



# January 2026

Happy New Year • Happy New Year • Happy New Year

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## The American LUTHERAN WINDOM, MN Church

### Our Staff:

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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!

## 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, January 3rd

5:30 PM Chapel Service

### Sunday, January 4th

#### Second Sunday of Christmas

9:00 AM Worship w/Holy Communion

### Wednesday, January 7th

6:30 PM Worship w/Holy Communion

### Saturday, January 10th

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

### Sunday, January 11th

#### Baptism of Our Lord

#### Noisy Offering

9:00 AM Worship w/Noisy Offering

### Wednesday, January 14th

6:30 PM Advent Worship

### Saturday, January 17th

5:30 PM Chapel Service w/Holy Communion

### Sunday, January 18th

#### Second Sunday of Epiphany

9:00 AM Worship w/Holy Communion

### Wednesday, January 21st

3:00 PM Candlelight Worship

5:00 PM Candlelight Worship

10:00 PM Candlelight Worship w/Holy Communion

### Saturday, January 24th

5:30 PM Chapel Service

### Sunday, January 25th

#### Third Sunday of Epiphany

9:00 AM Worship w/Holy Communion

### Wednesday, January 28th

6:30 PM Worship

# Pastor's Message

## A Word of Gratitude

As my time with you at American Lutheran Church draws to a close, I've been doing what pastors often do at the end of a season—looking back, smiling at unexpected moments, and giving thanks for the gifts God has woven into this time together.

Some of my favorite memories are simple ones. Like the Wednesday night when the confirmation class learned we weren't going to sing the song that rattles off all the books of the Old Testament—and then immediately launched into it anyway, grinning from ear to ear. Or leading the Vacation Bible School crew in the “rock version” of *Jesus Loves Me* and seeing pure, unfiltered joy fill the room. Those moments reminded me why ministry with young people keeps a pastor young at heart.

I've also been struck, over and over again, by the sheer number of people who are actively engaged in ministry here. On council nights the building practically hums—teams gathering, planning, serving, doing the good work of being the church together. That is a rare and beautiful gift.

Our partnership with Bethany Lutheran has been another highlight. What a neat congregation to walk alongside for a season. I loved our outdoor worship near the cemetery—holy ground in the truest sense.

This church also allowed me to try a few new things. One small example: adding an acclamation at the end of a funeral. I've always admired that practice, and you gave me the freedom to say, “Let's go for it.” That trust means more than you know.

Organizing the celebration of Jane Cartwright's 40 years of leading the bell choir was another joy—what a milestone, and what a testament to faithfulness.

On a more personal note, serving here placed me within an hour and a half of my parents. That meant I could spend days off with them more easily, and that time was a tremendous blessing.

I've also loved the landscape around Windom. The Wolf Lake trail, the open fields, the rolling countryside—having grown up in Iowa, something in me said, “Yes. This feels like home.” And of course, the visits with beloved parishioners, the conversations over coffee, and the chance to join the women of the congregation in making lefse—those are memories I will carry with me.

Thank you for the privilege of being your pastor in this season. Thank you for the kindness, the conversations, the laughter, the trust, and the grace. I will carry this congregation in my prayers—and in my heart—as you continue the faithful work God has begun in you.

With gratitude,

Pastor Steven

## Worship and Music

# Worship and Music Notes

## January, 2026

### Jane Cartwright, Coordinator



Three wise men follow a star

A child, Jesus, is revealed

Eyes are opened

Epiphany is celebrated January 6, 2026.

Jan. 3-4, 2026

Jeremiah 31:7-14  
Psalm 147:12-20  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
John 1:1-18

Jan. 7-11

Isaiah 42:1-9  
Psalm 29  
Acts 10:34-43  
Matthew 3:13-17

Jan. 14-18

Isaiah 49:1-7  
Psalm 40:1-11  
1 Cor. 1:1-9  
John 1:29-42

Jan. 21-25

Isaiah 9:1-4  
Psalm 27:1, 4-9  
1 Cor. 1:10-18  
Matthew 4:12-23

Jan. 28 - Feb. 1

Micah 6:1-8  
Psalm 15  
1 Cor. 1:18-31  
Matthew 5:1-12

## 20 YEARS!

On an early, foggy morning, January 4, 2006, ALC experience a devastating fire in the sanctuary.

Worship on Sunday, Jan. 4 will have former Pastor Stephen Norby here to share the message.

Come join the Day of Remembrance. After worship, additional time for sharing will be held

in the Fellowship Hall.

## Service Notes:

## Ushers:

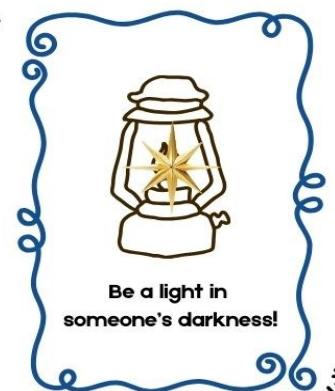
Don Boltjes, Juhl Erickson, Greg Hanefeld, Rahn Larson, Rick Quade, Todd Schumann

## Holy Communion:

- Sunday, Jan. 4 & Jan. 25 9:00am
- Wednesday, Jan. 7, Jan 21, 6:30pm
- Saturday, Jan. 11 & Jan. 17, 5:30pm

## Noisy Offering:

- GLOW quilts! The quilts made by GLOW members are sent to locations in the US and overseas.



ANNUAL MEETING WILL FOLLOW WORSHIP ON JANUARY 18TH. PLAN ON ATTENDING.

CHECK OUT THE WORSHIP BULLETIN BOARD!

Scripture readers

Holy Communion Assistants

PLEASE CONSIDER SIGNING UP FOR A SLOT!

- Choir rehearsal will resume on Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2026 (5:30pm)
- Bell choir rehearsal will resume on Monday, Feb. 2, 2026. (6:30pm)

Songs of thankfulness and praise,  
Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;  
manifested by the star  
to the sages from afar,  
branch of royal David's stem  
in thy birth at Bethlehem:  
anthems be to thee addressed,  
God in flesh made manifest.

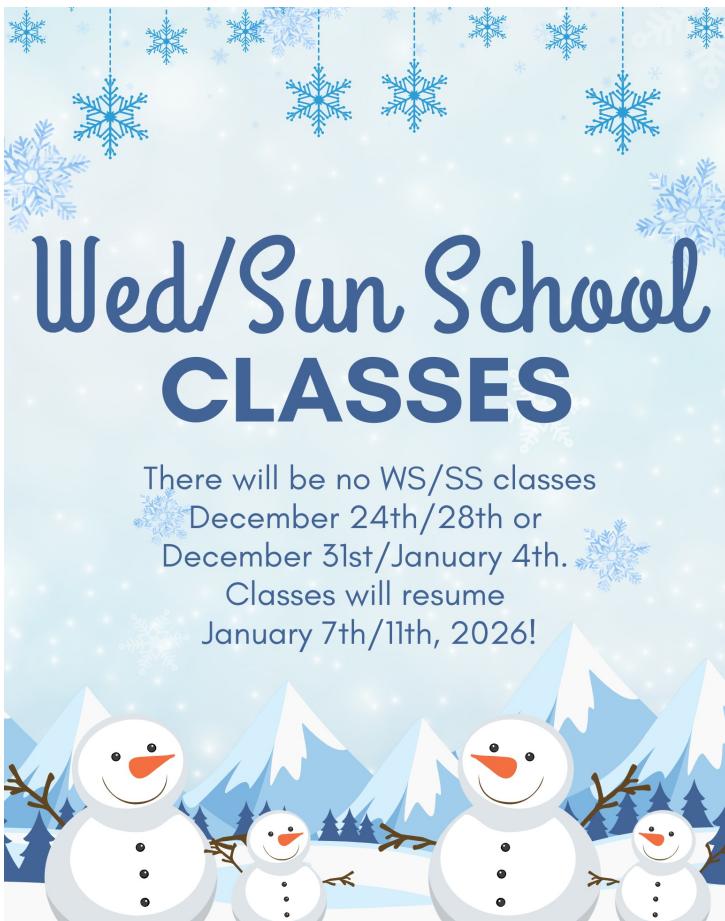
Manifest at Jordan's stream,  
prophet, priest, and king supreme;  
and at Cana wedding guest  
in thy Godhead manifest;  
manifest in pow'r divine,  
changing water into wine;  
anthems be to thee addressed,  
God in flesh made manifest.

Manifest in making whole  
weakened body, fainting soul;  
manifest in valiant fight,  
quelling all the devil's might;  
manifest in gracious will,  
ever bringing good from ill:  
anthems be to thee addressed,  
God in flesh made manifest.

Grant us grace to see thee, Lord,  
present in thy holy word;  
grace to imitate thee now  
and be pure, as pure art thou;  
that we might become like thee  
at thy great epiphany,  
and may praise thee, ever blest,  
God in flesh made manifest.

## Christian Ed/Youth & Family

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



**STUDENTS MUST BE SIGNED UP WITH TERA  
NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21ST.**

## Christian Ed/Youth & Family

9th - 11th graders only!



### LEADERSHIP DAY AT GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

Tuesday, March 17th

we will leave ALC at 7:15am

and return home approximately 4:30pm.  
\$40 fee will be covered for students wanting  
to attend thanks to generous donations  
made to our Youth Fund.

**MUST SIGN UP WITH TERA BY FEB. 27TH!**

#### January Acolyte Schedule

Sunday, January 4th—Penelope Roberts, Brynn Mickelson

Wednesday, January 7th - Macie Carlson, Mason Peterson

Sunday, January 11th—Elli Steinbrink, Aubrey Bussa

Wednesday January 14th—Kenzi-Ella Johnson, Draetyn Markus

Sunday, January 18th—Graham Miller, Graycee Baloun

Wednesday, January 21st—Ava Scheitel, Amelia Winters

Sunday, January 25th—Wyatt Soderholm, Maci Jurgens

Wednesday, January 28th—Morgan Roskamp, Maci Ambrose



#### Wednesday Night Suppers

JANUARY 7TH—Sloppy Jo, baked beans, chips, dessert

JANUARY 14TH—Tator tot hotdish, corn, bread, dessert

JANUARY 21ST— Creamy chicken, mashed potatoes, carrots, bread, dessert

JANUARY 28TH—Beef stroganoff, Egg noodles, green beans, bread, dessert

#### HEY CHURCH! CAN YOU HELP?

We are always in need of donations of hamburger, chicken breasts, milk, bread, spaghetti noodles, spaghetti sauce, cookies, cream of celery soup, & cream of chicken soup. Could also use a few hams.

P.S. Hy-Vee has milk 3/\$11 on Mondays!

QUILTING FOR GRADUATES will be meeting on January 4th from 1pm-3pm. ALL ARE WELCOME! No experience necessary!

## Good to Know



HELP US MAKE IT  
A SOUPER SUPER BOWL!

HELP DONATE TO THE SHARING CENTER!  
ACCEPTING CANNED SOUP & CRACKERS

**JAN 5-  
FEB 2**

DONATIONS WILL BE  
DELIVERED TO THE SHARING  
CENTER ON TUES. FEB 3RD

DROP OFF DONATIONS ANYTIME FROM NOW UNTIL THE  
END OF THE BUSINESS DAY ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND

THE AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WINDOM

## 2026 ANNUAL MEETING

ALL CONGREGATION  
MEMBERS ARE  
ENCOURAGED TO  
ATTEND!



**JANUARY 18TH 2026**

10:00AM

Fellowship Hall

Come and hear about what ALC  
accomplished this year, and  
where God is leading us next!  
Refreshments will be served!



Zoom Link available to join the meeting  
remotely, upon request. Please contact the  
church office for the link.

### NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING!

The Call Committee has a candidate for Lead Pastor to recommend to the ALC congregation. The vote will be **Sunday, January 11, 2026 at 10 am**. No information can be shared about the candidate until that meeting. Members are encouraged to attend the meeting to learn about the Lead Pastor candidate and vote. We must have a quorum of at least 50 confirmed parishioners for the vote. Arrangements are being made for those who can't attend the meeting in person to be able to participate and vote by Zoom. More information on this technology will be provided soon. If you have questions please call the church office.

#### Board Reports:

1. **Worship & Music** - prepping for many upcoming events with Christmas and the 20 year anniversary service/celebration
2. **Spiritual Life & Fellowship** - no one present to report
3. **Discipleship/Marketing & Stewardship** - dementia speaker review
4. **Budget & Finance** - already discussed all items
5. **Properties** - nothing to report
6. **Christian Education** - made goodie bags, prepped costumes, classes resume 1/7/26, calendar review
7. **Youth & Family** - upcoming events were prepped for, Youth bowling, Cocoa & Cookies, January and February events were reviewed, Child Protection Policy discussion and improvements continue, quilting for seniors is on-going
8. **Church in Society** - reviewed past November events, sharing tree tags displayed and fulfilled very quickly, upcoming events were reviewed and prepped for, annual report was submitted
9. **GLOW** - Bible Study this week, sewing/quilting resumes 1/6/26

## GOOD TO KNOW



REMEMBERANCE OF RISING FROM THE ASHES

# *20th Anniversary* OF THE 2006 CHURCH FIRE

A Special Day of Worship, Reflection, and Fellowship



Sunday  
January 4<sup>th</sup>



9:00 AM

REFRESHMENTS FOLLOWING WORSHIP  
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

THE AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WINDOM

*He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and on them he has set the world. 1 Samuel 2:8*

## Lutefisk Supper

# LUTEFISK SUPPER



**Saturday, January 10, 2025**

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH  
**Serving 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**

906 Prospect Avenue  
Windom, MN

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

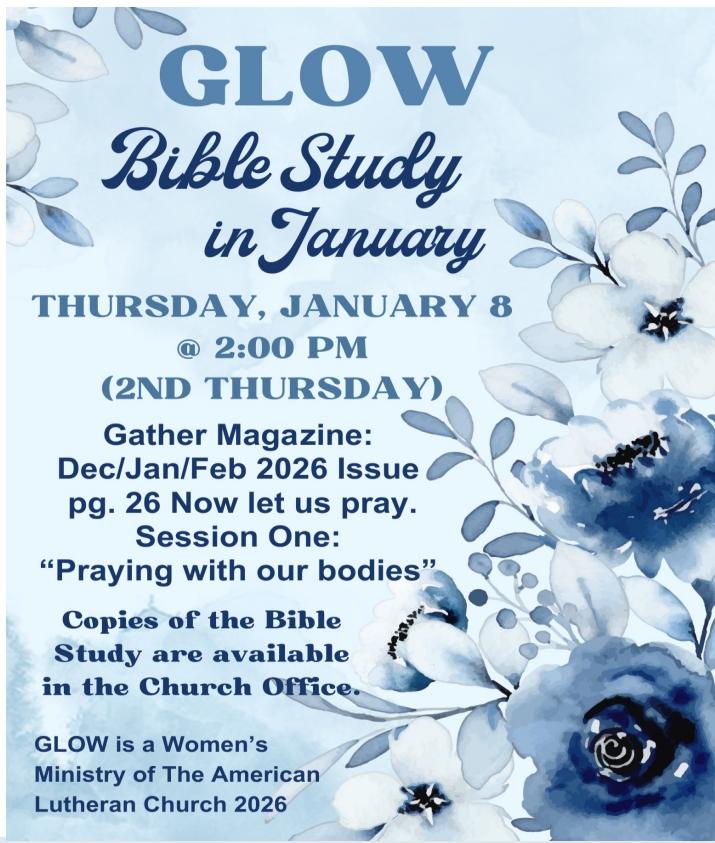
MENU INCLUDES: LUTEFISK, MEATBALLS, LEFSE AND MORE  
SECONDS TABLE WILL BE OFFERED  
RESERVATIONS ENCOURAGED BY JANUARY 5TH

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

## GLOW and More!



**GLOW**  
*Bible Study  
in January*

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 8**  
@ 2:00 PM  
(2ND THURSDAY)

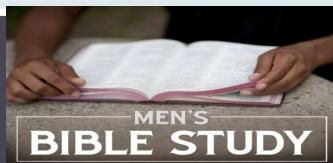
Gather Magazine:  
Dec/Jan/Feb 2026 Issue  
pg. 26 Now let us pray.

Session One:  
"Praying with our bodies"

Copies of the Bible Study are available in the Church Office.

GLOW is a Women's Ministry of The American Lutheran Church 2026

Altar Guild will be meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 2:00pm. Next meeting is January 13th at 2pm! All are welcome.

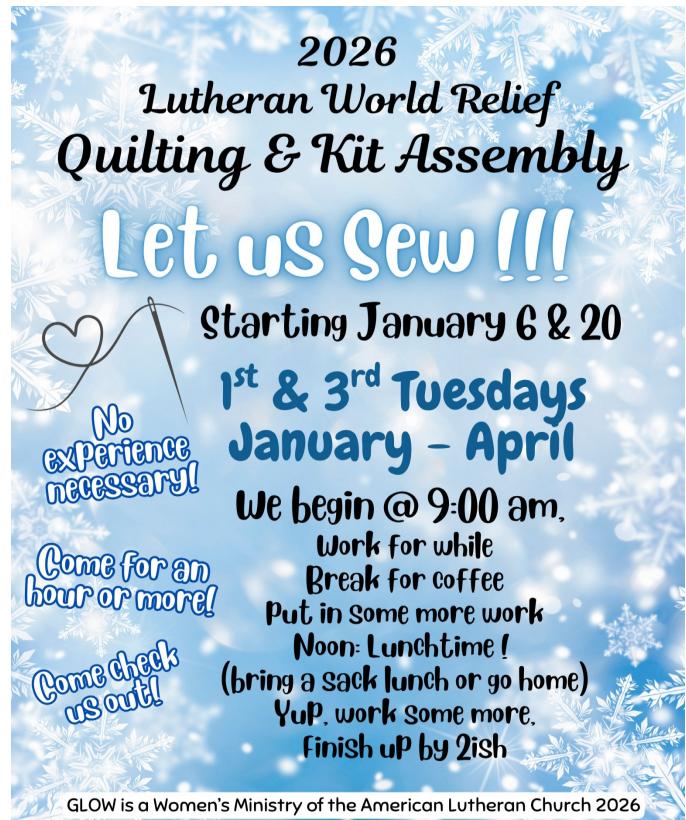


friendly group, and a great way to dig into God's word and hang out with a great group of guys. Men, if you're free, try it out!!

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

## Thank You!

Rick Frederickson, the chaplain of The Sogge home and Mikkelson Manor, wants to extend his deepest thanks to all those who donated Christmas presents from the tags that were taken off the tree. He said the residents feel so loved and special when they get gifts from our church members.



**2026**  
**Lutheran World Relief**  
**Quilting & Kit Assembly**

**Let us Sew !!!**

Starting January 6 & 20

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays  
January - April

We begin @ 9:00 am.  
Work for while  
Break for coffee  
Put in Some more work  
Noon: Lunchtime!  
(bring a sack lunch or go home)  
Yup, work some more,  
Finish up by 2ish

No experience necessary!

Come for an hour or more!

Come check us out!

GLOW is a Women's Ministry of the American Lutheran Church 2026

**THANK YOU** to the many hands who helped make Living Nativity a success! Also, thank you to all who attended and enjoyed the evening!

## 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.



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

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

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

## CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 2025 MEETING

The December 9, 2025, ALC of Windom Church Council meeting was called to order by Vice President Kim Armstrong at 8:02 PM.

In attendance: Pastor Adam, Interim Pastor Steven Rye, Wendy Ahnupkana, Kim Armstrong, Kevin Heggeseth, Nick Trotter, Keith Pohlman, Wendy Newman, Kelsey Edwards, Robin Rahn, Brandon Roskamp, Karen Skarpohl, Kay Evers

Devotions and opening prayer were provided by Interim Pastor Steven Rye.

There is no correspondence to share.

**The secretary's report for November was reviewed and approved.** MM/S/C (Karen/Keith)

**The treasurer's report for November was reviewed and approved.** MM/S/C (Kevin/Keith)

The Pastor's reports were reviewed.

### Old Business

1. Christian Education Board - **A motion was made and approved to accept Caitlyn Gilbertson to replace Cheyenne Boeck on the Christian Education Board.** MM/S/C (Wendy/Kay)
2. January 4, 2026 Fire Anniversary Service - How can council support? A discussion about a special offering for the Lance Larson family affected by a recent fire. **A motion was made and approved to hold a special offering on 1/4/26 for the Lance Larson family of Westbrook that was recently affected by a fire tragedy.** MM/S/C (Brandon/Kay)
3. Nick Trotter offered to provide the donuts for the celebration.
4. Updated Bethany Lutheran Contract - **A motion was made and approved to accept the presented Bethany Lutheran Contract.** MM/S/C (Kevin/Nick)

### New Business

5. 2026 Budget approval - **A motion was made and approved to accept the Proposed 2026 Budget of \$677,406.** MM/S/C (Kevin/Nick)
6. Nominating Committee updates
7. Confirmed that January 11, 2026 is the date set for the new pastoral vote.
  - need to confirm ballot counters before the 1/11/26 and the voting process as this will be a ballot vote
    - Nick Trotter, Kevin Heggeseth, and Kim Armstrong will do the ballot counting
    - get signatures quicker by passing 4 notebooks for meeting attendees
4. Living Nativity updates- anything left undone? All set!
5. Other
6. Minnesota's Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) program begins January 1, 2026. **A motion was made and approved to accept that PFML cost shall be shared at 50% employee and 50% employer.** MM/S/C (Nick/Karen)

**-A motion was made and accepted to approve the staff Christmas gifts.** MM/S/C (Nick/ Kevin)

## ALC FINANCIAL UPDATE

**\*\* The American Lutheran Church financial books for 2025 will close at noon on Wednesday, December 31, 2025. The office will be closed in the afternoon. Please be sure to get all 2025 contributions in by this time. \*\***

Let's work together as a congregation to achieve the goal of meeting all of ALC's 2025 commitments. Thank you to all who help in reaching this goal!

### CHURCH RECORDS:

**Deaths:** Mykil Vonk

**Baptisms:** No baptisms this month.

### MEMORIALS:

**Video/Media Fund** - In memory of Sandy Torgerson, mother of Connie Hauge.

**Renovation Fund** - In memory of LaVerne Sell & Ken Derickson.



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](http://alcofwindom.com), mail in your offering to PO Box 188, Windom, drop it off at the church or simply place it in the offering plate. If you have any questions regarding these options, please contact Wendy Pigman in the church office.



### 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.

Turn your required MINIMUM distribution into MAXIMUM impact for American Lutheran Church.

As many of you are eligible to take your annual RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) from your retirement savings, please consider a tax free gift to the church.

#### Why Consider This Gift?

- Your gift will be put to use today, allowing you to see the difference your donation is making.
- If you are required to take minimum distributions, you can use your gift to satisfy all or part of your obligation.
- You pay no income taxes on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions.
- Since the gift doesn't count as income, it can reduce your annual income level. This may help lower your Medicare premiums and decrease the amount of Social Security that is subject to tax.

Ask your financial adviser about this RMD option. The general deadline for taking your 2025 Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) is December 31, 2025. Thank you for your consideration.

January 2025



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Slayton, MN 56172  
507-763-3567  
camp@shetek.org  
www.shetek.org

Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers



We are looking forward to seeing you all in 2025!

Please join us for our upcoming events

### Mark your Calendar

January 12 Hiking Club

January 15-19 Winter Quilt Retreat

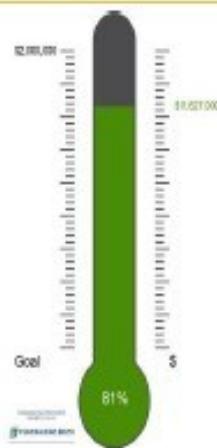
February 8 Family Winter Fun Day

February 10 Hiking Club

### Wish List

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

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/>



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,

Christmas 2025

As I write to you, we are in the season of Advent, a time of reflection on the coming of Jesus in the past, in the present, and in the future. Perhaps you are preparing for Jesus' arrival in the same way as churches here in Guyana: decorating, worshiping by candlelight, singing carols,

sometimes going from house to house in the neighborhood. I love the way that one of the psalms that we sing on Christmas day makes the coming of the Lord good news for the entire creation. Psalm 96 says, "Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord; ...for he is coming to judge the earth...with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth."

Here in New Amsterdam, I live very close to the non-human part of the creation. Cattle, donkeys, goats, sheep, horses and dogs roam freely. Just this week, a cow gave birth to her calf across from my house in the yard of Ebenezer Lutheran Church, and the two have remained in the yard since then. The mother probably considers it safer than being out on the streets.

*At St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Gaitri Rambali and Liz Paduman decorate the Christmas tree with its angel on top announcing Jesus' coming.*



Many nativity scenes include cattle around the manger where Jesus lies. The accounts of Jesus' birth in the gospels don't say anything about that, but the presence of an ox and a donkey were added to the scene with reference to Isaiah 1:3, "The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's crib." To have a cow welcome Jesus at his birth chimes very well with the call of Psalm 96 for the whole earth to rejoice at the coming of the Lord.

There is good pasture in the church yard, as Guyana is a very fertile land. Many people, myself included, have kitchen gardens and fruit-bearing trees in their yards. My compost heap is constantly sprouting lemons, tangerines, pumpkins, onions, avocados or mangoes from the scraps I deposit there. Rice and sugar, however, are the crops most important to the economy. The main harvesting season is October-November, and each congregation chooses a Sunday during that time to give thanks to God for the harvest, decorating the churches with produce from the members' gardens. Harvest Sunday is a time to reflect on stewardship because good care results in good fruit. Since healthy growth is the way that plants rejoice, it is no wonder that even the

trees, fields, and everything in them exult at the coming of Jesus, who will do away with sin and its careless consequences.



*Mr. Clifford Fogenay leads worship on Harvest Sunday at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Georgetown. The decorations are sugar cane, fruit, vegetables, and homemade bread.*

So, “sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples” (Psalm 96:1-3). Merry Christmas to you!

*Carolyn*

Rev. Dr. Carolyn Schneider

Lutheran Identity Professor  
and Pastoral Ministry Advisor,  
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in  
America, in partnership with  
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in  
Guyana

Email: [Carolyn.schneider@elca.org](mailto:Carolyn.schneider@elca.org)

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

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

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

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