



# December 2022

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The  
**American  
LUTHERAN**  
WINDOM, MN Church



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Join Us in House, on Facebook, our Website, our YouTube Channel,  
KDOM Radio, or Local Cable Channel 3 for Worship!



## 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.

## Saturday, December 3

5:30 PM Chapel Service

## Sunday, December 4

*Second Sunday of Advent*

9:00 AM Worship w/Holy Communion

## Wednesday, December 7

6:30 PM Wednesday Worship w/Holy  
Communion & Noisy Offering

## Saturday, December 10

5:30 PM Chapel Service w/Holy Communion &  
Noisy Offering

## Sunday, December 11

*Third Sunday of Advent*

*Second Sunday Noisy Offering*

9:00 AM Worship

11:00 AM Sunday/Wednesday School Christmas  
Program

## Wednesday, December 14

No Choir, Wednesday School, Wednesday  
Worship, or Confirmation

5:00 PM- 7:00 PM Youth Soup Supper

5:30 PM- 7:30 PM Living Nativity Activities

## Saturday, December 17

5:30 PM Chapel Service w/Holy Communion

## Sunday, December 18

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

9:00 AM Worship

## Wednesday, December 21

No Wednesday Supper, Choir, Wednesday  
School, Wednesday Worship or Confirmation

## Saturday, December 24

**Christmas Eve**

No Chapel Service

3:00 PM Candlelight Worship

5:00 PM Candlelight Worship

10:00 PM Candlelight Worship w/Holy  
Communion

## Sunday, December 25

**Christmas**

9:00 AM Christmas Day Worship w/Holy  
Communion

## Wednesday, December 28

No Wednesday Supper, Choir, Wednesday  
School,  
Wednesday  
Worship or  
Confirmation

Saturday,  
December 31  
**New Year's**  
**Eve**

5:30 PM Chapel  
Service



# Pastor's Message

I got elected to the synod council and at our last meeting we were working on a vision statement for the synod and one of the ideas was to say something about the synod being a place that's inclusive. Well, at that point I had already drank too much coffee which caused my ADD to really kick in and mentally I went on a rollercoaster ride of tangents.

Because my parents are both salespeople my brain is always trying to come up with ways to sell things. One of the tangents I started going down was thinking, "That's why people should want to go to church? Just because it's inclusive?"

For the record, the person who said inclusivity was right on and it was a good idea, but it caused me to think about inclusivity as a selling point. Because really, just because a club will let you in doesn't mean it's worth going to. There's a lot of clubs out there that I qualify for that I don't want to join simply because they don't do things that I want to do.

So I sat thinking that just because you *can* go to church, just because they would let you in, why would a person bother to spend an hour a week there? Why would anyone *want* to join that club? What do we have to offer?

One selling point I've heard about the church is that it's a supportive place where people care for one another, which is good and true, but, again, my tangential ADD tells me that adults form the same supportive relationships with other parents while their kids are at dance lessons or sitting in the stands during sports games. We definitely don't have the sole source of supportive and caring members.

My wild wonderings ended up bringing me to asking myself why I go to church when I have so little free time, especially since I can get inclusivity and support and care from so many other places that I already attend and what came back was what I really love about church: peace.

What I love about worship is that it's a place that doesn't expect much from me. It's a place that isn't driving me from one thing to the next. It's not a place that's going to give me a list of things that my family needs to do and pay for and work towards that's sapping me of my energy.

What I love about church is it's like a parent who grabs you by the back of the collar as you run by and then sits you down. Making you, in a sense, stuck. There are going to be prayers you wouldn't have prayed, Bible readings you wouldn't have read, music you wouldn't have heard or sung that seeps into your soul, sermons that cause you to think about things you would not have thought about, all because you're just being stuck in this place for an hour.

A place where I'm not called to live up to something because I'm told from the beginning that I'm not good enough for God. That I can't be, and therefore, I don't have to break my back trying because God already loves me and blesses me and provides for me; so simply be thankful and soak it all in. A place where you're simply loved and allowed to just sit and be. A place to just calm down your ADD mind for an hour.

So yes, we most definitely have inclusivity. And yes, we most definitely have loving and supportive relationships. But what we really have to offer that nobody else has that I find I need more and more of is peace in this relentless world.

So, if you're looking for a reason for why to go to worship, or people ask you why you worship and you can't articulate it, hopefully this helps. The world is continuously demanding more and more from us while worship is full speed in the opposite direction telling you to sit, relax, let go, and just be. We'll get the praying, singing, Bible reading, sacraments, and preaching done, you just sit there and soak it in. Hear God. Know God. And leave feeling blessed by God.

Pastor Adam

# Worship & Music Notes

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

## Week:

Nov. 23 - 27  
Nov. 30- Dec.4  
Dec. 7-11  
Dec. 14 - 18  
Dec. 21 - 25  
Dec. 31 - Jan. 1

## Theme:

Advent I: Faith as a Way of Life  
Advent II: Esther  
Advent III: Light to the Nations  
Advent IV: Jesus as Immanuel  
Birth of Jesus  
Genealogy of Jesus

## Scripture:

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; 3:3b-6; 17-19  
Esther 4:1-17  
Isaiah 42:1-9  
Matthew 1:18-25  
Luke 2:1-14, [15-20]  
Matthew 1:1-17

How does one prepare for Advent and Christmas? Seems like media outlets begin earlier and earlier every year. Music is one way that helps prepare the mood for the season. What is your favorite Advent song? A recent Google search indicates the most popular song is "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel". Rounding out the list is "For Unto Us A Child is Born" from Handel's *Messiah*. Both these musical selections announce the reason for the season. A child will be born, who will be referenced in many ways; Savior, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty King, Prince of Peace. Through him, we find hope, peace, joy, and love. Blessings to you as you find a playlist to enjoy this season, as you prepare for the arrival of the Christ child.

## Service Notes:

**December Ushers:** Ron Vought, John Berge, Kemit Twait, Steve Nasby, Keith Bloomgren, Jay Mickelson, John Holt, Travis Freiwald

**Holy Communion:** Sunday: Dec 4<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> Saturday: Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> and Dec.17<sup>th</sup>, and Wednesday, Dec.. 7<sup>th</sup>

**Noisy Offering:** Helping Hands fund on Wed. Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, Sat. Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> and Sun. Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Christmas Eve Worship:** *Candlelight Services* on Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm, and 10:00 pm with Holy Communion



Looking for musical groups to share

## Music of the Season

at Living Nativity on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> or during Christmas Eve Worship!

Sign up on the Worship and Music board.



## Noisy Offering This Month: ALC Helping Hands Fund

Helping Hands is a fund here at the American Lutheran Church that allows us to provide help for individuals in need. Thank you for your support!

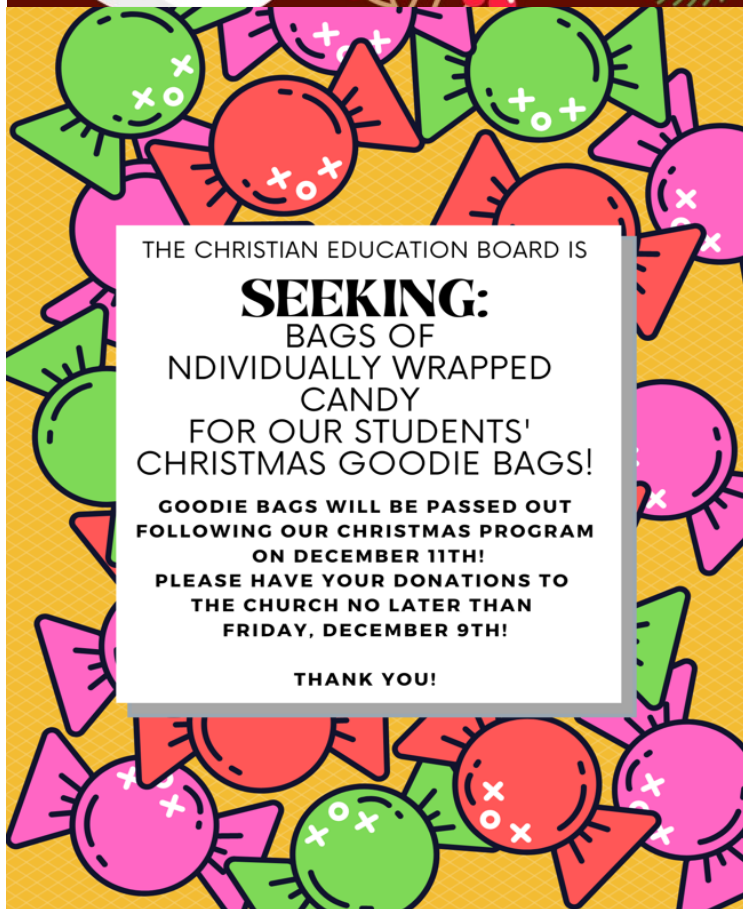
**Tune in to ALC's Worship Broadcasts on  
Sunday at 10:30 AM on KDOM 103.1 FM  
Thursdays at 10:00 AM & 6:30 PM on  
Windom Cable TV, Channel 3**





# Christian Education

From Tera Elness, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries (822-3377)





# Christian Ed/Youth & Family

ALL SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO A

## HAPPY Birthday JESUS PARTY!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18TH  
DURING THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TIME  
10:15-11:00AM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL!



## JR HIGH/SR HIGH YOUTH GROUP

### CHRISTMAS PARTY!

PIZZA, POP, & BOWLING!



THE GARAGE AT  
SPRINGFIELD LANES!

SUNDAY, DEC. 11TH

5-7PM

(LEAVE ALC AT 4:30,  
RETURN AT 7:30)

COST: \$20

**ATTENTION  
6TH-8TH GRADERS!**



## AUGUSTANA UNIVERSITY FAITH FEST 2023

### OVERNIGHT TRIP!

**FEBRUARY 11TH-12TH, 2023**

**LEAVE SAT@8AM, RETURN SUN@5PM**

**COST IS \$75**

-INCLUDES THE EVENT, THREE MEALS,  
HOTEL, & TRANSPORTATION-  
ACCOUNT MONEY MAY BE USED!

**STUDENTS MUST BE SIGNED UP WITH TERA  
NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25TH.**

### DECEMBER ACOLYTE SCHEDULE:

Sunday, Dec 4th– Eli Muske & Peyton Hilbrands

Wednesday, Dec 7th– Carson Wiens & Jackson Joyce

Sunday, Dec 11th

9:00 AM– Jack Elness & Logan Hanson

Program 11:00 AM– Jack Elness & Sadie Tjentland

Wednesday, Dec 14th– Living Nativity

Sunday, Dec 18th– Jordan Hacker & Jacob Winters

Wednesday, Dec 21st– Christmas/Holiday Break

Saturday, Dec 24th –

3:00 PM– Lilly Derickson & Jack Elness

5:00 PM– Brita Tjentland & Sadie Tjentland

10:00 PM–TBD

Sunday, Dec 25th– TBD

Wednesday, Dec 28th– Christmas/Holiday Break

\*\*\*If you're not able to acolyte on your day. Please try find a replacement/switch with another student and CONTACT Tera (text or call) at 822-3377 to let her know ASAP (if able, at least the week before your scheduled time and even if you didn't find a replacement).\*\*\*

# Good to Know



## CHANGING THE CONSTITUTION

### UPDATES:

- **Council has voted to take the last three words off of the by-law C23.01.01 which reads:** While the buildings of the congregation shall be open to all people to share in its worship, instruction, pastoral care, and fellowship, the congregation rejects all fellowship with organizations, secret or open, which are avowedly and religiously racist or violent or which practice forms of religion contrary to the Word of God and Lutheran Confessions. The change would make it possible for congregations of other Christian denominations to use our congregation for worship. This will be voted on at our annual meeting in January and needs a majority to pass it.
- **Council has approved updating the constitution to the ELCA Churchwide standards.** This will need a majority vote at our next annual meeting. The specific changes are in a document in the narthex. We can also email you that document if you wish, simply let the office know.

## DO YOU HAVE A THRIVENT POLICY?

If you have an insurance policy through Thrivent please give them a call to let them know that you'd like your choice dollars to go to your congregation. Thrivent is very generous and every bit helps.



## 2023 Boundary Waters Trip

Anyone interested in going to the Boundary Waters let Pastor Adam know. We'll try and have two groups this year. If that happens we'll need another chaperone. No dates have been chosen yet. It'll probably be early June or mid to late August.



**UPDATED WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS** wish list! If any congregation members would like to help out by donating food items we would SO GREATLY appreciate it! This is an ongoing wish list but will be reposted frequently. The items in blue are still greatly needed.

### Anytime donations include:

Hamburger	Chicken breasts	Ham (preferably without bone)	Tator tots
Garlic bread	Chicken nuggets	<del>Egg noodles</del>	<del>Elbow macaroni</del>
<del>Spaghetti noodles</del>	Spaghetti sauce	Cream of celery soup	Cream of chicken soup
Cheddar cheese soup	<del>Scalloped potatoes</del>	Taco seasoning	Shredded cheddar cheese
<del>Salsa</del>	Cookies and bars		

### Weekly donations include:

Milk                      Bread  
Any Meat, garlic bread, chicken nuggets and tator tots can be put in the large freezer in the storage room. Dry goods can be put on the counter in the kitchen labeled "Wednesday night suppers". Cheese and milk can be put in the fridge in the kitchen. Thank you for your support of this wonderful program!





# Welcome New Members!



## Welcome to our American Lutheran Community!

1. Eric and Christy Lohse
2. Ike and Megan Pohlman
3. Wendy Ahnupkana w/daughter Theora
4. Alan and Linda Staples
5. Darin and Vickie Motz
6. Irene Swanson
7. Hally Janssen



**Our Vision:** People experiencing a life-giving relationship with God.

**Our Mission:** Living God's grace, we cultivate community to love and serve.

### **Our Values:**

Relationships- God. Each other. Creation.

Belonging- Affirmed. Included. Valued.

Faith-Active. Inquiring. Hopeful.

# Lutefisk Supper

Saturday, January 7, 2023

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Serving 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

906 Prospect Avenue

Windom, MN

(parking lot on the corner of Miller Ave. & 10th Street)

MENU INCLUDES: LUTEFISK, MEATBALLS, LEFSE AND MORE

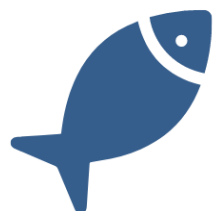
SECONDS TABLE WILL BE OFFERED

RESERVATIONS ENCOURAGED BY JANUARY 2ND

Limited tickets available at the door

**Adults \$15.00 --- Ages 12 and under \$5.00**

Tickets available following church services on  
Sunday's or by calling the church office at 831-1794





# Good to Know

## Wednesday Suppers in December

December 7th, 5:00 PM - Smorgasbord

December 14th, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Youth Soup Supper

5:30 PM- 7:30 PM Living Nativity Activities

December 21st- NO SUPPER (Christmas/Holiday Break)

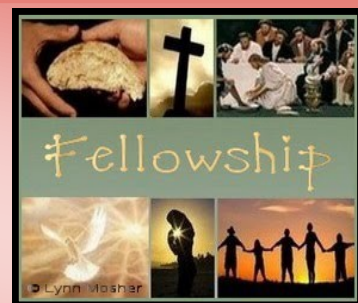
December 28th- NO SUPPER (Christmas/Holiday Break)

\*\* If you would like to volunteers to help serve Wednesday night suppers please call the office at (507)831-1794\*\*



### **SOUP & BREAD: Be on the Lookout for December Dates in the Bulletins!**

Soup and bread is for ANY adult couples that wish to come and share fellowship over supper; then we play games and have a fun RELAXING time with other adults! We all bring a snack to share. (It started out as Soup and Bread) We would LOVE to have you join us! Have young kids? NOT A PROBLEM! We have child care available! Your child(ren) can eat with us and then go with the youth watching over them or you can feed them before you come! It's up to you!



**HELP YOUNG ELEMENTARY KIDS:** There are lonely kids who are having a hard time at our school in grades kindergarten through fourth. The elementary would like people to have lunch with them and play a board game with them after. They meet the first and third Wednesday but even if you could go once a month or every other month, that would be awesome. You can bring your own lunch or pay \$4 for school lunch. Please consider this opportunity and let pastor Adam or the office know.



**ALC Day at Senior Dining is the 2nd Thursday of the month.** This is a day to show your ALC pride and have a great meal with others at the Community Center! Anyone can come and dine in on this or any other day, **just call the day**



**before at 831-6161 to make a reservation.** If you are 60 years old or older, the cost is \$4 or what you can pay. For others, the cost is \$8.75. Come, eat and enjoy! The Senior Dining program is a program of Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota. By the way, there are 3 ways to benefit from this program: Dine In, Meals on Wheels, and curbside pickup. Call to sign up for which ever you are interested in.

### **Skylight Court Café:**

A way to gather around with great food, conversations, and really good coffee. Come check it out this month! A sign-up sheet is located in the Skylight Court for anyone that would like to host and bring goodies. Free will donations will be accepted to help pay for expenses.

**ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE WINDOM AREA SHARING CENTER:** personal care items (toothbrushes, toothpaste, regular size shampoo, body soap, etc.), food items (pasta noodles (egg noodles especially) is a very needed item), and lastly any and all baby items.



**All Kids Grades  
7th-12th**

Join us at the Windom McDonalds every Friday when there's school at **6:30 AM** for fellowship, free breakfast, devotion, and prayer. We generally finish around 7:20 AM if you have any questions call Jody Derickson at 831-3284.

### **HAVING TROUBLE HEARING IN THE SANCTUARY?**

We have added 3 additional **SOUND MATES**, which are available from the ushers. Sound Mates are a small unit that helps amplify sound through the use of headphones. Check one out. They are easy to use.



## Good to Know



### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2022 OCTOBER CONFIRMATION CLASS

Jackson Anderson  
Eleanor Eken  
Charles Erickson  
James Erickson  
Eric Heggseth  
Charlee Huska  
Heidi Johnson  
Morgan Johnson

Spencer Kleven  
Blaise Larson  
Harriet Lohse  
Lenin Marcy  
Kaede Scrivens  
Nathaniel Sykora  
Quintin Tietz



*May the Holy Spirit light  
your way, so that your faith and  
love grow stronger every day.*

### ESTATE PLANNING

If at any time you are making out your will please consider your congregation. ALC has many great places for you to leave a legacy behind. You can designate it to Youth Ministry, ELCA College Scholarship Fund, Growth of Church Ministries, Camp Scholarships, Video and Media (technology), or you can simply let the Trust Fund find a way to make sure your legacy can be as effective as possible. If you have any questions please contact Gary Olson at 507-831-4684.

### ITEMS NEEDED FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF BABY CARE KITS:

Ivory Bars of soap (mild bath size)  
Baby blankets  
Hand towels  
Flannel sheets

All items may be brought into the church office. Questions? Please contact Jackie Turner 822-1633.

### MEN'S GROUP

ALC has just started a men's group. We have met twice, once to watch the Vikings on a Monday night, and once to play cribbage and eat pizza. At some point during each event we have someone talk about issues men may face and have a little discussion and then we get back to our activity. Because we had so much fun playing cribbage we will be playing it again at ALC at 6:30 on December 15<sup>th</sup> and all adult men are invited.

MEN'S  
GROUPS



# Happy Holidays



Warmest thoughts, blessings, and best wishes for a wonderful Holiday and a Happy New Year!  
*"From the fullness of grace we have all received one blessing after another" John 1:17*  
 from the ALC STAFF

## Holiday Hours

**Friday, December 23rd**— Office will be closed at 12:00 noon.

**Monday, December 26th**— Building and Office Closed.

**Friday, December 30th**—Office will be closed at 12:00 noon.

**Monday, January 2nd**— Building and Office Closed.



### **NEW MEMBER INFORMATION: Did You Know?**

If you're interested in becoming a member at ALC, you are welcome to join all year round! We have a "New Member Recognition" in both the Spring and the Fall.

If you are interested in becoming a member, or learning more about membership here at ALC, we ask that you fill out the "How Can We Serve You" Questionnaire in the Saturday/Sunday bulletin, call the church office, or speak to any one of the church staff. We will provide you a New Member Information sheet to complete/return and add you to our monthly Messenger/Newsletter mailing/email lists. At that point, one of our pastors will contact you to share more about ALC and our Lutheran faith background.

If you have questions at any time, you are always welcome to call the church office. Being a member means having a voice (a vote) at our mid-year/annual meetings on topics that pertain to everything that involves our church, the ability to serve on our various boards and committees should you choose to do so, and simply having a place to call your church home. Please note however, that membership is not a requirement to attend any of our services, activities, or events! Our goal here at ALC is to be a place where everyone feels welcomed, safe, valued, and a sense of belonging.



## Good to Know

### SEEKING INDIVIDUALS, COUPLES, OR FAMILY GROUPS WILLING TO USHER.

Thinking of creative scheduling such as one week per month on a rotation basis. It's a great way to meet people in the congregation. Contact Jane Cartwright 831-5032 (h) or call the church office.

### Ushers Needed



Would you like to be a part of ALC's **PRAYER CHAIN**? Prayer Chain is an email group that gets requested prayers for subjects/people in our congregation, community, and world. If you would like to be a part of this email group please email or call the church office at [winalc@windomnet.com](mailto:winalc@windomnet.com) or 831-1794 with your current email address and we will add you to the group. Likewise, if you or someone you know needs prayers please contact the church office and we'll send out a **PRAYER REQUEST** to the Prayer Chain email group. Please let us know if you would like that person or subject to be prayed for publicly in church or privately through our Prayer Chain. Also, in consideration of HIPAA, we do have a generic please pray (individuals name) in this time of need. No medical/ personal information will be shared unless it is public information, we get consent from that individual, or consent from a close relative.



**Men's Bible Study:** We meet every Tuesday at 8:00 AM in the Skylight Court at ALC. Bring your own coffee if you like, and your own Bible. This is a very friendly group, and a great way to dig into God's word and hang out with a great group of guys. Men, if you're free, try it out!!

**SOUND & VIDEO TECHNICIANS NEEDED!** We are looking for volunteers to operate the Sound System and/or Video System. If this is something you'd like to check out or may be interested in doing, please contact the church office and we can help schedule a Wednesday or Sunday service for you to sit in on to learn more information about it.



Join us for Coffee Hour at our Skylight Court Café every Sunday following worship around 10:00 AM!!



If you would like to bring goodies a sign-up sheet is located in the skylight court!



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.

Did you know that you can see sermons on the **ALC WEB-SITE**? 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 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!

**\*\*Altar Guild Christmas Luncheon  
December 6th at 12pm\*\***

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!

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.

### BELL CHOIR

Mondays at 6:30PM (Second Monday of the month at 7PM)



### ALC CHOIR

Wednesdays at 5:30 PM. **\*\*No experience necessary!**



### 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.



## Good to Know

*American Lutheran Church of Windom presents a*

# *Living Nativity*

**Soup & Chili  
Supper**  
5 to 7 p.m.  
in the  
**Fellowship Hall**  
\$7 Suggested  
Donation

**Wednesday, December 14**  
**5:30 to 7:30 p.m.**

View the Living Nativity by foot or by car:  
10th Street east  
and turn south on Prospect Avenue

Ride the Horse Drawn Carriage  
Pet the Animals (inside & outside)

In the Skylight Court:  
Holiday Bake Sale  
Listen to live Music of the Season  
Enjoy Cider & Popcorn



**Please bring Food or Cash donations for the Windom Sharing Center**

**\*\*Church in Society Board will be taking donations for our Windom Area Sharing Center. Please bring food or cash donations to the Living Nativity!**



**Christmas Eve**  
CANDLELIGHT  
SERVICE

**Our Christmas Eve Services on Saturday, December 24th, 2022**

**3:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship**

**5:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship**

**10:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion**



Dear friends and companions in ministry,

November 2022

I share Paul's sentiment when he says, "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now" (Philippians 1:3-5). I want to let you know what has been happening on my end of that sharing here at the United Theological College of the West Indies (UTCWI). The semester is drawing to a close, and when I think back on these last couple of months, what stands out are the moments when I got a chance to see my students engaged in ministries of care outside the classroom. I will tell you about three such moments.



Every September, we start the academic year off with two "Quiet Days", during which we reflect on a particular theme. This year the theme was "Caring for God's Creation." On day one we went to the local botanical garden to relax in its beauty and to consider our relationship as humans with the non-human parts of God's creation. On day two we worked together to care for the grounds of our own campus. In the photo above you see students Jean Ridler Jules and Aldwayne Brooks at work along with lecturer Rev. Dr. Dave Hazle.

Throughout the semester I have had the pleasure of teaching my favorite course, Early Church History. Six of the students in the course are members of a Catholic religious order called the Missionaries of the Poor, founded here in Jamaica by Rev. Richard Ho Lung, who also composed liturgical music Caribbean-style. (Some of you might know his "Lord's

Prayer".) The students welcomed me on a visit to their monastery in downtown Kingston and to one of their ministry centers there, called "The Lord's Place". Even though they are not part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, they truly do what the ELCA's motto above says, "God's Work. Our hands", as they minister to the most vulnerable: children with severe disabilities, people living with HIV, and the very elderly. I was especially touched by the high level of professional care that they were providing for the 54 children that I saw, most of whom cannot walk or talk, and by the warmth of friendship and love that they shared with the children as well as with the elderly and those living with HIV. In the photo you see Brothers Johnson Talaban and Prasant Kispotta, Missionaries of the Poor and students of early church history.

At the time of my visit, what we were studying in class was the martyrs of the early church and the way in which the Christians made shrines over the graves of the martyrs so that they could visit them there to remember and honor them. The brothers were making a live connection with what they were studying in class because in 2005 two of their brothers had been shot to death over the wall of their monastery as they were washing the dishes. Brother Johnson, who had been washing dishes with them, showed me their graves on the monastery's grounds, which have become shrines for those who wish to honor them for their lives of faith and service.

From death to life. The most recent visit that I made with students was to "Mary's Child," a home for pregnant teenagers and young mothers, also operated by a Catholic organization called "The Mustard Seed". In the photo you see a representative of the home receiving a box of donations from the students, who are Aldwayne Brooks, Rafael van Ommeren (our Lutheran student), Jean Ridler Jules, and Chioma Henry. Chioma (in blue) was especially thrilled to be able to hold babies to her heart's delight as we spent time with the young mothers. I am the one squatting in the photo, grateful to have had the opportunity all semester to see the caring ministries that our students do when they are not in class.

I know that, in addition to your support of me in my work with these students, you are involved in a variety of other caring ministries as well, and I pray that God will strengthen you in faith, joy, and love as you do your work.

*Carolyn*

Carolyn Schneider  
Lutheran Warden-Tutor, UTCWI  
7 Golding Avenue, Kingston 7, Jamaica

P.S. In addition to prayer, here are ways to support me financially.

1. To become a covenant congregation, download the form at [ELCA.org/covenantform](http://ELCA.org/covenantform) or call 800-638-3522, ext. 2820.
2. Make an individual gift by check payable to "ELCA Missionaries" with "Carolyn Schneider (GCS2016)" in the memo line and mail your check to:

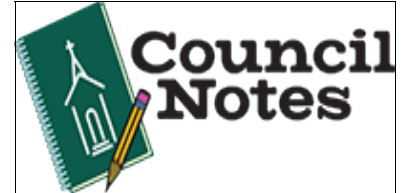
ELCA Gift Processing Center  
P.O. Box 1809  
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

3. Make an individual gift by credit or debit card by visiting [ELCA.org/MissionaryGiving](http://ELCA.org/MissionaryGiving) or calling 800-638-3522.





## **UNAPPROVED CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES FROM** **November 11th, 2022 MEETING**



- The Points of Information were reviewed: budget sheets for 2023 were passed out to appropriate boards those need to be turned in to Wendy by November 17, 2022. A nominating committee was formed. They will be meeting on Thursday, November 10 at 9am. Committee members include Nancy Michalski, Page Kern, Pastor Adam, and Pastor Sarah.
- Living Nativity - Boards have their assignments; date is December 14.
- Annual Meeting - January 22, 2023 with the snow day designated as January 29, 2023. Mid-year meeting will be July 23, 2023.
- Approval of new members - the council approved the following new members: Wendy Ahnupkana and her daughter Theora, Ike and Megan Pohlman, Irene Swanson, Alan and Linda Staples, Darin and Vickie Motz, Eric and Christy Lohse, Jon and Cassie Muske with sons Eli and Noah, and Hally Janssen. MM/S/C (Michael/Kay)
- Staff Gifts - Christmas gifts will be \$125 to Pastors, \$75 to Office Staff and \$50 to remaining staff. MM/S/C(Michael/Jennifer)
- Other - N/A

### **Board Reports**

**Worship and Music** - Karen shared the new name of Wednesday service praise band, "Joyful Noise"; Worship and Music will support the special speaker at BARC on February and suggests that it become that Wednesday's confirmation requirement. Initially a motion was passed to support this suggestion and in discussion it was determined we needed to know if this speaker would have already spoken at the school to the students, resulting in the tabling of the motion. Worship and Music is also working on their portion of Living Nativity.

**Spiritual Life and Fellowship** - Sharon updated the council on the Lutefisk meal, serving pies after the Thanksgiving eve service, their activity for Living Nativity and the success of the standing tables.

**Discipleship/Marketing and Stewardship** - Steve noted they did not have a meeting this month but have plans for the upcoming Stewardship services and reported on the status of the Shetek Campaign.

**Properties** - Linda discussed the drainage project and the electricity for a new cross above the door on the south side of the church.

**Budget and Finance** - Michael W reminded the board representatives that their board's financial worksheets are to be completed and return soon; MMC has noted that the housing allowance provided does not meet the Synod guidelines; a motion to provide non-salaried employees a 6% retirement option was discussed and tabled with the request to provide more information.

**Christian Education** - Melissa provided the activities the youth will be participating in at services and Living Nativity. The Christian Education board also supports the BARC event on bullying and with additional information now available, verifying the speaker will provide a different presentation that what the students see at school, MM/S/C to forgo the activities at ALC and support student's attendance of this event. MM/S/C (Melissa/Karen)

**Youth and Family** - Cory updated the council on the numerous events the youth will have, including youth gatherings, FaithFest at Augustana University, winter fundraisers, and reported that the "Treat the Teacher" event raised approximately \$395.

**Church In Society** - Jennifer noted the Lunch Buddies program and to contact Pastor Adam if interested and the food drive events during Thanksgiving and Living Nativity.

**GLOW** - Kay reported that the planning meeting was well attended; they discussed their donation options, have set the meeting dates for 2023, and are planning their Christmas party. they will be having their Christmas party.

## ALC FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of 11/21/2022:

**Income: \$416,163**

**Expenses: \$465,455**

**Borrowed to date: \$35,000**

These figures do not include November end of month commitments and benevolences.

**The American Lutheran Church books for 2022 will close at 12:00 noon on Friday, December 30, 2022. The office will be closed in the afternoon. Please be sure to get all 2022 contributions in by this time. Let's work together and meet all 2022 commitments here at ALC. No gift is ever too small.**



### RECORDS:

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

**Deaths:** *Charlotte Varilek*

*In Loving  
Memory*



### MEMORIALS:

**Christian Education Fund** – *In memory of Cheryl Brugman.*

**Video/Media Fund** – *In memory of Dianne Kuecker & Charlotte Varilek*

**Bell Choir Fund** – *In memory of Cheryl Brugman,*

**General Fund** – *In memory of Cheryl Brugman, Dianne Kuecker & Ronnie Pabst.*

**Renovation Fund** – *In memory of Dianne Kuecker & Charlotte Varilek.*



### OFFERING OPTIONS:

The ministry of our congregation continues in many ways! The options remain open for ways of contributing your offerings. You may use on-line giving on our website [alcofwindom.com](http://alcofwindom.com), mail in your offering to PO Box 188, Windom, drop it off at the church or simply place it in the offering plate. If you have any questions regarding these options, please contact Wendy Pigman in the church office.

## **SHETEK BUILDING ON THE FOUNDATION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

We're over two-thirds of the way there!!! As of November 20<sup>th</sup>, the *Messenger* deadline, \$17,650 has been given and/or pledged to the Shetek Capital Campaign. An additional \$130 was raised at the Men's Night Cribbage Tournament. The Sunday/Wednesday School children have designated their offering which for September and October was over \$150.

**Grand Total so far is approximately \$17,930!**

So, what's next? In this Holiday Season, we are bombarded with charities asking for donations. We are preparing for Christmas - shopping for gifts, attending parties, family gatherings, traveling and other festive activities. Won't the Shetek Capital Campaign be a part of your gifting this year or in 2023, 2024 and/or 2025? This Campaign is an ongoing project to update the facilities at Shetek Lutheran Ministries. If you can't give now, a promise to give in the future would be greatly appreciated. No gift is too small. A donation box, envelopes, and gift forms are located in the Skylight Court along with the thermometer showing our progress.

We're only \$7070 away from our goal with opportunities to give through Men's Night Cribbage tournament (\$10/person) to be held on December 15, Sunday /Wednesday School offerings, memorials, one-time gifts, or completing a giving intent form found in the Skylight Court. Thank you to those who have given, pledged or intend to give.

Questions? Contact Steve or Jean Johnson, Campaign co-chairs for ALC.





# GLOW in December

❄️ Gals Living our Witness

## Calendar Reminders:

Dec. 1 @ 5:30 pm GLOW Christmas Party  
(prior ticket purchase required)  
Dec. 13 Church Basement Ladies - LEAVE ALC @ 8 am  
(prior ticket purchase required)  
Dec. 15 @ 2 pm Bible Study (see below)  
Quilting & Kit Making 2023 - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays  
January 3 & 17  
February 7 & 21  
March 7 & 21  
April 4 & 18

## Bible Study

Thursday Dec. 15 @ 2pm  
ALC Meeting Room

Nov/Dec Gather Magazine  
Pg. 38 "Advent Devotional"  
See Gina in the office for  
a copy the Devotional

If able, bring a plate of  
Christmas goodies to share.

## 2022 GLOW DONATIONS

**Churchwide:**  
WELCA Thank offering  
SWMN Synod WELCA  
Churchwide ELCA  
Shlom Hill Farm  
Shetek Bible Camp  
**Windom Community:**

The Dinner Table

**Minneapolis:**

Marie Sanvick Place  
Mary's Place

**The World:**

Ondini Circuit Scholarships  
Central African Republic  
Scholarships

**Christmas Cheer Box**  
25 Quilts

**Lutheran World Relief**  
75 Quilts  
189 Scholl Kits  
123 Baby Care Kits  
16 Personal Care Kits



A Women's Ministry of American  
Lutheran Church



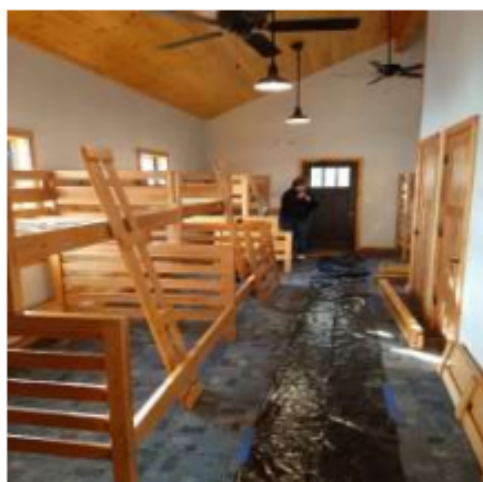
**December 2022**



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

## Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers

*Join the fun at our next quilt and craft retreat!*



*Moving furniture into the lodge!*

## Mark your Calendar

- December 4 Annual Meeting  
3:30 p.m.
- December 4 Scandinavian Dinner  
5:00 p.m.
- December 27 Winter Fun Day
- January 19-22 Quilt & Craft Retreat

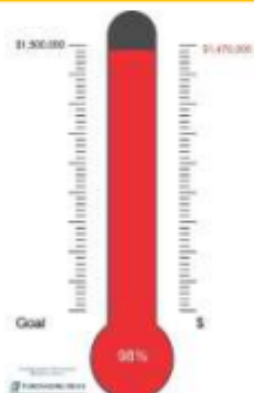
Register at [shetek.org](http://shetek.org) or  
Call 507-763-3567 for more  
information

*"She will give birth to a son, and you are  
to give him the name Jesus, because he  
will save his people from their sins"*

**Matthew 1:21**

Our "Building on the Foundation" capital campaign is going very well. So far, we've raised \$1,470,000 in gifts/pledges towards our \$1,500,000 phase one goal! More info on our website.

<https://shetek.org/slm-master-plan/>



**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!**