



December 2023

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The
AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
WINDOM, MN Church



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Join us for Worship in Church, on Facebook, on our Website, via our YouTube Channel, on KDOM Radio 103.1 FM, or Local Cable Channel 22!

Saturday, December 2

5:30 PM Chapel Service

Sunday, December 3

First Sunday of Advent

9:00 AM Worship w/ Holy Communion

Wednesday, December 6

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

Saturday, December 9

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

Sunday, December 10

Second Sunday of Advent

Second Sunday Noisy Offering
9:00 AM Worship w/ Noisy offering

Wednesday, December 13

5:00pm-7:00pm Soup and Chili Supper
5:30PM-7:30PM LIVING NATIVITY

Saturday, December 16

5:30 PM Chapel Service w/ Holy Communion

Sunday, December 17

Third Sunday of Advent

9:00 AM Worship

Wednesday, December 20

7:00 PM Community Christmas Cantata

Saturday, December 23

5:30 PM Chapel Service

Sunday, December 24

*Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve*

3:00 PM Candlelight Worship
5:00 PM Candlelight Worship
10:00 PM Candlelight Worship w/Holy Communion

Wednesday, December 27

No Wednesday Evening Activities

Saturday, December 30

5:30 PM Chapel Service

Sunday, December 31

New Year's Eve

9:00 AM 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.



Pastor's Message

"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

Matthew 2:18

I have heard many people make the claim that a Christian needs to support Israel no matter what; support meaning to endorse whatever they do without question. The biblical arguments I have heard from this are from Genesis 12 when God promises Abraham that his descendants will be a great nation, Deuteronomy 30 and Ezekiel 20 where God says Israel will always be gathered if they have been spread abroad and they will be restored, 2 Samuel 7 when God promises King David that his children will have a throne, and some Psalms and words of the prophets proclaiming God's love for Israel as God's child.

I fully agree that God loves Israel and they are God's special people. The Old Testament is story after story, book after book, of God bending over backwards to help and bless the Hebrews. If you want a love story about a parent who will keep chasing after their child, then go read the Old Testament's story about God's love for Israel.

But for anyone to claim that God endorses everything that Israel does is 100% against scripture. In most of the passages listed above you will find God's strict warnings about what happens if a nation/people/person turns from God's ways.

Deuteronomy 30 has God saying God is going to always bring Israel home and raise them back up, but let's not forget verses seventeen and eighteen which say if their hearts turn away from God then they will perish and lose the land. Ezekiel 20 explains why Israel was punished back then in the first place, because they turned away from God. 2 Samuel 7 has God saying David's kids will be on the throne so long as they follow God, but they didn't, and they were invaded and destroyed.

Therefore Christians cannot fully support the Israeli government's reckless assault on Gaza; reckless meaning there are 4,000 children dead in one month, and hospitals are being attacked and not getting power nor supplies.

Just looking at the Old Testament one could claim that God would support this course of action especially in light of Psalm 137, 1 Samuel 15, or even the end of 2 Kings 2, very hard passages to read, but I would argue that even the Old Testament is more in favor of protecting innocents than killing them. Also, if you add on the Gospels and the New Testament, a Christian has very little ground to stand on when it comes to supporting any nation that indiscriminately has killed 4,000 children in one month.

Hamas is evil and must be stopped. Antisemitism is evil and must be stopped. God bless the Jews. God bless those grieving their dead and those fearing for the hostages. The whole situation is absolutely awful. But I will stake my career as a pastor that God does not support the wanton warfare that has killed so many kids. I will stake my career that God is fully against it. And I can't imagine anyone wanting to worship a god that would be for it.

We follow Jesus who, even if you want to throw out what he says about loving our enemies, is one hundred percent for, and with, the suffering of any nation, race, or religion. Jesus never could walk past someone suffering who was powerless. Neither, therefore, can any Christian simply ignore the plight of 4,000 plus powerless innocents being slaughtered.

Therefore, let us not use evil to fight evil, but let us speak against such evil means. Furthermore, let us find a different way to bring down Hamas' evil while caring for the innocents, even if that makes our job more difficult and dangerous (for biblical examples about what this looks like, read Joshua 6 and Genesis 18 & 19).

Pastor Adam

WORSHIP AND MUSIC NOTES
Jane Cartwright, Coordinator
December, 2023

Happy New Year!
Advent begins a new church year

December worship notes:

Advent worship on Wednesdays, Nov. 29 and Dec. 6 at 6:30 pm

Advent worship on Saturday, Dec. 2, 9, 16, and 23 at 5:30 pm

Advent worship on Sundays, Dec. 3, 10, and 17 at 9:00 am



December 10, 11:00 am: Children's Christmas Program

December 13, 5:30-7:00pm Living Nativity Music in Skylight Court

December 20, 7:00 pm: Community Christmas Cantata



9:00 am Morning Worship on Dec. 24 will be online only. No in person.

No worship on Dec. 25th and Dec. 27th

Season of Christmas Worship: Sat., Dec. 30, 5:30pm and Sun. Dec. 31 9:00am

Usher Team:

Jay Mickelson
 John Berge
 Keith Bloomgren
 Travis Freiwald
 John Holt
 Steve Nasby
 Kermit Twit

Worship Needs:

Readers,
Holy Communion Assistants,
Special Music on Dec. 24th
Lighting of the Advent Candles
 Please sign up on
 Worship and Music Bulletin Board

Holy Communion

Wed. Dec. 3, 6:30pm
 Sat. Dec. 9th and 16th
 Sun. Dec. 3 and 17th

Join us for
Christmas Eve
Dec. 24th Worship

3:00pm Candlelight

5:00pm Candlelight

10:00pm Candlelight
with Holy Communion



Advent 1

Isaiah 64:1-9
 1 Cor 1:3-9
 Mark 13:24-37

Advent 2

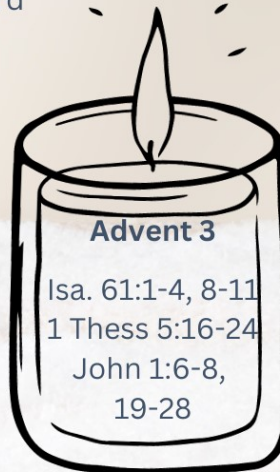
Isaiah 40:1-11
 2 Peter 3:8-15a
 Mark 1:1-8

Advent 3

Isa. 61:1-4, 8-11
 1 Thess 5:16-24
 John 1:6-8,
 19-28

Advent 4

2 Sam 7:1-11, 16
 Rom 16:25-27
 Luke 1:26-38





The Technology team at ALC is looking for additional help! We need a few volunteer computer operators to run the sound and video boards. The technology team will train and mentor you. It takes just a few basic computer skills to do these tasks. It is a great opportunity to support worship, once or twice a month, on Sunday morning. We offer a flexible schedule. If you are interested, talk with Lindsey or Jane Cartwright, or just come up to the balcony any Sunday morning to see how these positions are such “key players” in the worship service. The Technology team truly hopes you will prayerfully consider this opportunity!

Sunday Schedule:

9:00– 10:00 AM - Worship
10:00 AM - Skylight Court Café - Coffee Hour
10:15-11:00 AM - Sunday School

Wednesday Schedule:

5:00– 6:15PM - Wednesday Night Supper
5:30– 6:15 PM - ALC Choir Practice
5:30– 6:15 PM - Wednesday School
6:30– 7:15 PM - Wednesday Worship
7:30– 8:30 PM - Confirmation (7th, 8th, & 9th Grade)

Saturday Schedule:

5:30 PM Chapel Worship Service

The NLC’s Annual Christmas Festival 2023!

Join the National Lutheran Choir at the magnificent Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis for the beloved Christmas Festival tradition. This year’s festival, titled *New Hope*, will take place at 4:30pm on Friday, Dec. 8th and 1:30pm and 8:00pm on Saturday, Dec. 9th. For tickets and more information, visit NLCA.com.

Ushers & Greeters



SEEKING INDIVIDUALS, COUPLES, OR FAMILY GROUPS WILLING TO USHER. Would you be interested in helping seat individuals, pass out bulletins, assist in passing the plate for offering and in helping the process with Holy Communion? It’s a great way to meet people in the congregation. The schedule normally rotates by months (3 months, not consecutively out of the year). You also don’t have to be here EVERY Sunday of the month. You are put into a group and those members also help with your months and the rotation. Please contact the church office if you’re interested.

Come check out the Worship Volunteer Sheet located on the Worship and Music Bulletin Board in the main hallway. Scripture Readers and Communion Assistants are needed.

December 2023
Worship Participants

Scripture Readers:
 December 3: 9:00 am _____
 December 10: 9:00 am _____
 December 17: 9:00 am _____
 December 24: 9:00 am _____
 December 31: 9:00 am _____

Holy Communion Assistants:
 Sunday, December 3: 9:00 am, (D) _____
 Wed, December 6: 6:30 pm, (D) _____
 Sunday, December 17: 9:00 am, (D) _____

Advent Candle Lighting
 November 29: 6:30 pm _____
 December 3: 9:00 am _____
 December 6: 6:30 pm _____
 December 10: 9:00 am _____

American Lutheran Church
 Planning Worship Opportunities

Noisy Offering this Month:

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!



December

2023

Christian Ed/Youth & Family

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

Acolyte Schedule December 2023

Sunday, Dec. 3rd—Eli Muske & Kieran Anderson

Wednesday Dec. 6th—Carson Wiens & Landon Ausing

Sunday, Dec. 10th 9am Service—Henry Visker & Corbin Anderson

Dec, 10th Christmas Program 11am —Jack Elness & Wyatt Knutson

Wednesday, Dec. 13th – Living Nativity

Sunday, Dec. 17th—Jordan Hacker & Easton Piotter

Wednesday, Dec. 20th—Lilly Derickson & Abby Freiwald

Sunday, Dec. 24th 3pm— TBD 5pm—TBD 10pm—TBD



1ST-3RD GR.
AFTER-SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS PARTY!

MONDAY,
DECEMBER 18TH

AFTER SCHOOL-4:30PM
THE CHURCH MINIBUS
WILL PICK UP THE
KIDDOS FROM
SCHOOL!

AMERICAN LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF WINNOM



JR HIGH/SR HIGH
YOUTH GROUP
CHRISTMAS PARTY!

PIZZA, POP, & BOWLING!

THE GARAGE AT
SPRINGFIELD LANES!
SUNDAY, DEC. 10TH
5-7 PM
(LEAVE ALC AT 4:15PM,
RETURN AT 7:45PM)
COST: \$20



FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD
THAT GOD GAVE US.....
OUR VOICES TO SING!

PARENTS, PLEASE BRING YOUR
WED SCHOOL/SUN SCHOOL STUDENT
TO THE SOGGE HOME AT 10:15AM
ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH TO
MEET THEIR CLASSMATES AND SING
THEIR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM SONGS
FOR THE RESIDENTS!



4TH -6TH GRADE
BOYS & GIRLS
CHRISTMAS PARTY!
DECEMBER
17
5-7 PM
AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF WINNOM
CONTACT TERA
TO SIGN UP YOUR CHILD

December

Christian Ed/Youth & Family

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

JOIN TERA
FOR A TWO-SESSION

ZOOM ONLY

ADVENT

Bible Study



**THURSDAYS,
DECEMBER 7TH & 14TH**

7:30-8:30pm

Please email Tera Elness at
teraalc@gmail.com to request
both the materials link
and the Zoom meeting link.

American Lutheran Church
Windom

YOU ARE INVITED!
NURSERY-6TH GRADE
WEDNESDAY/SUNDAY SCHOOL
**Christmas
PROGRAM!**

DECEMBER

SUNDAY | **10** | 11:00am

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH
SANCTUARY
WINDOM, MN

ALL ARE WELCOME!

STUDENT GOODIE BAGS
WILL BE HANDLED OUT
FOLLOWING THE PROGRAM!

JOIN US FOR A
NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING FUNDRAISER

**FRUIT &
FRESH-BAKED
CINNAMON
ROLLS!**

DECEMBER 10TH

SERVING STARTS
FOLLOWING 9AM WORSHIP
AND ENDS AT THE START
OF OUR CHILDREN'S
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
AT 11AM!

FREEWILL DONATION!



THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD IS

SEEKING:
BAGS OF
INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED
CANDY
FOR OUR STUDENTS'
CHRISTMAS GOODIE BAGS!

GOODIE BAGS WILL BE PASSED OUT
FOLLOWING OUR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
ON DECEMBER 10TH!

PLEASE HAVE YOUR DONATIONS TO
THE CHURCH NO LATER THAN
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH!

THANK YOU!

December

Church Activities

2023

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 13

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



Happy Holidays

From the ALC Staff

Wishing you a wonderful Holiday and New Year filled with hope and love!

LUTEFISK SUPPER



Saturday, January 06, 2024

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Serving 5:00 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

Sharing Christmas Joy with Sogge Residents

Sogge Home is asking Windom to remember the residents at Sogge.

Staff at Sogge have asked residents for a Christmas list and asked local congregations to buy each resident something from their list (items might be slippers, word finds, hand mirrors, etc.). Church in Society will be setting up a

Christmas tree with these anonymous lists hung on it around Thanksgiving time. If you'd like you could grab a list, buy an item, wrap it, and drop it off at the church and we'll make sure it gets to that resident. Let's spread some Christmas Joy!

**Wednesday Night Supper****Menu for December**

December 6th—Spaghetti hotdish, bread stick, green beans, dessert

December 13th—Living Nativity Soup Supper

December 20th— No Wednesday Evening Activities

December 27th— No Wednesday Evening Activities

LET'S GO CAROLING for Christmas by Candlelight on the square in Windom, Thursday, Dec. 14th from 6:00 - 6:30. ALC Carolers and friends (yes, invite your friends!) will meet in front of Hammer's Furniture. Dress warm and festive! Song sheets will be provided. Singers of all ages (and abilities!) are welcome!



Carols of Christmas

**COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS
CANTATA WORSHIP**

**WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 20, 2023 7:00PM**

Composed by Heather Sorenson, this cantata includes congregational singing along with the choir, of seven traditional songs!

A food collection will be taken can for the local Sharing Center. Bring non-perishable food products, personal care products or monetary donations.

A time of fellowship with cookies, cider and coffee will follow the cantata.

**American Lutheran Church
906 Prospect Ave
Windom, MN**

For more information contact:
Jane Cartwright
ALC 507-831-1794

Advent
DEVOTIONS

come, emmanuel
DEVOTIONS FOR
ADVENT & CHRISTMAS
2023-2024

**MONDAYS THROUGH
FRIDAYS
DURING THE SEASON OF
ADVENT**

**ALC STAFF WILL BE
PROVIDING DAILY LIVE
DEVOTIONS FROM
THIS LITTLE BOOK VIA OUR
CHURCH FACEBOOK PAGE.
WE HOPE YOU WILL TUNE IN
OR WATCH THE REPLAYS AS
YOU ARE ABLE.**

Good to Know



Congratulations to our 2023 Confirmands!

Jace Anderson
Avery Fast
Zadie-Anne Johnson
Jonah Nauman
Matthew Redman
Grace Scheitel
Brita Tjentland

Lizabeth Bramstedt
Logan Hanson
Jackson Joyce
Anja Nielsen
Xavier Roberts
Erin Shamp
Jacob Winters

Bradyn Evans
Peyton Hilbrands
Michael Marcy
Katie Purrington
Fiona Robillard
Hayden Tietz

CONFIRMED
In Faith

Bell Ringers Needed



DID YOU KNOW?

- 88% of donations raised in this kettle will stay in your community to help those in need.
- 10% helps support The Salvation Army.
- 2% helps support world services.

NOV 17 TO DEC 23

Sign up online, or call your local kettle coordinator at:



567.841.3455



www.registertoring.com

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 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.

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.

Good to Know

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.



Join us in Welcoming a New Member into our church family! Mary Jo Schmidt became a New Member on November 19th!



Tune in to ALC's Worship Broadcasts:

Sundays at 10:30 AM on KDOM 103.1 FM

Thursdays at 10:00 AM & 6:30 PM on Windom Cable TV, Channel 22

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

LSS Meals | Windom

ALC Day at Senior Dining: The 2nd Thursday of the month.

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, there is a suggested donation of \$5-\$8.75 per meal, or what you can afford. For those younger than 60, 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.



Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota

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.

Anytime donations include:

Hamburger	Ham	Shredded cheddar cheese
Chicken breasts	Tator Tots	
Garlic bread sticks	Egg Noodles	
Hot dogs	Spaghetti sauce	
Cream of celery soup	Cream of chicken soup	
Cheddar cheese soup	Taco seasoning	

Weekly donations include:

Milk	Bread	Cookies and bars
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(can be store bought)



Any Meat, garlic bread, 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!



Lefse Making for the Lutfisk supper will take place on **Tuesday, January 2nd at 8am.** If you are available, your help would be greatly appreciated. If you have lefse making equipment, please bring that as well!

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.



THRIVENT FINANCIAL®

Good to Know

Men, do you like cribbage and pizza? If so, join us in the Fellowship Hall on **December 21st** at 6:30pm for cribbage, pizza, fellowship, and a devotion. Feel free to bring a friend whether they're members or not! All are welcome! If you have ideas about more activities that you would like to do, please contact Pastor Adam.



Men's Fellowship



Men's Bible Study

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.



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 Practices on Monday evenings at 6:30pm. The *second* Monday of the month, practice is at 7:00 pm.



Altar Guild will be meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 2:00pm. Next meeting is December 12th at 2pm! All are welcome.



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

Save the Date for Equipping Congregations on **Saturday, December 2nd 2023**. This will take place at Vinje Lutheran in Willmar from 8:30am-3:00pm. The theme for this year is "Living the Word *Today*". See the flyer hanging up on the bulletin board across from the office. All congregation members are welcome to attend! There will be childcare available.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THE ALC CHOIR!
Practices are Wednesday evenings at 5:30pm!

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!!

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

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!

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" border 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.

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



The Compassionate Friends
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

Light a candle for all
children who have died

**Worldwide
Candle
Lighting®**

... that their light
may always shine.

Sunday, December 10, 2023
7 PM Around the Globe

*For parents & families of children who have died.
A special time to honor/remember their children.*

Festival of Trees gallery, Cottonwood County Historical Museum
812 4th Ave, Windom, MN Doors open at 6:30 PM.

Materials provided to make a special ornament for your child
or bring one to add to the Children's Tree.
Time for sharing photos, memories of your child.
Refreshments afterward.

All are welcome!

We have entered our 2nd year of the 3-year pledge to the Shetek Capital Campaign. Thank you to those who gave a one-time gift. Thank you to those of you who made a 3-year pledge. You should soon be receiving in the mail a reminder from Shetek. You can mail your payment directly to Shetek with ALC Windom in the memo line. Director Marv Nysetvold, has provided an update of how the campaign is going:

"Our new total for the campaign is \$1,613,000 so we have met our phase 1 goal of \$1,500,000 but with the increased costs to build the new lodge, we are not able to do everything we had hoped for in phase 1. We have updated the water treatment system and have put in new water lines to almost all of the camp, along with planning for future development. The new lodge is done and we have had several groups use it, from scrapbookers to Scouts and the feedback has been wonderful. The Property Committee and the Board are working on plans for the first new cabin which we hope to start construction in the spring. Along with ALC - Windom, we have had 6 other congregations so far that have held a campaign in their congregation for the "Building on the Foundation" campaign. All together to date, well over \$100,000 has been raised just from our partner congregations. We are striving for our challenge goal of \$2,000,000 in order to do as much of our phase 1 plan as possible."

ALC should feel very good about our cheerful giving. I know many individuals and groups from ALC who participated before the ALC challenge directly and will continue to support the Shetek Capital Campaign with additional gifts in the future. It warms Jean and my hearts for your generosity. Thank you. Steve Johnson

Spruce up your Christmas season with these FREE opportunities from ELCA colleges!

Gustavus

TIS THE SEASON! The 50-year tradition continues in 2023 as the Gustavus community joyously celebrates another year of Christmas in Christ Chapel, an opportunity to come together, celebrate the season, and marvel at Gustavus student excellence.

This year, the following performances will be held:

Friday, December 1 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 2 at 2:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 2 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 3 at 4 p.m.

Livestream: The livestream will be available during the 7:30 p.m. (CST) worship service on Saturday, December 2. Gather your friends or family to watch this award-winning production! Viewing the livestream is free and pre-registration is not required. This service will be archived immediately following the initial broadcast. Watch live from the [Christmas in Christ Chapel website](#). Questions? Visit the [Christmas in Christ Chapel website](#) or call (507) 933-7520.

Augustana

In collaboration with Campus Ministry, the Augustana School of Music (SoM) invites the public to join the university community for its 2023 Christmas Vespers Concert, "And a little child shall lead them" on Friday, Dec. 1, and Saturday, Dec. 2. For more information and how to purchase tickets, visit augie.edu/vespers.

St. Olaf

Radio-YourClassical MPR will present encore broadcasts will air in December of 2023. National broadcasts of the 2023 St. Olaf Christmas Festival are distributed by American Public Media. If you are outside the MPR listening area, check local radio listings to see if it will be carried in your region.

Internet Streaming-St. Olaf is proud to present a live video stream of the 2023 St. Olaf Christmas Festival on Saturday, December 2 at 7:30 p.m., free of charge. Please check back for more information in the coming weeks.

As the weather gets colder and the chance of snow becomes greater, please remember to listen to KDOM or check the church Facebook page for weather related announcements! As far as Wednesday Evening activities, if school is canceled or gets out early that day due to weather, then all Wednesday evening activities are also canceled.



Constitution Changes

ALC has been in the process of updating the constitution. To be updated, the constitution must be voted through twice. We have already done this once at our last annual meeting. Here is a review of what is changing and what we will be voting on at the next annual meeting. If you have any questions please contact Pastor Adam.

C10.06.02. Shetek Lutheran Bible Camp representatives – ~~At its first regular meeting the congregation shall elect two representatives as well as one alternate to the Lake Shetek Bible Camp Association to serve for the ensuing year.~~ Shetek Lutheran Ministries (SLM) representatives – At its annual meeting the congregation shall elect two representatives as well as one alternate to serve for the ensuing year and to represent American Lutheran Church at SLM's annual meeting to conduct business for the association of member congregations.

C21.01.06. DISCIPLESHIP, MARKETING, AND STEWARDSHIP BOARD The Discipleship, Marketing, and Stewardship Board ~~and Stewardship Board~~ shall promote faith in Christ and the Good News of our Savior by welcoming all, and through our work together within the church, the community and beyond. Duties shall include but not be limited to: new members, promote and market the church, and work with the missions both locally and globally. They shall also lead the congregation to be Biblical stewards through the proportionate giving of their time, abilities, and money as they have been given. It shall be made up of seven persons elected by the congregation.

C13.05. ~~Scholarship Committee~~ consisting of five members of the congregation at large shall be appointed by the Congregation Council. ~~A pastor and an appointed parent of a current ELCA college student shall be ex-officio members of the Scholarship Committee. The purpose of the committee is to provide financial and informational support concerning ELCA colleges to students of the congregation and their parents.~~

C11.02. The congregation shall elect its officers and they shall be the officers of this congregation. The officers shall be elected by voice vote or written ballot and shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected. Their terms shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected.

C21.01.02. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD shall plan and administer the total Christian Education programs of the congregation including Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, Confirmation, Bible Classes and other educational opportunities. It shall be made up of five seven persons elected by the congregation ~~plus an additional voting member; the Sunday school superintendent.~~ The Christian Education Coordinator shall be an ex-officio member of the board.

C12.01. The voting membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the officers of this congregation, the chairperson of each board with alternates being the vice chairperson or board's designate, ~~and the chairperson of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Gals Living Our Witness (GLOW), and the president of the Lutheran Men in Mission.~~ A member's place on the Congregation Council shall be declared vacant if the member a) ceases to be a voting member of this congregation or b) is absent from four successive regular meetings of the Congregation Council without cause. Consistent with the laws of the state in which this congregation is incorporated, this congregation may adopt procedures for the removal of a member of the Congregation Council in other circumstances.

C21.02.02. Terms for parish boards begin and end at the conclusion of the annual meeting.

C12.04.01. Shetek Conference delegates – The Congregation Council shall select voting members to all Shetek conference assemblies.

C14.01.02 ~~Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM) is the men's auxiliary of American Lutheran Church of Windom. It is organized and operates based upon its Constitution and bylaws. Its purpose is to nurture the men of the church in the Word of God so as to grow in faith and hope and love, to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling, and to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world.~~

C14.01.01. ~~Women of the ELCA (WELCA)~~ Gals Living Our Witness (GLOW) is the women's auxiliary of the American Lutheran Church of Windom. It is organized and operates based on its Constitution and bylaws. As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, they commit themselves to grow in faith, affirm their gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

glow

GLOW

GALS LIVING OUR WITNESS

In December

Bible Study

Thursday, Dec. 21 @ 2pm

ALC Meeting Room

Nov/Dec Gather Magazine - Devotional Page 32,
"God's Topsy-Turvy Kingdom"

See Melanie in the office for a copy of the devotional.

If able, bring a plate of goodies to share.

2023 GLOW DONATIONS

Churchwide:

WELCA Thankoffering
SWMN Synod WELCA
Shalom Hill Farm
Shetek Bible Camp
ELCA Good Gifts

Windom Community:

The Dinner Table

The World:

Marie Sandvick Center
Caring and Sharing Hands
Ondini Circuit Scholarships
Central African Republic
Scholarships

Christmas Cheer Box

22 Quilts

LutheranWorld Relief

49 Quilts
149 School Kits
155 Baby Care Kits
23 Personal Care Kits



2024 Quilt & Kit Making Days

January thru April: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays

Starting at 9:00 am

A WOMEN'S MINISTRY OF
AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH 2023

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES FROM November 14th, 2023 MEETING

(Written minutes to be approved at the next Council meeting.)

The November 14, 2023, ALC of Windom Church Council meeting was called to order by President John Shamp at 8:03 pm.

The secretary's report for October was approved as printed. MM/S/C (Sharon/Cory)

The treasurer's report for October was approved as printed. MM/S/C (Steve/Kay)

The Current Congregation Trend Report by the ELCA was reviewed.

The Pastor's reports were reviewed.

Old Business:

1. 2024 Open Board Positions - calls will be made after the committees determine some names of members who may want to fill the positions

New Business:

1. Annual meeting date and agenda - A motion was made and accepted to set the annual meeting date for January 28th after service with a weather back-up the following Sunday, February 4th after the service. MM/S/C (Cory/Sharon)

The agenda will be set up by the executive committee in the near future.

2. Mid-year meeting date - A motion was made and accepted to set the annual meeting date for July 21st after service. MM/S/C (Steve/Kevin)
3. Approval of new members - A motion was made to accept Mary Jo Schmidt as a new member at ALC. MM/S/C (Kevin/Cory)

4. Other

-Information was shared about the Southwestern Minnesota Synod ELCA gathering and workshops at Vinje Lutheran Church in Willmar, MN on Saturday, December 2, 2023 from 8:30am-3:00pm.

-The Bethany Lutheran contract is up for renewal. A motion was made to review the contract by a committee consisting of President John, Treasurer Kevin, Pastor Adam, and Head of Budget/Finance Chad. MM/S/C (Cory/Steve)

-A motion was made and passed for Pastors and other staff Christmas gifts of cash for 2023:

MM/S/C (Sheryl/Sharon)

Board Reports

1. **Worship & Music** - Interpreter for the Thanksgiving worship. The Christmas Cantata will be on 12/20/23 at 7:00 pm. No morning worship service on Christmas Eve. The Cantata will be replayed in place of the morning service. Christmas Eve service times will be 3:00/5:00/10:00pm. Monday, Christmas Day there will not be any services. An ad will be in the Citizen to advertise the Christmas services which will be displayed in the December 16th newspaper.

2. **Spiritual Life & Fellowship** - Pie will be served after the Thanksgiving service. The Lutefisk supper date has been set for 1/6/24.

3. **Discipleship/Marketing & Stewardship** - A public thank you to Cory Pohlman for boards to make baptismal boxes. A pancake feed will take place to celebrate our congregation and ministry on Sunday, 11/19/23. A speaker from Thrivent as part of the Stewardship campaign will speak on 12/3/23 after service.

4. **Properties** - Devin Nielson will be doing the snow removal.

5. **Budget & Finance** - Approved bills and other items.

6. **Christian Education** - Women's bible studies, children's activities including an overnight at Shetek for youth. At the Thanksgiving service, the children will sing. The children's Christmas program is set for 11:00 am on 12/10/23. The living nativity will occur on 12/13/23 with all other Wednesday evening activities canceled. On December 17th the children will sing at the Sagge Home. There will be an afterschool Christmas party on 12/18/23.

7. Youth & Family - 29 senior high students will attend the SWMN Synod Youth Gathering in Willmar Friday 11/17 to Saturday 11/18. The adults chaperoning and attending the National Youth Gathering in July 2024 will be Pastor Sarah and Kevin Heggeseeth.

8. **Church in Society** - The set-up for the living nativity was determined. There will be a giving tree for the Sagge Home residents displayed at ALC with desired items for Christmas gifts.

9. **GLOW** - 11/30/23 will be the GLOW Christmas Pasta Dinner for \$17/person and the entertainment will be singing Christmas carols. January quilting will resume. The Holiday Fair 2023 was a huge success and made \$9256.67 after expenses. The Youth made \$1779.52 on the new & nearly new sale. Disbursements of the money (checks written and sent 11/15/23) were as follows:

Shetek Capital Campaign \$2314.17 (25%)

Sharing Center \$925.67 (10%)

Lutheran Disaster Response \$925.67 (10%)

ALC bus \$2314.17 (25%)

ALC building maintenance fund \$925.67 (10%)

Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service \$925.67 (10%)

Shetek Ondini Partnership \$925.67 (10%)

ALC FINANCIAL UPDATEAs of 11/20/23:

Income: \$398,669

Expenses: \$470,804

Borrowed to date: \$34,000

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

RECORDS:

Baptisms: *No Baptisms this month.*

Deaths: *No Deaths this month.*

MEMORIALS:

Youth Fund – *In memory of Gayleen Woizeschke.*

Renovation Fund – *In memory of Robert A. Lange & Loring Paschke.*

*IN LOVING
Memory*

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, 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.



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



What a wonderful 2023 Holiday Fair. After expenses, we raised a total of \$9,256.67 to be distributed to Shetek Lutheran Ministries Capital Campaign, Shetek Ondini Partnership, Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Windom Sharing Center, ALC Building Maintenance Fund, and ALC bus/passenger van fund. An additional \$1770.52 was raised by the youth in the New/Nearly New department for a **grand total of \$11,036.19!**

Thank you to Thrivent Financial Services for two Action Team Grants, individuals who donated money, baked products, canned goods, soup ingredients, turkeys, crafts, and time.

Many people attended the event; many people put in countless hours of preparation, and many people worked that day. Without all of the volunteers, this would not have been possible or so successful. Thank you to the department chairs, all the workers and all the shoppers. It was a great day and fundraiser for many worthy causes. God bless!



December 2023



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

Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers



Shop for your favorite apparel at
shetek.org/store

These items make great gifts!

Wish List

- Vest style life jackets
- Extension Cords
- Volunteers

We thank you for all your
generosity this year!

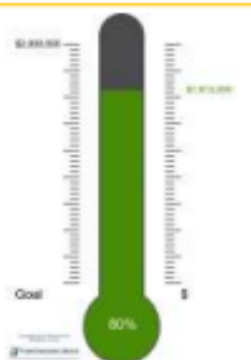
Mark your Calendar

- December 3 Lodge Dedication 3:00
- December 3 Annual Meeting 3:30
- December 3 Scandinavian Dinner 5:00 p.m.
- December 28 Winter Fun Day 9:30-3:00
- January 17-21 Quilt and Craft Retreat

Register at shetek.org or

Call 507-763-3567 for more information

We met our Phase 1 goal!
\$1,613,000 in gifts and
pledges! Our challenge
goal is \$2,000,000 and
with increased costs, our
budget has changed for
our different phases.
More info on our website.
<https://shetek.org/sim-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!



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Dear friends and partners in ministry,

November 2023

Jamaicans like to say about their country, “We likkle but we tallawa” (We’re little but we stand tall), especially with reference to the performance of Jamaican athletes on the world stage. I find that saying applicable also to the Lutheran community at the United Theological College of the West Indies (UTCWI), the ecumenical institution where I work, where Lutherans are small in number, but we make a splash. We did it again this semester.

The first to splash was Rev. Danielle Dokman, the pastor from Suriname whom I introduced in my last newsletter. She is an alumna of UTCWI and is back for one semester as part of her PhD program at Luther Seminary in Minnesota. Rev. Dokman was chosen to be the preacher for the opening worship service of the Thirteenth Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation in Krakow, Poland, September 13-19. The theme of the Assembly was “One Body, One Spirit, One Hope” from Ephesians 4:4. I encourage you to watch the opening service for a beautiful glimpse of global Lutheranism in action. Here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZUBk2O2hil&list=PL2-8BkDxwJ-SNCWTaHkuPG85ZbA28vbIh&index=17>.

Our second splash was in the last week of October, when the Lutheran community had responsibility for leading daily worship in the chapel. We invited people to reflect on what we, as Christians, are freed from and what we are freed for, using Martin Luther’s paradox, “A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none; a Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all” (*The Freedom of a Christian*, in *Martin Luther: Three Treatises* [Minneapolis: Fortress, 1970], 277). It sounds contradictory, doesn’t it? What do you think it means?

The last Lutheran splash of the semester was made by me, as the result of a bellyflop, you might say. Annually, the Student Association of UTCWI organizes a “mini-Olympics” of serious and silly athletic competitions between four “rooms” composed of students, faculty, and staff. I was in room B, which won fourth place! (Sometimes you have to put a positive spin on things.) I did my best for the team, but I am not one of Jamaica’s finest athletes.

Another type of thing altogether happened this semester that will mark a big change in my life and work. The ELCA, in consultation with me, with UTCWI, and with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana (ELCG), will be relocating me in February to Guyana to work with the





You can find Guyana in purple just below Venezuela and above Suriname in South America.

ELCG as it seeks to revitalize its ministerial and lay leadership training programs. Not only will it be a new place of work for me, but it will be a new kind of work for me, too. So, I ask you to accompany me during this time of transition with your prayers that God would give me a calm heart, keen attention, energy to adjust, and, as always, grace and mercy for the mistakes I will surely make.

In gratitude,

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.



The main street in New Amsterdam, Guyana, where I will be living and working.

1. To become a covenant congregation, download the form at 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 or calling 800-638-3522.