharing Center in the coming months. Monetary gifts may be sent to 1156 4th Ave, Windom. Contributions may be left here at the church or at the Center on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 am to 1 pm. Call 822-7210,

**PRAYER CHAIN:** To activate ALC's Prayer Chain, please call the church office at 831-1794 or an email may be sent to [winalc@windomnet.com](mailto:winalc@windomnet.com).

**REMEMBER** 2nd Thursday of every month at Senior Dining. Join your ALC family once a month for lunch at the Windom Community Center.

**WANT TO RECEIVE THE MESSENGER ELECTRONICALLY?** Save the church paper, ink and postage! Contact the church office to share your email address.

## **CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES FROM December 8th, 2020 MEETING**



- Melanie Shamp has given her resignation for both the Christian Education and Youth and Family Coordinator positions effective December 31, 2020.
- Annual Meeting will be January 24, 2021 at 10 am; January 31 will be the snow day meeting date.
- Mid-Year Meeting will be July 25, 2021.
- Living Nativity - John Shamp and Betty Olson provided an update on the event, which will be outdoors and combined with the Chamber of Commerce's city event on December 17. ALC will have the manger scene for people to drive by to view. Dr Mary Olson will provide a virtual bake sale with orders being picked up that evening via drive by. Betty Olson there will be a food collection for the Food Shelf.
- Proposed 2021 Budget - Treasurer Cartwright reviewed and answered questions pertaining to the projections and proposal. He noted that in the last 2 years the budget has been reduced by approximately \$30,000. Noted items were a 3% salary increase for hourly staff; an hourly increase for the Worship and Music Coordinator from 10 to 15 hours per week; Pastors to receive Synod Guideline salaries; Christian Education position will be for 10 hours per week; Youth and Family position will be for 8 hours per week and may be adjusted at the mid-year meeting if needed; Custodial hours will be 20 hours per week with the DAC providing 3 hours per week; it was noted contractual needs may also be needed at times for custodial services. Also noted was the financial challenge of budgeting during a pandemic, which affects the special services that receive extra gifts. During the discussion Linda Jaakola, of Properties, asked how the financing of the parking lot repair fits into the budget. It was suggested we pay off the current renovation loan and then apply for a new renovation loan specified for the parking lot. Pastor Sarah shared that this information should be presented to the congregation so they are aware of the need and funds needed. It was decided the parking lot should be on the January Annual Meeting agenda. The final budget will be presented to the congregation at the January Annual Meeting.
- Mutual Ministry recommends revised Custodian job description - after review of the revised Custodian job description MM/S/C. Also approved was the hiring of Don Crowell as part time custodian, with the passing of a back ground check. MM/S/C

### **Board Reports**

**Worship and Music** - Sarah Tailowright updated the board on the recording of the Christmas service and that they will be providing wax candles to households for their use.

**Spiritual Life** - Sharon Thompson reported they did not meet.

**Discipleship/Marketing & Stewardship** - Steve Johnson reported on the number of volunteer forms and pledges received, along with updating the household numbers using the electronic giving, which has increased. Pastor Adam is researching a small group app for devotions and discussion.

**Properties** - Linda Jaakola updated the council on the Living Nativity and the manger scene; the situation with the dead flies in the front of the church which for now will be swept up; a quote for treatment for the flies from Plunkets was received (\$300) which was for the fall of 2021. Also noted was Properties has decreased their budget for 2021 by \$6,000.

**Budget and Finance** - since there was no quorum, the council voted to pay the outstanding bills of \$3,096.49. MM/S/C

**Christian Education** - Jamie Frank updated the council on BAM. Proposed by the board was a motion to allow Melanie Shamp to continue as Christian Education Coordinator until a replacement is hired. While the board is willing to assist the position in any manner possible, they are working and helping children with distance learning, and will need Melanie's help. The ad-hoc committee recommended 10 hours per week for the position. MM/S/C to allow Melanie to serve as long term sub until the position is filled.

**Youth and Family** - John Shamp let the council know that Melanie has created a manual of Youth and Family events, activities, forms, etc., for the next coordinator. He also reported they will need to fill 3 places on the board.

**Church In Society** - Betty Olson reviewed the 50 Thanksgiving meals they delivered; since the local Lions Club also delivered meal, next year they will discuss with them the possibility of coordinating with them. It was noted that the confidentiality of income creates a challenge to obtain household names for the meals. It was noted the Living Nativity food collection will be done this year again and that the Food Shelf is in need of personal care items.

**GLOW** - Jean Johnson updated the council on the 36 Scripture Survival Kits they prepared and delivered to ALC members at Sogge, Remick, Mikkelsen, Hillside Manor, Heron Lake nursing home and Good Sam in Mt. Lake.

# For the Record

## ALC FINANCIAL UPDATE

**Thank you to all...** We met our financial commitments for 2020!! The generosity of our members allowed us to repay all the was borrowed from our Operating Fund and end with a positive balance.

**The ALC financial books for 2020 will close at noon on Thursday, December 31, 2020.**

### **RECORDS:**

**Baptisms:** *No baptisms this month.*



**Deaths:** *Doris Sheer*

*Lavonne Fett*

*Deanna Voth*

*Margaret Larsen*

*Doris Caraway*

*Louanne Grams*

*In Loving  
Memory*

### **MEMORIALS:**

**Renovation Fund:** *In memory of Lavonne Fett*

### **OFFERING OPTIONS:**

The ministry of our congregation continues in many ways! While we are not together in person, or collecting a regular offering, the ministry of our congregation continues! Check out on-line giving on our website [alcofwindom.com](http://alcofwindom.com), mail in your offering to PO Box 188, Windom, or drop it off at the church. If you have any questions regarding these options, please contact Wendy Pigman in the church office.



## **Planning Ahead**

As a retired financial planner, an often overlooked strategy is the use of beneficiaries on your investment accounts. You can name charitable (church, school, Red Cross...) beneficiaries on any accounts that you own and can designate from 1-100% of that named account to be paid out to the charities upon your death. Keep in mind, you always own the account during your lifetime and the beneficiaries have no control or knowledge of your account. As the owner, you also have the power to change the beneficiaries at any time.

Charitable beneficiaries work on any type of account that you own, whether they are bank CD's, mutual funds, stocks or retirement plans (IRAs, etc.). Accounts set up with beneficiaries also avoid probate. Another benefit is that the charities don't pay any income taxes on the dollars received from any account because they are considered non-profits.

There is no cost to set up or change beneficiaries, so it is easy and economical. If you have any questions on charitable giving via the use of beneficiaries, you should consult with your banker, financial advisor or lawyer. Feel free to ask me as well. Any questions will be held in strict confidence.

Dean Schoeb  
ALC Trust Fund



# GLOW in January

## Gals Living Our Witness

\*American Lutheran Church Women's Ministry 2021

### Sewing Days

(Watch for updates due to Covid restrictions)

Tuesdays, January 5 & 19

9:00 am—Noon

Join us for  
Fun  
and  
Fellowship  
!!!

Meet in the Fellowship Hall to make quilts, baby care kits, fabric kits, personal care kits and school kits for Lutheran World Relief.

Come for an hour or all morning!

No experience necessary!

Questions? Contact Kathy Hiley 831-4109

### January Bible Study

Thursday, January 21 @ 2:00 p.m.

ALC Meeting Room or via Zoom

Contact the church office to be added to the Zoom Bible Study information email list.

January "Gather" Magazine Bible Study

"Journeys with Angels", page 24

Session One, *Looking Up*

Questions? Contact Carolyn Torkelson, 831-5986

Want to check out  
**Bible Study?**  
A few copies of Gather  
magazine are available in  
the church office.

**\*Are you a woman and a member of ALC?**

Then you are a member of GLOW! We invite you to check us out!!!

**Our Purpose Statement:** "As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in our church, our society, and our world."



**January 2021**



14 Keeley Island Drive  
Slayton, MN 56172  
507-763-3567  
camp@shetek.org  
www.shetek.org

## Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers



As part of our "Building on the Foundation" campaign facility improvements, we are upgrading our water treatment facility. The exterior was done the first part of Dec. and now we'll work on the interior and begin putting equipment in this winter. Next spring we'll get it all operational and hooked into our current water lines as well as running a new line to the site for the Adult/Youth Lodge.

Help send kids to Camp...Become a Pelican Club or Timber Society member today. Pelican Club members support the ministry with a gift of \$100 - \$499 a year and Timber Society members give \$500 or more a year. Thanks for your support!

### **Events at camp!**

(Go to [shetek.org](http://shetek.org) for more info.)

**December 6 Scandinavian Drive through dinner was a huge success – 228 meals!**

**Thanks to those who participated!**

- Jan. 8 – Friday, 8-10pm - Snowshoeing and Stargazing,** Come to camp for an evening of fun and learning.
- Jan. 10 – Sunday, 3-4:30pm –** Come out to learn more about snow!
- Jan. 15-17 – Friday – Sunday – Quilting/Crafting Retreat –** Bring your projects to camp and enjoy time with other creative folks.
- Jan 24 – Sunday – Family Ski/Snowshoe Day – 2-4pm –** Bring the whole family!

### **Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**

Our donors and congregations have been very supportive during this time.

We continue to need your help to start 2021 in a strong position as we move towards a summer of programming.

Our "Building on the Foundation" capital campaign is slowly starting again. So far, we've raised \$1,100,000 in gifts/pledges towards our \$1,500,000 goal! Watch for more information about our progress as we begin 2021.

