



April 2025

906 Prospect Avenue
PO Box 188
Windom, MN 56101
Phone: 507-831-1794
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The
AMERICAN
LUTHERAN
WINDOM, MN Church



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Our Staff:

Sarah Larsen Tadé, Lead Pastor: pastorsarah13@gmail.com
Adam Roberts, Pastor: pastoradamcroberts@gmail.com
Tera Elness, Director of Children, Youth, & Family Ministries:
teraalc@gmail.com
Jane Cartwright, Worship & Music Coordinator: cartj58@gmail.com
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Melanie Shamp, Administrative Assistant: winalc@windomnet.com
Jake Voth, Custodian
Email: winalc@windomnet.com * Website: www.alcofwindom.com

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!

Worship Schedule

Wednesday, April 2nd

12:00 PM Ecumenical Worship-Pastor
Adam Preaching
6:30 PM Lenten Worship

Saturday, April 5th

5:30 PM Chapel Service

Sunday, April 6th

5th Sunday of Lent

9:00 AM Worship w/Holy Communion

Wednesday, April 9th

12:00 PM Ecumenical Worship-
Catholics preaching
6:30 PM Lenten Worship

Saturday, April 12th

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

Sunday, April 13th

Palm Sunday

Second Sunday Noisy Offering

9:00 AM Worship w/Nursery-6th grade
singing

Wednesday, April 16th

NO WORSHIP/HOLY WEEK

Thursday, April 17th

Maundy Thursday

6:30pm Maundy Thursday Worship

Friday, April 18th

Good Friday

6:30pm Good Friday Worship

Saturday, April 19th

5:30 PM Easter Chapel Service w/Holy
Communion

Sunday, April 20th

Easter Sunday

7:00 AM Sunrise Service led by Youth
9:00 AM Festival Easter Service w/Holy
Communion

Wednesday, April 23rd

6:30 PM Worship w/Holy Communion

Saturday, April 26th

5:30 PM Chapel Service

Sunday, April 27th

2nd Sunday of Easter

9:00 AM Worship w/Holy Communion

Wednesday, April 30th

6:30 PM 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

All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.

-Acts 4:44-47a

When government funding to USAID got cut that caused the ELCA refugee charity to lose a substantial amount of their funding. To be honest, this got me upset for quite a while when I heard this. Well, I'm still upset, but it did get me thinking.

Back when Obama was making a case for the Affordable Care Act he ended up making a gaffe when comparing it to the post office saying that Fed Ex is doing fine while the post office is always having problems, unintentionally saying that private businesses do better than government controlled ones; just about everyone agreed with that gaffe.

In 1918 there was an influx of refugees from Europe following WWI leaving war-torn countries searching for stability. It was we Lutherans who simply stepped in, on our own, with our own funding, to help set up these families and get them on their feet. Ever since then we've been at that work. To this day our charity scores a 100% rating on the charity scale with 91% of donations going to supporting immigrants and refugees.

In fact, we Lutherans are so good at ministering to those in need that the government actually asked our help in 2018 to deal with the crisis at the Mexican border, which is where we started receiving government funding to help even more people.

Now, all of us will not agree on whether USAID should be funded by the government or not, but I would hope that we could all agree that the Holy Spirit has empowered our denomination to do God's will in the world and that God has acted through us since our refugee organization's inception to care for Jesus throughout the decades. Whether we have government funds or not will not stop Lutherans from caring for the stranger (Heb 13:2) and for the least of these (Matt 25:40).

With the defunding of USAID it got me thinking about what a great opportunity we Lutherans/Christians have now to show our true colors and to go back to the early Church's roots by living like the first Christians did as stated above, that is, to pool and share what we have with those who have less so that all are taken care of.

How easy it would be for us to throw in the towel after losing the blessing of all that government money that has helped thousands worldwide. But, as we started out with very little, and as the early Church started with very little, and how they both blessed so many with so little, Global Refuge is pivoting to keep finding ways to serve the stranger and the least of these.

What's cool about this is that we get to show the world that we're not powered by the backing of the US government, but instead, like the early Church, it is common, regular, working folk who gladly welcome the stranger and least of these in the world. I would hope that as the government keeps shrinking that our taxes would plummet so we could all give more to these awesome Lutheran charities, but, even if that doesn't happen, we Lutherans managed to sacrifice enough during the hard economic years of 1918 and 1919 to help 500 plus people.

All this to say that we are the body of Christ, able to do powerful things through Jesus, even without the support of the government. That we Christians are a powerhouse for good in the world whether the times are favorable or not. May we therefore continue to live as those of the early church did, by sharing and sacrificing our resources to make sure that the stranger and the least of these has enough, knowing what God can do with only five loaves and two fish.

Pastor Adam

LENT/EASTER

JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH-
WINDOM

906 PROSPECT AVE. WINDOM, MN
507.831.1794

SUNDAY, APRIL 13TH

Palm Sunday

9AM WORSHIP WITH K-6TH GRADE
SINGING

THURSDAY, APRIL 17TH

Maundy Thursday

6:30PM WORSHIP WITH 3RD-6TH
GRADE SINGING AND FIRST
COMMUNION FOR 5TH GRADERS

FRIDAY, APRIL 18TH

Good Friday

6:30PM WORSHIP

APRIL 20TH

Easter Sunday

7AM - YOUTH-LED SUNRISE SERVICE

8AM-9AM - EASTER BREAKFAST (EGG BAKES,
FRESH BAKED CINNAMON ROLLS, COFFEE,
ORANGE JUICE, MILK AND WATER. FREE WILL
DONATION - YOUTH FUNDRAISER)

9AM - FESTIVAL EASTER WORSHIP

NOON ECUMENICAL WORSHIP SCHEDULE-

ALL SERVICES TAKE PLACE AT THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 2 – Pastor Sarah – Presbyterians serve lunch

April 9 – Catholic church preaching and serving lunch

Wednesday Lenten Suppers

April 2nd— Soups—Spiritual Life & Fellowship Bd.

April 9th—Pulled pork, salads, bars-Bethany Lutheran

Wednesday Suppers

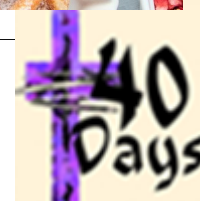
April 16th-NO SUPPER/HOLY WEEK

April 23rd—Creamy chicken, mashed potatoes, carrots

April 30th—Smorgasbord



\$40 FOR 40 DAYS LENTEN CHALLENGE- One dollar a day for 40 days doesn't sound like much does it? But that \$40 can put food on the table in for those in need. We challenge you to donate and support the Lenten challenge. All money donated will go toward the \$1000 we bring to the Banquet in Sioux Falls in July and any remaining money will go to the Windom School Backpack Program. Please make checks to American Lutheran Church with Lenten Challenge in the memo line. Thank you! Please note, 40 Days \$40 Lenten envelopes will be placed on the tables in the narthex.



Worship and Music

Worship and Music Notes April, 2025 Jane Cartwright, Coordinator

Apr. 5/7, 2025
Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

Apr. 12/13, 2025
Palm Sunday
Luke 19:28-40
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 22:14-23:56

Saturday - Sunday Scriptures

Apr. 19/20, 2025
Easter Sunday
Acts 10:34-43
Ps, 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Cor. 15:19-26
Luke 24:1-12

Apr. 23/27, 2025
Acts 5:27-32
Psalm 118:14-29
Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31

Easter Season Journey

For fifty days we will celebrate Easter! Over these weeks, we will hear how the Risen Christ makes connections. Be it brave Thomas, fishermen, or shepherds, we use the images to connect with the Risen Christ. Christ commands his followers to love one another as he has loved.

Palm Sunday
April 13, 2025
9:00 am
All Children Sing

HOLY WEEK



Maundy Thursday
April 17, 6:30 pm
First Communion
Gr 3-6 students sing
Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35



Good Friday
April 18, 6:30pm
The Way of the Cross

Check out the
Worship Bulletin board!
Scripture readers,
Holy Communion
Assistants
Sign up is available.

Christ is Risen!
Chapel Easter Worship
Saturday, April 19, 5:30pm

Youth Led Sunrise -Sanctuary
Sunday, April 20, 7:00am

Festive Easter Worship -
Sanctuary
Sunday, April 20, 9:00am

Easter
Special Music
Play an instrument?
Share a song?
Sign up on the bulletin
board.

Farewell Open House
for
Pastor Sarah and family
Sunday, April 13
Pick up choir will rehearse
at 1:30pm in Choir room.
Program is at 2:30pm.

Worship Notes:

Ushers: John Berge, Keith Bloomgren, Travis
Freiwald, Jay Mickelson, Steve Nasby,
Kermit Twait

Holy Communion:
Saturday, Apr. 12 and Apr. 19, 5:30pm
Sunday, Apr. 6, 20, 27 at 9:00am
Wednesday Worship, Apr. 23, 6:30 pm

Noisy Offering: Apr. 12 / 13
• Noisy Offering collection this month goes
• toward The Banquet. ALC travels to Sioux
• Falls in July, for an evening of serving a meal
• to those in need.

There will be
no worship on
Wednesday,
April 16.

Join us for
Blessing of the Quilts,
April 27, 2025

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

Did you know that you can see services on the ALC WEB-
SITE? Don't miss out. Go to [http://](http://www.alcofwindom.com/)
www.alcofwindom.com/ and click on the Media tab to
watch a service that you might have missed.

Christian Ed/Youth & Family

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



6TH GRADERS!

It's time to CELEBRATE!

WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS !

Wednesday, April 30th - Skylight Ct
 Sunday, May 4th - Fellowship Hall

Join Tera during your 6th grader's regular WS/SS class time for a **SpeCiaL CeLeBrAtIoN** and "Look Ahead" at what the **NEXT** leg of their **Faith Formation** journey will look like here at ALC!

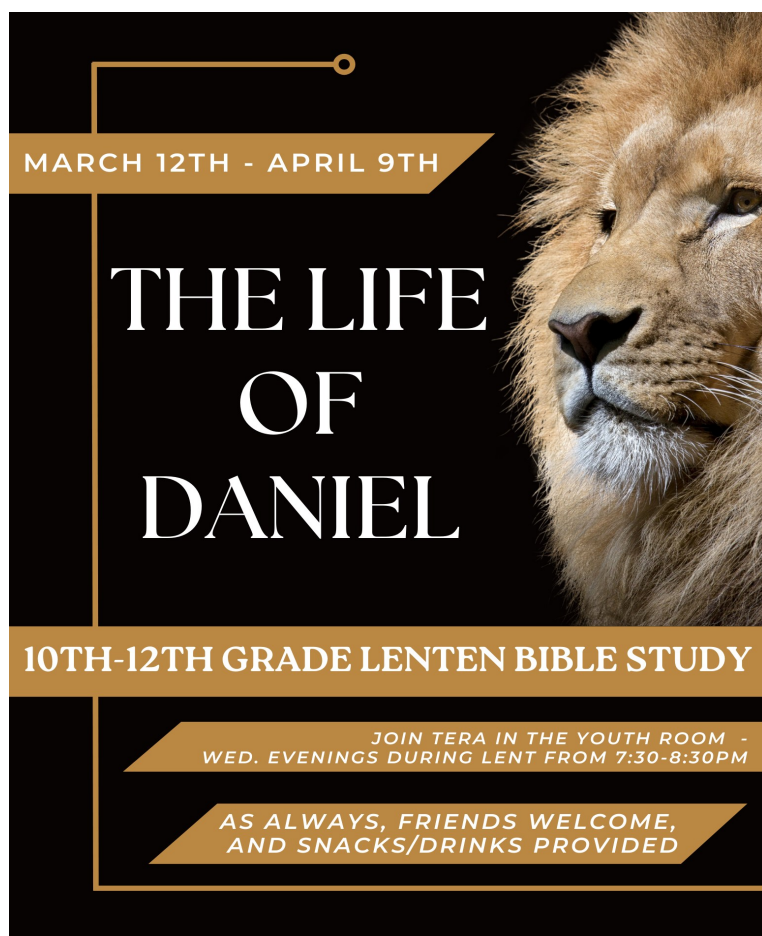


Congratulations to this year's First Communion Students!

Johan Anderson
 Brody Bunting
 Calvin Elston
 Izabella Kinkenborg
 Tucker Knutson
 Madden Masters
 Cadence Ralston
 Logen Smith
 Teigen Burmeister
 Kyla Derickson
 Colin Joyce
 Shayla Jurgens
 Claire Mesner
 Addy Mickelson

Maundy THURSDAY

April 17, 2025



MARCH 12TH - APRIL 9TH

THE LIFE OF DANIEL

10TH-12TH GRADE LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

JOIN TERA IN THE YOUTH ROOM -
 WED. EVENINGS DURING LENT FROM 7:30-8:30PM

AS ALWAYS, FRIENDS WELCOME,
 AND SNACKS/DRINKS PROVIDED



Fifth Grade First Communion Classes

-Thursdays-
After School until 4:30pm
March 27, April 3, April 10

We will pick up the kids after school!!

Snack & Drink will be Provided!

Christian Ed/Youth & Family

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

April Acolyte Schedule

Wednesday, April 2nd—Carter Knutson, Wyatt Knutson

Sunday, April 6th—Graham Miller, Kieran Anderson

Wednesday, April 9th—Wyatt Soderholm, Mason Chester

Sunday, April 13th—Tristan Ralston, Bella Borer

Wednesday, April 16th—NO WORSHIP

Thursday, April 17th/Maundy Thursday—Ava Scheitel, Olivia Joyce

Sunday, April 20th—TBD

Wednesday, April 23rd—Cameron Grant, Jonah Lohse

Sunday, April 27th—Penelope Roberts, Corbin Anderson

Wednesday, April 30th—Macie Carlson, Suchin Kruse

Sunday May 4th—Morgan Roskamp, Ruby Baloun

Wednesday, May 7th—Elie Kleven, Makayla Whiting



**END OF SCHOOL YEAR
YOUTHWORKS MISSION TRIP!**

DULUTH

MAY 28-31, 2025

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
OUR YOUTH
AS THEY GO AND SERVE!**

THE AMERICAN LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF WINDOM
PRESENTS A

WS/SS END OF YEAR Celebration

OPEN TO
THE
PUBLIC!

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE END
OF OUR WS/SS YEAR WITH
A ONE-NIGHT FOOD TRUCK PARTY
IN OUR CHURCH PARKING LOT!

- SIMPLE SWEET CHEESECAKE
- LA TEJANITA
- OLE'S GATHERING PLACE
- ANGELA'S EGG ROLL
- CARIBBEAN JERK CHICKEN
- SWEET STOP-SHAVED ICE
- STEVE'S ALL-AMERICAN
KETTLE CORN & MINI DONUTS

Wednesday, May 7th
4pm-6:30pm

OUR LAST WEDNESDAY NIGHT WORSHIP
FOR THE SEASON BEGINS AT 6:30PM
AND OUR WS/SS STUDENTS
WILL BE SINGING! 🎵🎵🎵
WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US FOR THIS
SUPER FUN EVENING!

906 PROSPECT AVE
PARKING LOT IS OFF OF 10TH ST.

SENIOR HIGH 9TH-12TH

YOUTH Gathering



Fri-Sat, April 4-5, 2025

Please keep the 11 youth & 3 adult leaders
in prayer as they engage in this cool
opportunity to gather and grow!

Scrapbook Retreat

2025 SPRING ALC YOUTH FUNDRAISER SCRAPBOOKING & CRAFTING RETREAT

MARY MOHLENCAMP & THE ALC YOUTH ARE

HOSTING A TWO-DAY RETREAT FOR ALL
CRAFTERS AND STAMPERS/SCRAPPERS

"ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT
THE ALC YOUTH PROGRAM!"



Retreat Itinerary:

****Friday Night:**

Supper at 6PM

Brownies and Ice Cream
for a late night snack!

****Saturday Morning:**

Brunch at 10am, water
and coffee provided.

Please bring snacks to
share.

There will be door prizes!

Electrical outlets will be
available.

FRIDAY, APRIL 25TH
9AM-MIDNIGHT
SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH
9AM-7PM

\$40 for one day
or \$60 for BOTH days

Want to come early?

*Join us Thursday, April 24th
1pm-10pm for an additional \$15*

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT

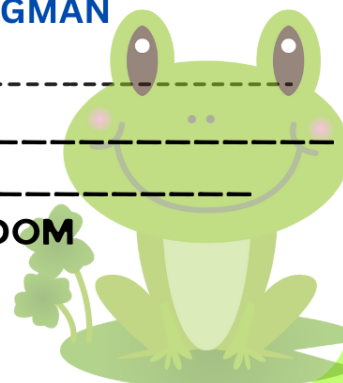
MARY MOHLENCAMP AT
MARYMOHL@RCONNECT.COM
(507)822-1179

PLEASE FILL OUT THE REGISTRATION FORM BELOW AND MAKE CHECKS
PAYABLE TO ALC YOUTH

MAIL TO THE ADDRESS SHOWN, ATTN: WENDY PIGMAN

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____ ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ ZIP: _____ EMAIL: _____

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WINDOM
906 PROSPECT AVE. (PO BOX 188)
WINDOM, MN 56101 (507) 831-1794



Good to Know

DITCH CLEAN-UP

Join Discipleship, Marketing, and Stewardship to help clean up our community.

DSM has adopted a mile of Highway 71 right past Smith Auto and we'll get that stretch of land into shape on Sunday, May 4th at 10:15 (right after worship). Everything will be provided, although if you bring work gloves that would be helpful. All we really need though are some extra hands of anyone fourteen years old and older. Please let Pastor Adam or the office know if you'll be there as space is limited.



Windom Ministerial Presents:

A FREE MOVIE



THIS MONTH'S SPONSOR, WINDOM MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION



Rated PG-13
duration: 2h

13 APRIL 2025

1PM



**Windom State Theater
926 4th Ave.
Windom, MN 56101**

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.



Let's Learn Together!

Adult Learning

MAKE A STATEMENT!

Join your pastors and others from your congregation to study and discuss the ELCA Social Statements one by one!

UPCOMING DATES AND TOPICS

3/16/25- Death Penalty
4/6/25- Economic Life

If you like you may read the statement ahead of time at:
<https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements>



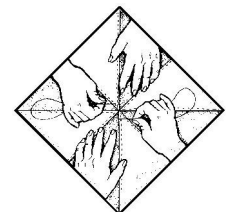
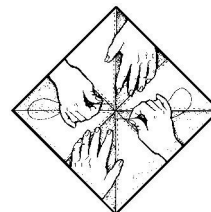
Dates: 3/16/25 & 4/6/25

Time: 10:15am

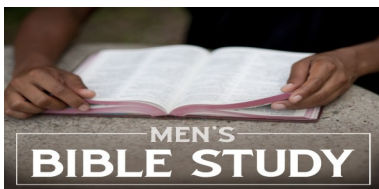
Place: Meeting Room

Altar Guild will be meeting on Tuesday, April 8th at 2pm.

Quilting for Graduating Seniors-We are in the finishing stages of our quilts and we are in need of people who can tie a knot or cut some thread! This would be a great opportunity for **family members of Graduating Seniors** to have a part in making their quilts! We will be meeting on **Tuesday, April 1st from 6pm-8pm, Sunday, April 6th from 1pm-4pm and Sunday, April 27th from 1pm-4pm.** Come when you can, stay as long as you would like!



GLOW and More!



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!!

GLOW
Bible Study

Thursday, April 10
2 p.m.
ALC Meeting Room

March/April/May
Gather magazine pg. 24
Faithfulness: Session 4
Faith Risks - Jairus and the faithful woman

Copy of the Bible Study
available in the
Church Office.

GLOW is a Women's Ministry of the American Lutheran Church

GLOW
A Women's Ministry of the American Lutheran Church 2025
Sewing & Kit Assembly
for Lutheran World Relief

1st & 3rd & 5th Tuesdays
April 1 & 15 + April 29 (last Day)
9 am - 2-ish
Come for as long as you want!

No tricks here! (Meeting on April Fool's Day)
Coffee and goodies and fellowship,
along with helping our neighbors!
We would be glad to have you join us.
Coming for the day? Bring a sack lunch

Questions?
Call Kathy Hiley: 507-822-1046 or Jackie Turner 507-822-1633

Welcome

Three families in our community have noticed that there are people in our area who could really use Jesus whom other congregations just aren't reaching. They have decided to start a congregation called Mission Reg to try and evangelize and found that they had need of a building. After some good discussion the Properties Board and the Church Council worked up a contract for them to use our chapel from one to four on Sundays. So, if you hear worshipping going on here in the afternoon, know that you didn't miss church that morning, but that another group is trying to reach people for Jesus. If you see them around make sure to welcome them and say hi.



Join an online discernment group

Do you ever get a sense that God is tapping you on the shoulder? Do you wonder what God is calling you to do with your life? Are you considering learning more about church leadership and whether it might be for you? Have you wondered what seminary study is like today? You are not alone! The ELCA, in partnership with our seminaries, is once again offering online discernment groups where you can join with others who share your curiosity. Sign up by visiting elcaseminaries.org and filling out the contact form, or by emailing recruitment@elca.org.

TRY TO
DISCERN WHAT
IS PLEASING
TO THE LORD.

EPHESIANS 5:10, ESV



CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES FROM March 2025 MEETING

The March 11, 2025, ALC of Windom Church Council meeting was called to order by President John Shamp at 8:05 PM.

In attendance: Pastor Sarah, Pastor Adam, John Shamp, Kim Armstrong, Wendy Ahnupkana, Kevin Heggeseeth, Kathy Hiley, Karen Skarpohl, Brandon Roskamp, Wendy Newman, Natalie Burmeister, Al Staples, Deb Polzin, Kristy Mickelson, Keith Pohlman

Devotions and opening prayer were provided by Pastor Adam.

Two correspondence notes were shared.

The secretary's report for February was reviewed and approved. MM/S/C (Kevin/Kim)

The treasurer's report for February was reviewed and approved. MM/S/C (Kathy/Karen)

The Pastors' reports were reviewed.

Old Business

1. Drafts of Church Usage Agreements (Member and Non-Member) and Church Contract Draft revisions/additions/deletions:

Member Contract

- highlight the underlined portion in top paragraph (thus agreements must be printed in color)
- if able, a donation would be appreciated
- Chapel and Sanctuary, with approval of pastor(s)
- last sentence on front "For technological equipment set up and usage, fees will be required: (include requests here)"

Non-Member Contract

- Fellowship Hall, projector & screen usage \$25
- Sound, Sanctuary only \$75
- Sanctuary, projector & screen usage \$75

Church Contract

- \$50 damage deposit
- remove "and the bathrooms in the office hallway" from first General Guidelines
- remove "locking doors"
- addition "In the event of cancellation of ALC services and activities, The Guest services/event will also be cancelled for that day"

A motion was made and approved to amend the Church Contract draft with the changes presented above. MM/S/C (Kevin/Kathy)

New Business

1.

Other - Pastor Sarah spoke of her call to be Lead Pastor at Granite Falls Lutheran Church. Her last Sunday at ALC will be Easter Sunday, April 20th. The Council is in the process of setting up a meeting with Heather Culuris from the Southwest MN Synod to work on the transition. A farewell celebration for Pastor Sarah will be held on Palm Sunday, April 13th.

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.

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

ALC FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of March 24, 2025:

Income: \$132,383

Expense: \$138,532

Carryover 2024: \$17,920



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

CHURCH RECORDS:

Deaths : *Delores Malmgren*

Beryl Morton

Connie Redding

Irene Menken

Baptisms: *Natalie Clarece Wenisch, daughter of Astaria Blanshan & Tristen Wenisch*

Janet Itzel Nerhus, daughter of Ashley Nerhus

Grahm Walker Zieske, son of Tyler & Sydney Zieske

MEMORIALS:

Video/Media Fund – *In memory of Doug Woizeschke.*

General Fund – *In memory of Syd Rupp, Beryl Morton & Noel Rahn.*

Van/Bus Fund – *In memory of Syd Rupp.*

*In Loving
Memory*

OFFERING OPTIONS:

The ministry of our congregation continues in many ways! The options remain open for ways of contributing your offering. 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.

Board Reports:

1. **Worship & Music** - acolyte robes ordered and will split the cost with Altar Guild, all the upcoming Sunday activities, organizing the farewell for Pastor Sarah 10-11:30AM on 4/13/25
2. **Spiritual Life & Fellowship** - tables of 8, serving Lent supper, upcoming baptisms
3. **Discipleship/Marketing & Stewardship** - 5/4/25 set for Adopt-a-Highway, discussed summer worship ideas
4. **Budget & Finance** - March budget looks good
5. **Properties** - building insurance increasing another \$7000 annually
6. **Christian Education** - March 19/23 Grandparents Day, classes are set for 1st communion, egg hunt on Palm Sunday, last day of Sunday School May 7th
7. **Youth & Family** - weather issues for Fat Tuesday meal, Gustavus Leadership Day was phenomenal with 15 kids, Lent suppers, Senior High Bible Study, upcoming scrapbooking retreat, need people to tie quilts for the seniors, 14 youth currently signed up for the Duluth Mission trip
8. **Church in Society** - May baskets will be made, 40 day challenge for the Banquet and School Backpack program, date set for The Banquet serving (7/7/25) and the Block Party (8/17/25)
9. **GLOW** - bible study, serving coffee hour donuts

April 2025



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

Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers



Please apply to join our fun staff this summer.
<https://shetek.org/work-at-shetek/>

Wish List

- Volunteers
- New Vacuums
- Keurig
- Spark Bibles
- Board Games
- Office Supplies – Staplers, dry erase markers, paper

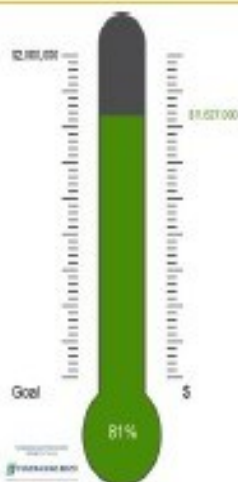


Happy Easter!

Mark your Calendar

April 6 Hiking Club
April 11-12 Confirmation Retreat
April 21-24 Quilt & Craft Retreat
May 18 Hiking Club

We met our Phase 1 goal! \$1,627,000 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/slm-master-plan/>



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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Dear friends and partners in ministry,

March 2025

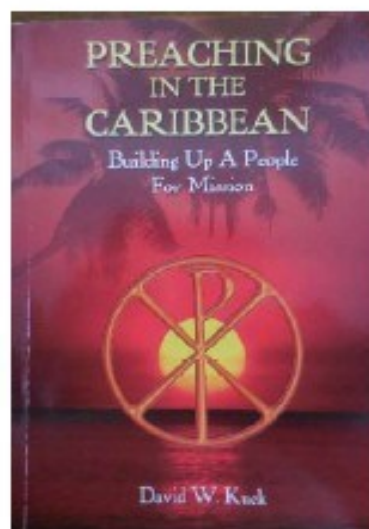
Greetings to you from Guyana, where I have just begun my second year of work with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana (ELCG), helping it to develop its leadership training programs. Part of my work here involves visiting the congregations of the ELCG to learn more about them and to support them by preaching. On Ash Wednesday, I was preaching for the three congregations of St. John parish, and together we heard these profound words from Paul in 2 Corinthians 5:21, "For our sake God made Christ to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Christ we might become the righteousness of God." These words make both Christ's death and his resurrection ours. We prayed that our Lenten reflections would enable us to realize how deeply we are involved in the story of Jesus' death and resurrection, so that we might know the joy of God's salvation. I include you in that prayer, too.

When I am not preaching, I am coordinating the church's Lutheran Lay Academy, which started a new semester in January. The students are taking two courses: Preaching, and Creeds and Confessions. The preaching course is being taught by Rev. Dr. David Kuck, a retired ELCA missionary who taught for 23 years in Jamaica and who wrote the textbook the students are using, *Preaching in the Caribbean*. It is such a treat for the students to have him as a teacher!

I am teaching the Creeds and Confessions course, using the *Book of Concord*. Since we do not have time to read the entire *Book of Concord*, we are concentrating on the creeds, the catechisms, and the Augsburg Confession, because those confessional documents are given primary importance in the Constitution of the ELCG, just as they are in the Constitution of the ELCA. It is the first time that a course like it has been taught in the Lutheran Lay Academy, so the students are really encountering something new, and we have interesting discussions in class. I will share with you some of the highlights so far.

We opened the course by celebrating the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed. As the students explored the history of the Creed and events commemorating its anniversary, what struck them was the global nature of the Creed. They realized that when they say the creed in their congregation, they are saying it with churches all over the world (including yours!) and way back in time. They said it makes them feel part of a worldwide church.

From the Creeds, we moved to Martin Luther's Small and Large Catechisms, beginning with the Ten Commandments. In his explanation of the commandments, Luther repeats a pattern: "We are to fear and love God so that we do not do X, but instead do Y." In other words, he views each commandment not only from a negative angle but also from a positive one. Thinking positively about the commandments was a new exercise for most students. As we tried it on the eighth commandment, "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor," one student imagined a scenario that kept opening up more and more possibilities for her. The situation she imagined was that of a neighbor who goes out every night and leaves her children alone. The student applied the eighth commandment to this situation by saying that we should not gossip about this neighbor, but instead, we should speak directly with her. Then the student realized that this might lead to another step: We might learn something about our neighbor and her situation that would put the whole scenario in another light. We would come to understand our neighbor better. Then the student took this yet a step further: If we learned that this neighbor was not negligent, but had to go out to work, we might offer to care for her children from time to time. Through this one



student's chain of ideas, the whole class saw how thinking about the commandments positively widens their meaning and allows us to see more ways we can do good to one another.

In his catechism, Luther follows the Ten Commandments with the Apostles Creed and the Lord's Prayer because we do not keep the commandments well, so we need to hear in the Creed about what God has done and continues to do to rectify us as we remain connected to God's work through prayer. I asked the students to identify the sentence from Luther's explanation of the Creed that meant the most to them, and the majority selected something from the first article of the Creed, the article on creation. One student chose, "I believe that God has created me together with all that exists," and he wrote that this made him think of God's act of creation in a new way: not only as something that happened once a long time ago, but also as something that happens daily, even in our own lives. Another student underscored that by highlighting, "God made me."

In our next class, we will study the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. I am going to put stress on Baptism because it has been sadly neglected in the Caribbean. Until the middle of the eighteenth century, the baptized Dutch and English plantation owners, including the few Lutherans among them, refused to allow baptism to be administered to the enslaved Africans who worked for them because they feared the changes that this would bring to the relationship between them. Even after baptisms were permitted on the plantations, the evangelists did not tell the newly baptized much about the meaning of their baptism. In 1807, a special abbreviated Bible was published for use in instructing the enslaved: *Select Parts of the Holy Bible, for the Use of the Negro Slaves, in the British West-India Islands*. It contains none of the passages from Paul's letters about baptism as a dying with Christ and a rising with him to a new life.

The legacy of slavery has been long and hard. Even though now everyone has access to the whole Bible, baptism as an act of mercy lavished on us by God, and as the reception of a rich, new identity in Christ, has been undervalued here. It is presently overshadowed by a view of baptism as our decision, our act of public commitment, and our sacrificial offering of ourselves to God. I hope that when the students read what Luther says about baptism, it gives them a new perspective and helps them appreciate the depth of the gift that they have in their baptism.

Please join in my prayers for the students as they learn. It means so much to me that you are sharing in this work that I do. Thank you!

Carolyn

Rev. Dr. Carolyn Schneider

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in partnership with The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

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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 or call 800-638-3522, ext. 2820.
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