



July 2025

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Windom, MN 56101
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The American LUTHERAN WINDOM, MN Church



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Our Staff:

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Steven Rye, Interim Pastor: stevenjrye@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!

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.

Worship Schedule

Saturday, July 5th

5:30 PM Chapel Service

Sunday, July 6th

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM Worship w/Holy Communion

Saturday, July 12th

5:30 PM Chapel Service w/Holy
Communion, & Noisy Offering-in the
Sanctuary

Sunday, July 13th

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Noisy Offering

9:00 AM Worship at the Lake

Saturday, July 19th

5:30 PM Chapel Service w/Holy
Communion

Sunday, July 20th

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM Worship w/Holy Communion

Saturday, July 26th

5:30 PM Chapel Service

Sunday, July 27th

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 AM Worship



Pastor's Message

“Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you...” 1 Peter 3:15b

Every year Luther Seminary brings some students to southwest Minnesota to get a taste of rural ministry since most seminarians, like me, are city folk. They were down the other week and we had a conversation which was all over the place from farming practices, inheritances, corporate farming, organic farming etc. While we were eating lunch, though, the conversation hit a completely random topic that has stuck with me.

One of the students is in a PhD program and is a member of an Assembly of God (AG) congregation. He mentioned a weird event that happened to him at Luther. He said a bunch of the Lutheran students invited him to dinner. They went in an uber, all of them from across the country, and the driver kept asking how they knew each other. This AG student was going to answer when one of the Lutherans changed the subject. This happened multiple times to cause him to wonder why these people wouldn't just say they were seminary students training to become pastors.

He said that and I felt convicted. More than once Beth has noticed that I too do the same thing. If a stranger asks me what I do for a living I find ways to *not* say that I'm a pastor. I've told Beth that the reason is because everything changes when that's thrown out there.

For example, when we went to Scotland and were touring on a small bus I finally let it out I was a preacher and the dynamics changed. When we went out for dinner and if I had a couple of beers or a dram you could tell I was being watched and there were a handful of playful, but slightly pointed, comments about my alcohol consumption and being a pastor.

There was an Australian on the trip and I found multiple times when we were touring some place that he'd swing by to have serious, in-depth conversations about God and religion and, feel free to judge me, but I just wanted to be a “regular person” on vacation and to leave the seriousness and heaviness of the Church behind. I wanted to have a beer without being held to a higher standard (judged) and I didn't want to shoulder spiritual burdens while I was on vacation.

Up until the conversation with the AG student I felt justified in my behavior but now I have found this topic heavy on my mind. It is true, as the AG student noticed, that my behavior is typical of Lutheran clergy. I've been since wondering if that's ok. Do we *get* to take a break from serving Jesus? Do we *get* to “turn off” our Christianity so we can have a breather?

The Bible has passages of Jesus leaving everyone to be alone to pray, most prophets find themselves alone quite a bit, but there are enough passages that ring clear that, for servants of Jesus, we are called to always be ready to testify, meaning, to tell others about Jesus. Jesus tells this to his disciples after telling them that the world will hate them, or, in my case, when they judge you with a higher standard in (what I feel) the hopes that you'll be brought low and also to assail you with questions to try and prove how God either doesn't exist, or is a terrible god.

I think most of us don't want to be in those positions, yet, they are prime opportunities to speak about Jesus. More often than not non-Christians keep their door to talking about religion closed. When they finally do open, even if they're opened for not-so-friendly purposes, Jesus has given us an opportunity to share about why he is so awesome, even if we're on vacation, even if we really just want to enjoy touring an awesome castle in Scotland.

My track record is terrible in this category, but, thanks to God placing an AG Christian in my path to open my heart, I'm going to try harder to witness to Christ more. I hope you'll join me in this.

Pastor Adam

Worship and Music



Worship and Music Notes July, 2025

Jane Cartwright, Coordinator



SW MN Synod Assembly was held on June 6 /7 at Gustavus College in St. Peter. Pastor Adam, Jane and Lindsey Cartwright attended in person. Marlene and Bob Johnson attended online. Highlights included beautiful worship services in Christ Chapel, listening to Synod Youth Band, Bible Study lead by Rev. Karoline Lewis, and hearing from camps and other outreach entities,. The assembly passed a resolution allowing for possible renovation of the Synod Office, located in Redwood Falls, and renting out a portion of the office space.

"That my joy may be in you"



July 5/6

Isaiah 66:10-14
Psalm 66:1-9
Galatians 6:1-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 12/ 13

Deut. 30:9-14
Psalm 25:1-10
Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

July

Scriptures

July 19 /20

Genesis 18:1-10a
Psalm 15
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

July 27 / 28

Genesis 18:20-32
Psalm 138
Colossians 2:6-19
Luke 11:1-13



Sunday 9:00 am Worship Notes:

July 6:

Holy Communion
*World Hunger Envelopes

July 13:

Worship at the Lake
Tegels Park
Noisy Offering: GLOW -baby kits

July 20:

Mid-year meeting

July 28: Holy Communion

Saturday 5:30 pm Worship Notes:

July 5: Chapel

July 13:

Worship in Sanctuary
Holy Communion
Noisy Offering:
GLOW Baby kits

July 20:

Holy Communion

July 27: Chapel

**Be rooted in your
faith.**

**Show love,
Show kindness,
Show compassion,
to all you meet.**

Usher team: Gary Nelson

It's Vacation Season!
Consider signing up for
Readers - Holy Communion
- Special Music

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://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)

"At the Table"

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Vacation Bible School
Teacher/Helper/Leader Mtg!
Monday, July 21st
6:30pm Skylight Court

Those entering 7th-12th next school year ARNOLDS PARK

sunday, august 17th

leaving after church at 10am - back at 4pm

\$25
ING TICKET &
TRANSPORTATION

ACCT.\$
MAY BE
USED!

FRIENDS
WELCOME!

SIGN UP WITH TERA BY AUGUST 3RD
507-822-3377 | teraalc@gmail.com



2025 Online VBS Registration

Registration
Deadline is
July 10th!

Scan the QR code below: open your camera on your smartphone. Move your camera so the QR code is in the frame. You'll see the code's URL, click on that link to go to our VBS registration.



Sunday, July 27th -
Thursday, July 31st
5:30pm-8:00pm



Offered to all kiddos (regardless of denomination)
who have completed Nursery-5th Grade
(Nursery indicates 1 year of Pre-school under the belt)

Please Note: You do not need to fill out the registration form right away, the URL link will stay in your internet browser on your phone if you would like to fill out the online form later tonight.

Please keep the
members of our
Boundary Waters Trip
in your prayers
as they venture North
July 13th-18th

Wyatt Knutson
Carter Knutson
Abby Freiwald
Theora Ahnupkana
Penelope Roberts
Lillian Doescher
Braxton Pohlman
Pastor Adam

Christian Ed/Youth & Family

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



"At the Table"

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

wish list

- Naan Bread(minis at Sam's club, 2 boxes)
- Mini bagels(enough for 100)
- American cheese(50 slices)
- Lunch meat(ham & turkey, enough for 50 sandwiches)
- White bread-5 loaves
- String Cheese(100)
- Beef Sticks(100)
- Dried apricots-3 bags
- Dried mangos-3 bags
- Baguette bread(10 long loafs)
- Round wheat bread(10 loafs)
- Peanut butter(2 lg jars)
- Baby Bel cheese-100
- Sunflower Seeds (in the shell) 1 large bag or several regular sized
- Baby carrots-4 larger bags
- Summer sausage-2 sticks
- White Paper Plates (the cheap ones!)
- Clear Contact Paper

If you'd like to donate one of the items listed,
please let Tera or Melanie know!
Thank You Church!

Teen Summer Breakfast Club



Let's have Breakfast & Bible Study!

Second Wednesday Morn of Each Summer Month

June 11 * July 9 * August 13

8:00-9:00am

SKylight Court

RSVP to Tera * Friends Welcome!

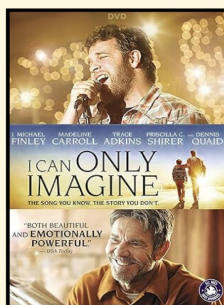
GOOD TO KNOW

Windom Ministerial Presents:

A FREE MOVIE



**THIS MONTH'S SPONSOR,
ST FRANCIS
XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH**



Rated PG
duration: 1h 50m

**13 JULY
2025**

1PM



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

2025 SUMMER ALC YOUTH FUNDRAISER YOU'RE ONE IN A MELON 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!****

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 22ND
9AM-MIDNIGHT**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 23RD
9AM-7PM**

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

*Want to come early?
Join us Thursday, August 21st
1pm-10pm for an additional \$15*

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.**

**IF YOU NEED LODGING, PLEASE LET US KNOW WITH
YOUR REGISTRATION. WE WILL CONTACT YOU.
WE HAVE 2 OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR LODGING.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT
MARY MOHLENCAMP AT
MARYMOHL@RCONNECT.COM
(507)822-1179**

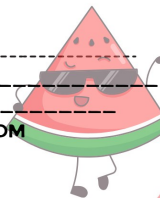
**PLEASE FILL OUT THE REGISTRATION FORM BELOW AND MAKE CHECKS
PAYABLE TO ALC YOUTH
MAIL TO THE ADDRESS SHOWN**



NAME: _____ PHONE: _____ ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____ EMAIL: _____

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



Church Softball Schedule 2025

July 6th - ALC 1 vs Gathering @ Bergen 5:30pm

ALC 1 vs Methodist @ Bergen 5:30pm

ALC 2 vs. Center Point @ Eagle Field 5:30pm

ALC 2 vs Palauan @ Eagle Filed 6:45pm

July 13th- ALC 1 vs E-Free @ Eagle Field 5:30pm

ALC 1 vs ALC 2 @ Eagle Field 6:45pm

ALC 2 vs Gathering @ Quest Field 5:30pm

July 20th - ALC 1 vs St. John's @ Quest Filed 5:30pm

ALC 1 vs Gathering @ Quest Field 6:45pm

ALC 2 vs E-Free @ Eagle Field 5:30pm

ALC 2 vs St. John's @ Legion Field 6:45pm

July 27th—ALC 1 vs Bergen @ Bergen 6:45pm

ALC 1 vs St. John's @ Bergen 8:00pm

ALC 2 vs Palauan @ Legion Field 5:30pm

ALC 2 vs Baptist @ Legion Field 6:45pm

**Church
Softball
Tourney!**
At Bergen Ballfield

**Starting Friday, August 1st and going
through Sunday, August 4th!**

**Come and enjoy the games and the amazing concessions
that will be available!**

Meet the Pastor



Pastor Steven Rye started as our interim pastor on June 18th. Here is a little bit about Pastor Steven to help us get to know him better!

I grew up in a northeastern Iowa town, not too different from Windom. My father was a Lutheran pastor, and I attended Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. Throughout my high school, college, and a year after college, I spent eight summers at Bible camps. I then pursued my theological studies at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa.

While at Wartburg, I married Suzanne, an occupational therapist. She's the daughter of a Swedish Lutheran pastor (Augustana Synod). We met in college outside the door of the intern pastor, not a place known for finding a girlfriend.

We got married during our seminary years, and she accompanied me to my internship in campus ministry at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln.

I was ordained in April 1994.

My ministry career began with serving as the associate pastor in International Falls, Minnesota. Later, I moved to Strawberry Point, Iowa, where I served as a parish pastor in a small rural town. (The entire county had no stoplights.) My campus ministry connections led me to Purdue University, where I served as a campus pastor for 12 years.

As my time in campus ministry came to an end, I began to consider the family cabin near Two Harbors in Minnesota. I felt a strong call to ministry in the Northeastern Minnesota synod.

I've been serving in the Lord of Life Lutheran Church congregation of 800 active members for the past 10 years. In October of last year, I resigned my call there and took a six-month sabbatical.

Along the way, my wife and I have raised two children: a daughter, Rebecca, who works for CliftonLarsonAllen, an accounting firm in the city, and a son, Kristoffer, who works as a computer programmer for a medical records company in Madison.

I'm eager to embark on my next chapter in ministry and look forward to accompanying you in the next chapter of your congregation's life.



Good to Know

Who?



How?

Q&A

with Pastor Adam



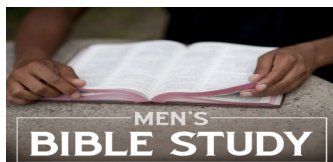
Ask me a question about...

Join Pastor Adam and others for dinner and conversation at Jack Slade's. Topics have ranged from abortion, the feeling that ELCA leadership isn't listening to regular people, the ELCA's stance on gun control, to the ELCA's stance on many other things. The group will meet again at **Jack Slade's in the Fireside Room on Thursday, July 17th from 6 to 7:30 pm.** Grab a drink and a bite to eat, bring questions or just come to listen and chime in. Come on time or come later. Come for the whole time or for ten minutes. Either way, you are welcome and so are your questions.

What is?



Why?



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!!

CALL COMMITTEE



The Church Council is looking for congregation members that would be interested in being on the Call Committee for our new pastor. They will start by collecting a list of names of those interested and then choose who will be on the committee. You must be a confirmed voting member of American Lutheran Church to be on the committee. Please contact the church office if you would like to be put on the list for a potential Call Committee member.

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.

Men's Group

Cribbage and Pizza!

Thursday, July 10th at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall! ALL MEN ARE WELCOME!
Gather for fellowship with the guys and pizza!



Please let Pastor Adam know if you plan on attending so he knows how much pizza to order



JOIN US FOR A BLOCK PARTY

'Free!'

In the parking lot!

Yard games!

Burgers, Hot dogs, chips, cookie and drink!

Sponsored by The Church In Society Board of American Lutheran Church

SUNDAY
AUG. 17

AMERICAN
LUTHERAN CHURCH
906 PROSPECT AVE.
WINDOM, MN

5-7PM



GLOW and More!

THANK YOU!

from GLOW Quilters and Kit Makers for the generous donations to the Lutheran World Relief shipping fund. How wonderful that our congregation helps to send our quilts and kits around the world!

This year we completed:
92 School Kits (assembled in September)
34 Personal Care Kite
64 Baby Kits
48 Quilts for LWR
15 Quilts for the Cheer Box

Thank you to all who came to our work sessions!



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

GLOW BIBLE STUDY IN JULY

JULY 10 @ 2 P.M.
2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
SKYLIGHT COURT

Gather Magazine
June/July/August issue
Session 2 Page 24
"RELATIONSHIPS THAT SUSTAIN US"
Naomi and Ruth held fast to their
relationship in the face of grief,
suffering and loss

A copy of the Bible
Study is available in
the Church Office.

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



CHURCH IN SOCIETY BOARD

PLEASE
DONATE
SOCKS

FOR THE BANQUET

Donations until July 7th at 2pm



HAPPY
FOURTH
of
JULY

Reminder that the church
office will be closed on
Friday, July 4th.

DID YOU KNOW?

WINDOM AREA
HEALTH is having a
Community Health
Fair and the Disciple-
ship, Marketing, and
Stewardship Board
will be there! Spiritual
health is just as im-

portant as physical and mental health and we want
to share that with others!

We hope to see you at this great event on Wednes-
day, July 23rd from 6:30AM to 11AM.

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES FROM JUNE 2025 MEETING

The June 10, 2025, ALC of Windom Church Council meeting was called to order by President John Shamp at 8:00 PM.

In attendance: Pastor Adam, John Shamp, Wendy Ahnupkana, Kevin Heggeseeth, Kathy Hiley, Nick Trotter, Deb Polzin, Keith Pohlman, Brandon Roskamp, Kristy Mickelson, Wendy Newman, Karen Skarphol, Kelsey Edwards

Devotions and opening prayer were provided by Pastor Adam.

No correspondence notes were shared.

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

The treasurer's report for May was reviewed and approved. MM/S/C (Nick/Keth)

The Pastor's report was reviewed.

Old Business

1. Mid-Year Meeting - July 20, 2025 after service
2. Update on call process - Interim Pastor Steven Rye will tentatively sign a contract and begin June 18, 2025 after his vacation.
3. Funeral fees - discussion of a fund to assist with hardships
4. MSP update - moving along and hoping to have a draft to present at July Council Meeting
5. Holiday Fair - will continue with planning next month

New Business

1. Mission Reg contract review, requesting weekly Friday night worship, requesting storage space for instruments - A motion was made and approved to update the contract with Mission Reg to allow a Friday night worship which will continue to be reviewed quarterly. Precedence will be given to ALC activities on Friday nights and will be noted in the contract. MM/S/C (John/Karen)
2. How do we want to form the call committee? Start the volunteer process over the next couple months.
3. Other - N/A

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 June 26, 2025:

Income: \$270,041

Expense: \$281,728

Borrowed to date: \$18,000



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

CHURCH RECORDS:

Deaths : *Linda Kern*

Carol Tomschin

Baptisms: *Campbell Ward Janssen, son of Travis & Hally Janssen*

**MEMORIALS:**

Parking Lot Fund – *In memory of Gary Olson & Janice Anderson.*

Renovation Fund – *In memory Betty Twait.*

Altar Guild – *In memory of Betty Twait.*

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** - no meeting this month
2. **Spiritual Life & Fellowship** - Father's Day gifts were assembled, Saturday night supper planned, 6/29/25 will be the joint service with Bethany at 10:30AM at the Bergen Ballfield and the potluck will follow
3. **Discipleship/Marketing & Stewardship** - no meeting this month
4. **Budget & Finance** - paid the monthly bills
5. **Properties** - bell tower renovation is happening, Kato Roofing found some issues with standing water, etc.
6. **Christian Education** - Tera will have a Women's Bible Study 6/18/25 5:30-7:30, VBS planning with 36 kids signed up thus far, 8/3/25 the VBS kids will sing at service, "God Rocks" is the 2025-2026 school year theme
7. **Youth & Family** - no meeting this month
8. **Church in Society** - Block Party planning for 8/17/25
9. **GLOW** - Shetek Quilt Auction 6/28/25, ongoing summer Bible study

July 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



Happy 4th of July!



Wish List

- Adding Machine
- Office Supplies – Tape Dispensers, Staplers, Dry Erase Markers, Paper
- Spark Bibles
- Board Games
- Volunteers



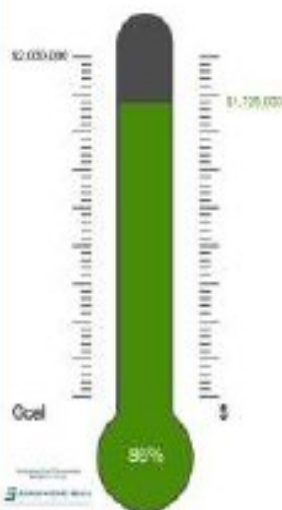
Still Time to Register for Camp

We still have plenty of openings
these dates.

ABC Camp July 13-15 and August 3-4

Mini Camp July 20-22

4-6 Grade August 3-8



We met our Phase 1 goal! Over \$1,725,000 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/>

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!