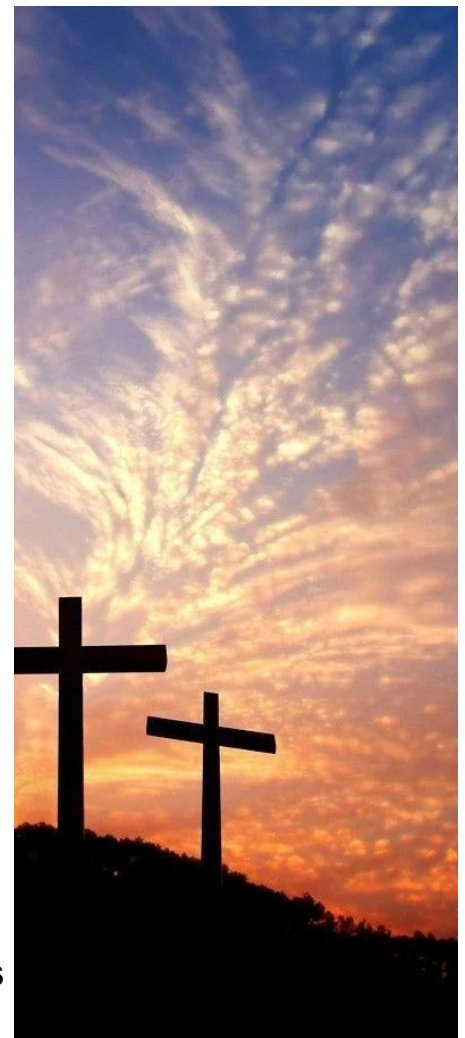


# Messenger



## Reflection on Courage in a hymn and scripture

Composed in 1978 by Jim Strathdee, “When the Pain of the World Surrounds Us” is a hymn that lifts up the topics of commitment, discipleship, and compassion. During the recent Lenten season and on Maundy Thursday, we sang this hymn as we encountered Jesus’ message of healing, health, and wholeness.

In the third verse we sing these words: “The church is a holy vessel the living waters fill / to nourish all the people, God's purpose to fulfill / May we with humble courage be open to God's will / We are called to follow Jesus and let God's Spirit flow through us.”

Strathdee links the trust we place in God’s agenda of compassionate care for all people with the courage to walk in the faith of Jesus. How has Jesus’ courage to walk in a faith against the powers of the world been a call of discipleship in your life?

After Moses’ death, God called Joshua, son of Nun and Moses’ assistant to lead the Hebrews across the Jordan River. In chapter one of the Book of Joshua (NRSVUE) variations of the word “courage” is used four times. God says to Joshua, “Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9b)

In response to God’s call to Joshua to be their leader, the Hebrew people pledged their commitment to follow both God and the one provided to lead them. Take time to read Joshua 1 and consider your call to walk in Jesus’ faith with humble courage.

### Sundays in April

The Easter season bring a return to our familiar schedule for worship and faith formation. This section of "The Messenger" is to remind you of worship and faith formation activities in April.

April 7 ~ 2nd Sunday after Easter  
8am, First Word  
9:15am, Coffee & Kinship  
No Faith Formation  
10:15am, Journey Worship

April 21 ~ 4th Sunday after Easter  
& Rogation Sunday  
8am, First Word  
9:15am, Coffee & Kinship  
9:15am, Faith Formation  
10:15am, Journey Worship

April 14 ~ 3rd Sunday after Easter  
8am, First Word  
9:15am, Coffee & Kinship  
9:15am Faith Formation  
10:15am, Journey Worship

April 28 ~ 5th Sunday after Easter  
8am, First Word  
9:15am, Coffee & Kinship  
9:15am, Faith Formation  
10:15am, Journey Worship

### Wednesdays in April

The midweek Koinonia Meal and Worship service, along with weekly faith formation opportunities comes to an end in April. Summer programming will run from May through mid-September. Watch the weekly E-News, forthcoming newsletters, and the website calendar for changes and new events.

April 3 ~ No Wednesday Activities

April 17 ~ Meal & Worship for All  
5:30pm, Koinonia Supper  
6:30pm, Koinonia Worship  
7:00pm, Ignite & Confirmation

April 10 ~ Meal & Worship for All  
5:30pm, Koinonia Supper  
6:30pm, Koinonia Worship  
7:00pm, Ignite & Confirmation

April 24 ~ Meal & Worship for All  
5:30pm, Koinonia Supper  
6:30pm, Koinonia Worship  
7:00pm, Ignite & Confirmation

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### ELCA Global Mission: Young Adults in Global Mission

One intersection in our life of faith is worship and global mission. Young adults, ages 21-35 are presented with a unique invitation into a transformative journey through intentional service with our global neighbors in six different countries.

Young adults serve by walking with others in areas of service in health care, congregational ministry, educations, human rights, women and children as well as youth.

This year of service is an all-in experience of being Christ's hands and feet in the world providing essential support to ministries and projects in communities of need. If you know or are a young adult between ages 21-35, God may be calling you to into the world. To learn more call YAGM 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2792. More information can be found on YAGM's Facebook page, on the ELCA webpage or from your pastors.

**Wrapping Others in Prayer:**

Our prayer shawl ministry is one of our caring ministries at American Lutheran.

We are a small, yet mighty group who make night shawls to give to people, members and friends of ALC, who need comfort in the midst of sorrow and illness.

There is yarn to be knit—donated by a community member. You are invited to join. Connect with Pr. Anne for information.



**Upcoming Pastoral Care Acts**

Funerals and Memorials

April 14, Sarah Leman in St. James MN

April 20, Lorelee Timm-Knuth

Visitation from 10:00am –11:00am, at American Lutheran Church  
Memorial Service, 11:00am,  
Burial follows at Worthington Memorial Gardens

May 18, Elaine Schuster

Times for Visitation and Memorial Service will be announced at a later date.

Baptisms

April 14-Cater Bourquin

April 21-Finnegan Thillen & Roman Cummings

Weddings

June 7 and 8, Kalea Appel and Max Langerud

June 14 and 15, Cinthia Caren Esquivel Trujillo and Mark Demuth

July 26 and 27, Alissa Schilling and Justin Elias

October 18 and 19, Mackenzie Jueneman & Karter Honius

**Good Samaritan Fund:**

At the January 2024 Church Council meeting, the members voted unanimously to renew a fund to support pastoral care ministry to men and women who come to the church seeking short-term immediate crisis in their lives. The situations may be related issues of temporary housing and food insecurity, transportation issues, energy assistance, etc.

This fund is not currently supported by ALC’s general budget or Box 1 giving. It was created out of designated funds for COVID Relief that are no longer needed. Givers to the COVID Relief fund have generously agreed to direct funds to the much needed support of the Good Samaritan Fund. The freewill offering from the first 2024 Lenten supper was directed to this fund, as well. If you are interested in supporting this fund, connect with David Nerem, Council president, Sandy Demuth, or one of the pastors. These financial gifts have direct, immediate impact for those with pressing needs.

## Church Council Social on April 3

On Wednesday, April 3 at 6:30pm, the members of the Church Council will be meeting at Pr. Anne and Arvid's home to a time to get to know each other and build relationships with the new council members. Pr. Anne's address is 1979 Willow Ave. Parking is on the street or the driveway.

## Nursing Home Worship Services

Each month on the second Tuesday, Pastor Jeremy or Pastor Anne (sometimes both) lead worship at Golden Horizons and The Meadows. Cindy Anderson is the third member of this trio to bring church to people who dearly love American Lutheran. Often times, Befrienders, who have befriended in one of these senior living centers will join and participate in worship.

One of the pastors also has one-on-one visits at Crossroads and South Shore during the second week of each month to visit members and friends of ALC in these senior living centers.

You are welcome to come and participate in these worship services on the second Tuesday of each month: 2:30pm Golden Horizons and 3:30pm, The Meadows

## Homebound Communion Sign-up

Would you be willing to participate in the renewal of the Homebound Communion Ministry. In early April, there will be a digital survey sent out by email to begin to identify members who would be interested in joining this lay ministry program. This is not the Befrienders' Ministry Program.

This is a ministry of ALC. Commitment is one-time/month. Materials for the communion service with instructions will be provided as well as the elements of bread and wine.

On Sunday, April 14 at 9:15am between worship services in the Sanctuary near the Altar, there will be a short informational meeting lead by Pr. Anne. The goal is to begin this ministry as soon as possible. See Pr. Anne for questions and more information.

## Time and Talents Survey Coming in late April

The Stewardship Ministry Team's annual "Time and Talent Survey" is forthcoming in mid-April. Each home of ALC members will receive a letter and a paper copy of the survey to be returned to the church office by mail or placed in the offering plate during one of the three worship services.

New this year: There will also be a digital survey sent out via email.

Watch the weekly E-News and the Sunday Bulletin for more information.

**Noisy Offering**

The Mission and Ministry Team is behind the “Noisy Offering” on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month. Save the date for April 28 at both worship services.

Donations will be dedicated to ALC’s support of the Every Meal program served weekly at the Intermediate School.

Bring your change and make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

**4th Sunday Noisy Offering**

April 28

**Our noisy offering will support Every Meal. A weekend food assistance program that helps feed Worthington students.**



*Bring your change for a great cause!*



**Week Days** **Sundays**

**Grow**

ADULT FAITH FORMATION |

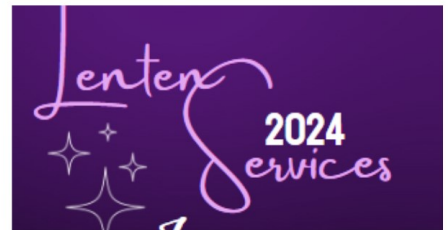
**Genesis to Revelation Bible Study** This on-going Adult Bible study meets on Tuesdays at 1pm in the Conference Room. It is lead by Kris Besel. This study is in its final weeks. The upcoming sessions are on April 16, 23, 30, May 7, and 14.

**Men’s Bible Study** This on-going Adult Bible study meets on Tuesdays at 7:45am in the Conference Room. Various Books of the Bible and topics related to faithful living are explored in depth. Connect with Pr. Jeremy if you are interested in this time of fellowship and biblical studies.

**Women’s Circles** Each month in homes and at church there are several women’s Bible Studies held. The Bible study comes from the WELCA monthly magazine called *Gather*. Connect with Kris Besel, Lori Dudley, Shirly Wieme, or Diana Kvilhaug if you are interested in joining one of these groups for women’s kinship and scripture study.

# Lent 2024

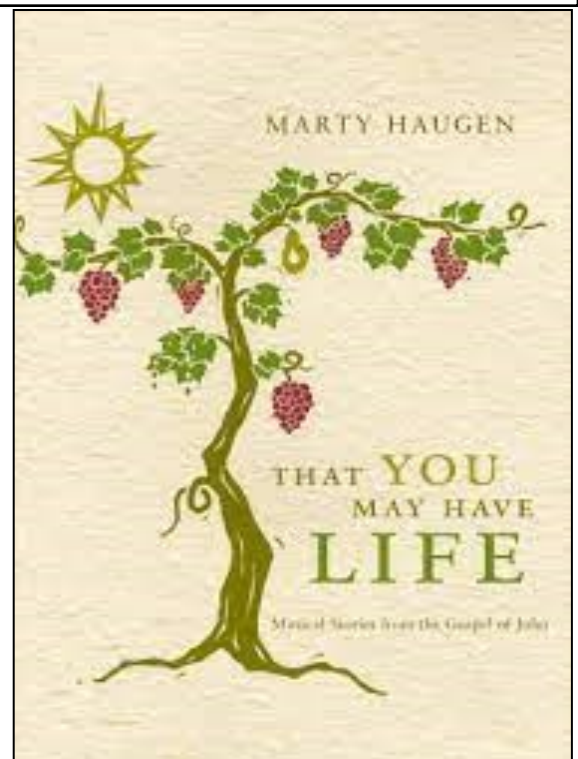
Voices of our community  
Siblings in Christ  
Together,  
We are Christ's Body!  
Thank you for meaningful  
Lenten experience



## Thank You, Thank You!

The 2024 Lenten season was full of grace and experiencing the gift of faith shared with one another and with members of our extended community. Thank you to. . .

- The “Garage Gang” that followed the Spirit to find our speakers.
- To each group that prepared a mid-week Lenten feast for friends and neighbors to enjoy.
- To the musicians who played and sang.
- To those who donated to the various organizations that were lifted up.
- To ushers, greeters, and sound technicians who work behind the scenes to make each worship service possible.
- To those who cleaned up and cared for our building.
- For those who came to eat a meal and to worship God during this season of encountering Jesus.





**Manna Food Pantry Drive:** It is time for us to help restock the shelves of the pantry. American Lutheran will again be participating in the month-long drive to help the pantry continue its important work in the community as we care for our neighbors. Again this year, our gifts to the pantry will be matched by the Worthington Regional Health Care Foundation with a dollar-for-dollar match. What a blessing to see our gifts double! It will end on April 6th.

Here are some significant facts about the pantry's work in 2023:

14,637 individuals were served. 676 households were served.

176,496 pounds of products were dispensed.

324 new families have registered in the last six months which includes 2,000 people.

***When to make your gift:*** From February 26–April 6

***How to make your gift:***

*There is a change this year!* The only way to make your gift to the Manna Food Pantry is by using the designated envelopes: 1) Found in your March newsletter, 2) Found in the baskets at entrances to the sanctuary

Please write your check to American Lutheran Church with “Food Pantry” in the memo line. Your gifts will be received until April 6<sup>th</sup>. Envelopes may be placed in the offering plate or given to the church office. Thank you for bringing hope to many through your gifts! together we serve our neighbors with glad and generous hearts.

*Stewardship Ministry Team*

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## Stewardship Corner The Joy of Giving

A Pastor of a small, rural congregation was visiting a shut-in widow who lived in a rundown house at the end of a dirt road. Bedridden, sick and weak, she looked forward to the pastor's visit.

On the occasion of his first call, she handed him her offering envelope with her tithe enclosed. He tried to refuse. She said, “Pastor, this is one of the only joys I have left. I can no longer attend church or be part of the fellowship. But I can give.” The joy in her countenance demonstrated a spirit that loved to give.



In honor of **Carol Andersen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday**, her family will be hosting an open house on Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup>. From 1-3pm at 1525 Bioscience Dr. in Worthington. All are welcome to join. Let your presence be your gift. Greetings may also be sent to 704 Dugdale Ave, Worthington. MN.

# APRIL WORSHIP HELPERS AND LEADERS

**Ushers 8:00 AM (Team 3)** Shauna Carroll,  
Russell Obermoller, Dave Nerem

**Ushers 10:15 AM (Team 5)** Mark & Kay Prunty

**Altar Committee:** Diana Kvilhaug, Diane Levine, Kathy Sackett

**Busy Bag Monitor:** Christine Bullerman

**Church Lockup:** Dennis Hibma

**Financial Counters (Team 3)** Donna Cargin,  
Diane Levine, Pam Handevidt

## Greeters:

**7th** 8:00- Connie & Lyle Voss  
10:15- Roger & Clasine Lester

**14th** 8:00- Mike & Lisa Peterson  
10:15- Dennis & Gloria Hibma

**21st** 8:00- Steve & Lori Dudley  
10:15- Gary & Mary Brandt

**28th** 8:00- Vern & Val Correll  
10:15- Shirley Rempel

## Communion Servers:

**7th** 8:00- Bob & Sandy Demuth, Diana Kvilhaug  
10:15- Mike & Deb Stoll, Karen Pfeifer

**14th** 8:00- Dave & Brenda Baerenwald,  
Connie Voss  
10:15- Bruce & Karen Juber,  
Sheila Pedersen

**21st** 8:00- Marv Isder, Mike & Lisa Peterson  
10:15- Roger & Clasine Lester,  
Nancy Marco

**28th** 8:00- Gordy & Lori Heitkamp,  
Lola Lindquist  
10:15- Steve & Lori Dudley

## ALC BY THE NUMBERS:

### A SNAPSHOT IN TIME

The report of the monthly budget reflects the income and expenses. Changes occur daily.

This budget is brief overview of our financial gifts to God's church. We continue to meet our fiscal obligations. Each one of us is encouraged to give to support

#### American Lutheran Church Treasurers Report

February 2024

#### Operating Account – 10

Account 10	February 2024	Year to date 2024
Income	\$ 37,899.05	\$ 65,744.05
Expenses	\$ 62,241.41	\$ 98,015.80
Net	( \$ 24,342.36 )	\$ 32,271.75 )

#### Non Operating ( Building Fund account ) – 20

Account 20	February 2024	Year to date 2024
Income	\$ 15,099.19	\$ 265,979.99
Interest and Payments	\$ 20,844.90	\$ 280,641.96
Net	( \$ 5,745.71 )	( \$ 14,628.97 )

#### Benevolence account - 30

Account 30	February 2024	Year to date 2024
Income	\$ 1,891.00	\$ 2,697.00
Expenses	- 0 -	- 0 -
Net	\$ 1,891.00	\$ 2,697.00

#### Account 40:

Account 40	February 2024	Year to date 2024
Income	\$ 15.00	\$ 125.00
Expenses	- 0 -	\$ 5,000.00
Net	\$ 15.00	( \$ 4,875.00 )

Worship Date	Worship Participants			
	8am, In-Person	10:15am In-Person	Wed. Night	Online as 3/20
Feb 25	92	65	162	335
March 3	86	72	132	416
March 10	77	68	129	539
March 17	74	75	116	183

Thanks for your generosity!



# LUTHERAN WOMEN

April 2024

## Summer Salad Event

Thursday, June 20 at 6:00 p.m. is the day and time for our annual Lutheran Women's Summer Salad Event. "My Story – the Faith Story of an Immigrant" will be our program topic. Plans are being finalized by our Mission Growth Committee for this fun and inspiring evening, so put the date on your calendar and plan to bring a friend! More information and details will be available soon!

### Follow God

*"Have I not commanded you? Be **strong and courageous**. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the **LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.**"*

*Joshua 1:9.*

The annual **Spring Gathering of the Shetek Conference Women of the ELCA** will be held on **Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at Jasper Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jasper, MN.** The day begins with registration and coffee at 9:30 a.m. followed by the Opening Session at 10:00 a.m. Featured speaker will be Stephanie Darnell, who works with the SW Crisis Center speaking on the topic of "Human Trafficking". Offerings for the day will be divided three ways with 50% to SW MN Women of the ELCA; 25% to Southwest Crisis Center; 25% to Hope Harbor of Marshall, MN. **Cost for attending the Gathering is \$12, payable at the door (there is no need to preregister) and includes a noon luncheon**, which ends the Gathering. This is a great way to gather with other women in our Shetek Conference to engage in prayer, singing, learning, listening, sharing and fellowship! If interested in attending and carpooling, please see Kris Besel or Diana Kvilhaug for more information.

### Dates for Your Calendar

- **Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>** – Shetek Conference Women of the ELCA Spring Gathering at Jasper Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jasper, MN at 9:30 a.m.
- **Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>** – SWMN Synodical Women's Organization of Women of the ELCA at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, MN at 8:00 a.m.
- **Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>** – Summer Salad Event at 6:00 p.m.

## Be The Light

The 2024 **SWMN Synodical Women of the ELCA Convention** will be held on **Saturday, May 4, 2024 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 301 North Lincoln Street, Redwood Falls, MN. Registration starts at 8:00 a.m. and the convention concludes around 4:00 p.m.** All women are invited to attend this inspiring convention! Rev. Heather Culuris, SWMN Synod Staff Liaison to our Synodical Board, will lead the opening worship and will serve as Convention Chaplain. Along with worship, a couple of interesting workshops will be offered. Special speaker during the afternoon session will be **Aliyah Ewing of Terebinth Refuge**. For the past two years, Aliyah has been working as a resident/speaker advocate for Tarabinth Refuge, dealing with survivors of sexual exploitation and trafficking. Her passion is teaching people of all ages about healthy relationships. The convention also includes a business session and we are encouraged to have **one voting delegate**. Also, women who will be **first time convention visitors** and who wish to learn more about the Women of the ELCA are encouraged to apply for a scholarship that will cover all costs, with the exception of travel expenses. **An application for first time visitors must be submitted by April 1. All other registration is due by April 22, with a fee of \$40. Our Lutheran Women's Board has offered to help with the registration fee expense.** The fee includes registration, coffee time and the noon luncheon. Convention monetary offerings will be divided with 50% going to Churchwide Women and 50% to Terebinth Refuge. In-kind donations of gift cards to Target, Walmart, Walgreens and CVS will be collected for Terebinth Refuge. Katies Cans will be collecting loose change. Also, a truck will be available starting at 7:30 a.m. to collect any quilts and kits, which can be brought to the convention for delivery to Lutheran World Relief. We are also encouraged to fill out a form reporting any projects/donations we have done throughout the year. **For more information and registration forms, please see Kris Besel or Diana Kvilhaug.** It would be great to get a group together to attend!

**Next Lutheran Women's Board Meeting**

Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:30

**Join us for Sunday school and Ignite in April!**

*Wednesday, April 3 (No Ignite Class)*

Sunday, April 7 (Jesus is the Way)

*Wednesday, April 10 (Create in Me a Clean Heart)*

Sunday, April 14 (I am the Vine)

*Wednesday, April 17 (Jesus' First Disciples)*

Sunday, April 21 (Caring for God's Creation)

*Wednesday, April 24 (Ignite Celebration)*

Sunday, April 28 (Sunday School Celebration: What a Mess!)



Check out the **Holy Hub (adjacent to the sanctuary)**.

This worship space is for ALL AGES... So, let worship inspire your creativity!

# SHETEK SUMMER CAMP

## Hello Families

**For those of you registering to attend Shetek summer camps, please note that ALC will reimburse you for half of your child's fee. Here's how it works:**

- ➔ Register your child for camp and pay the total fee.
- ➔ Turn in your receipt(s) via Email, showing your total payment(s), to the office at:  
[office@worthingtonalc.org](mailto:office@worthingtonalc.org).
- ➔ American Lutheran Church will send you a reimbursement check for half of your paid fees(s).

**We will send reimbursement checks at the end of the summer when we get the campers list from Shetek.**

**If you have any questions or need clarification, please contact the Church Office, Pastor Jeremy, or Kristin Appel.**

# NERF NIGHT



Nerf Night is Coming to American Lutheran! If you are interested in a chaotic night of Nerf battles, Capture the flag, and Protect the President, plan on joining us April 28th, from 6-8pm. Bring your Nerf guns, and eye protection! We will provide some of the bullets! Please do not bring ball nerf guns!

**Open to grades 3– 12th.**

This is a required RSVP event so we know how many to plan for. You can RSVP on the youth bulletin board, or by emailing Pastor Jeremy. We look forward to seeing you there!

## **April Confirmation Schedule:**

- **April 3:** NO CONFIRMATION
- **April 10:** Confirmation 5:30  
Meal, 6:30 Worship/Class
- **April 17:** Confirmation 5:30  
Meal, 6:30 Worship/Class
- **April 24th:** End of the Year Party

## **Mission 2024: Harrisburg PA!**



**Spaces Available if you are interested in going! Please talk to Pastor Jeremy ASAP!**

Our 2024 Mission Trip has been posted! Join us June 16-21 (plus travel) in Harrisburg Pennsylvania. This trip is open to students who have completed 6th grade through 12th graders. Registration is on the youth board located in the Fellowship Hall. A \$100 deposit is due upon sign up to hold your spot. There will be a variety of fundraising options available for you to partake in. The money earned goes to your family account and can be used to help pay for the trip.

### ***Payment Schedule:***

- Deposit of \$100 due asap to hold your space. This is refundable until January 3rd.
- First Payment of \$150 due on January 29th, 2024
- Mid Payment of \$200 due April 10th, 2024
- Final Payment due June 2nd, 2024
- Student accounts can be used to pay any of these payments. Once a payment is made, it is nonrefundable.

## **Youth Advisory Board:**

Parents, we are currently looking for a few individuals who would be willing to help Pastor Jeremy plan some Youth Events. This would involve visioning with me about ways to engage youth, planning a few events to keep students connected, and helping coordinate the details of one or two events throughout the year. If you are interested please reach out to Pastor Jeremy. I would like to kick off this group before May. Thank you!

**April 2024**



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

## Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers



- **Apply to work at camp.**  
<https://shetek.org/work-at-shetek/>

*Happy Spring!*

### Wish List

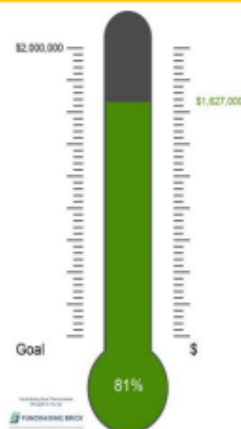
- Glue and Glue Sticks
- Extension Cords
- Mini Vans
- Volunteers

### Mark your Calendar

- April 19-20 Confirmation Retreat
- April 22-25 Quilt & Craft Retreat
- May 4 Spring Cleanup
- May 11 Spring Cleanup
- Register at [shetek.org](https://shetek.org) or

Call 507-763-3567 for more information

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!**