

Messenger

Summer Worship Series



L is for Lament

Sunday, August 4
Scripture: Lamentations 1: 12-13

M is for Memory

Sunday, August 11
Scripture: Deuteronomy 6: 4-19



W is for Whirlwind

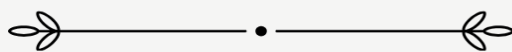
Sunday, August 18
Scripture: Job 40: 6-10

W is for Walking Water

Sunday, August 25
Scripture: Matthew 14:22-33



Sunday, August 25
is worship at the
Centennial Park Picnic Shelter
9:00am, worship
A meal follows.
Details are forthcoming



Worship & Preaching Series
June, July, & August
from the book

“A Is For Alabaster”
written by
Anna Carter Florence

Worship & Preaching In August

Explore Bible stories that are not usually a part of the Revised Common or Narrative Lectionaries.

The series comes from a new publication, *A Is For Alabaster*, by preacher and teacher, Anna Carter Florence. Dr. Anna currently preaches at Columbia Theological Seminary and is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church. This series comes from “Church Anew.”

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July 2024,

Dear Friends in Christ,

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:3-6

We are in the days of Ordinary Time in the Liturgical Year. The term more familiar to us is the Season of Pentecost. We mark the Sundays in this liturgical season from their distance from Pentecost Sunday. Sunday, July 28, 2024 is the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost. It is for us as a pastor and her congregation, our final Sunday together in the unique and special kinship of ordained ministry. It is and is not an ordinary day.

I truly give thanks for the four full years of walking in the faith of Jesus with you. On July 12, 2020, you gathered and voted to extend me the call of Lead Pastor. I accepted with joy. The call issued on that Sunday has continued to ground me in faith and service to God's Church as we have together tended the mysteries of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The relationship between us as pastor and congregation now is fulfilled. Together, we have run the race set before us.

Ending a parish call is one of the hardest tasks facing any pastor and congregation. It is a severing of a powerful bond formed by the nurturing of the Holy Spirit. It has been and will continue to be my intention of *ending well*. *Since I am retiring and not seeking a new call, my husband Arvid and I will be remaining in our home in Worthington for the foreseeable future. You and I now begin a new relationship as neighbors and citizens in our fair community.*

What does this mean? It means that as your neighbor, you and I can greet each other and share stories of our lives. We can do what neighbors do—live alongside each other. This new relationship also means that I will not live into my role as pastor with you. Simply, I can be your neighbor, but not your pastor. Arvid and I are looking forward to this new life together in our Worthington home.

Take this to heart: I will continue to care for you and pray for you in private. However, I am not able to act in a pastoral role in your lives. This means that I will hold an ethical boundary of “saying no gently” when asked to baptize family members or officiate at weddings, funerals, or graveside services. As neighbors we will be able to talk about our lives, but not matters of the American Lutheran Church. Going forward, I will not be responding to any social media posts for the foreseeable future. You are welcome to “unfriend” me on Facebook, if you desire. I see social media as an extension of any Main Street in the USA. It is a public space, shared by us all. It is okay not to respond to one another as we move into our new relationship as neighbors.

While the church names this season as Ordinary Time, it is anything but ordinary for me. I feel at the same time gratitude and genuine sadness. Emptiness and fulfillment both take up spaces in my heart. Thank you for inviting me into your lives—in good times and difficult ones. You have been present at times of joys and sorrow in my own life, as well as my husband, Arvid's. For all of this I give thanks to God. Thank you for the privilege of serving as your pastor.

Gratefully, in Christ,

Pastor Anne

Rev. Anne M. Hokenstad, D.Min.

Living Into The Next Chapter

On Thursday, July 18, 2024 Church Council meeting, after discussion the Council unanimously voted into action the ethical agreement between American Lutheran and me (Pr. Anne). This is a very normal agreement in which the vacating pastor agrees to honor the mission of the congregation and the pastor that follows. The building of the relationship between the pastor and congregation is one based on a currency of trust. When a former pastor vacates a call, there needs to be time and a space for the congregation to process their former pastor's tenure among them. In addition, history has shown the pastors new to a congregation connect better when a former pastor is not present or involved in congregational life. Because I am remaining in Worthington, rather than moving, the honoring of this boundary will be vital for the future of ALC. I have committed to saying "no" to invitations to act as a pastor in ALC's members' lives. Thank you for honoring this with me.



Southwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Ethical Agreement for Congregations Relating to Former Pastors:

Congregations and pastors need to understand the professional ethics of ministry relating to former pastors, interim pastors, and current pastors. A pastor who resigns or retires from a congregation ministry setting no longer serves as pastor to members of the congregation. Former pastors should not agree to pastoral responsibilities that rightfully belong to the current pastor of the congregation. Additionally, congregation members should not ask a former pastor to perform such duties.

The PURPOSE of this document is to clearly state the proper boundaries for former pastors, interim pastors, current pastors, and members of congregations relative to ongoing pastoral responsibilities and duties.

When a pastor accepts a call to a congregation, a sacred covenant is established between the pastor and the people of God in that place. For ministry to be strong and effective, the covenant needs to be strengthened and nurtured until God calls that pastor to another sector of ministry. When a pastor resigns a call, the covenant ends.

MEMBERS and FRIENDS OF THE CONGREGATION:

Members should avoid placing both the current and former pastor(s) in awkward positions by seeking the pastoral services of a former pastor. Members should simply not ask for such favors from former pastors. By showing high regard to the current pastor, both in person and on social media, members affirm the significance of the pastoral office which was once held by the former pastor.

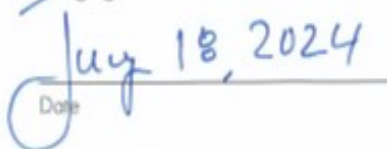
It is very natural that members turn to a former pastor who baptized their other children or performed weddings and funerals for family members while serving as their pastor. The former pastor should graciously decline and direct the family to their current pastor. As with other family friends, the former pastor might attend the service as a guest.

Prior to, but as near to, the effective date of resignation as practical, the congregation may make use of the rite of "FAREWELL and GODSPEED" during which the pastor may return to representatives of the congregation the signs of the ministerial office that were given at the pastor's installation.

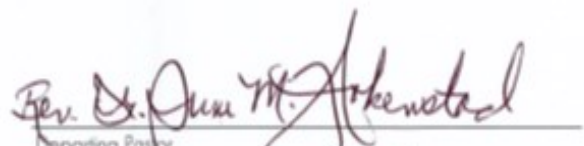
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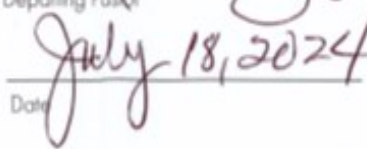
Congregation President



Date



Departing Pastor



Date

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Thank you to all who started this ministry in 2022. There have been many shared hours knitting for those who long to feel Christ's presence. This ministry will continue to gather on the third Wednesday of each month at 1:00pm in the Gathering Space. *The next meeting is August 21, 2024.*

There is a need for prayer shawls. You are invited to continue gathering to knit as a group at church or in your own homes. There are patterns available in the Church Office. Kelly Henkels can assist anyone needing patterns for crocheting or knitting shawls. Donated yarn is also available.

"Connie's Cards": ALC's Card Ministry will continue under the leadership of Cindy Anderson, Marj Olson, Sandy Demuth, and Chris Brouwer. Kelly Henkels will act as the staff liaison. Through card sales and a generous memorial gift, materials for card making will be purchased so that we can gather to create cards as we connect with others. *The next card ministry meeting will be in the Oasis Room at Living Waters Covenant Church from 5:00-7:00pm on August 22.* Connect with Cindy Anderson or Sandy Demuth with questions.

*****New in August:** Limited children's birthday cards and new anniversary cards. As the seasons begin to change there will be a limited number of seasonal cards available. Thank you for the support of this ministry.

What's Next in the Pastoral Transition Process

It is the inevitable question that everyone wonders. When a pastoral transition happens, we are invited to explore who God has called American Lutheran Church to be. Over the next month or so, we will have space to find our way, celebrate, grieve, and explore where God is leading all of us.

The leadership team, staff, and I have been working on laying some groundwork for moving us into a new normal for the season ahead. We've begun planning Worship, Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry programming, Adult Education, and gathering ministry leaders to set a calendar for 2024/2025. Our intention is that while we will be missing a staff member, ministry life will go on.

After Pastor Anne has formally left the congregation, we will begin the process of calling an Interim Pastor. The Congregational Leadership team, in conversation with the Southwestern Minnesota Synod, will begin the process of calling someone to support the work of ALC Staff and Leadership. Once that Interim is settled, the work begins.

The congregation will then elect a call committee to begin working on our Ministry Site Profile. That profile tells the story of American Lutheran and paints a picture of what an ideal pastor could be to fill our congregation's needs. Upon completion, that profile is sent to potential candidates, and the interview process begins.

I have been asked along the way where I am in the process. As often happens in seasons of transition, I will do my best to meet the congregation's needs. I hope you will extend grace where possible.

My family and I will also spend time discerning what is best for us and for the future of ALC. We have loved working with you all and have found the ministry life-giving, but we know that you have a voice in our future and story as well. God continues to stir up for all of us opportunity, exploration, and a holy curiosity about our future. No matter what, I am confident that God is up to something at ALC. Good things are coming, and good things continue to come! Thank you for walking with us on this journey.

~ Pastor Jeremy Hallquist

Update on Befrienders' Ministry at ALC

One thing ministry doesn't do well is to assess and evaluate the strength and vitality of its work in relationship to its mission and the mission of God's Church in which it finds its home.

In early Spring the Befrienders meet and evaluated this ministry using a technique called S.W.O.C (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges.) Short after Easter, at a month meeting, the Befrienders discerned that our ministry was more of a home visitation ministry rather than a pastoral care ministry guided by specific guidelines expected to be practiced by the National Office of the Befriender's Ministry.

It was decided at that meeting that the current Befrienders would continue to visit their people as long as the relationship was life-giving. The Befriender's Ministry at American Lutheran Church has now entered a season of rest. It has not been disbanded.

Barb Schwery the Executive Dir. of Befrienders, INC in conversation with Pr. Anne shared that it is not uncommon for longer-existing ministries like ALC's to take "a sabbatical." It is a time of recharging.

ALC's church council supported the Befrienders' decision to "go on sabbatical."

It will be the responsibility of current Befrienders and ALC's pastors to revive the ministry at a future date if that is how the Spirit leads. Questions need to be directed to Pr. Jeremy and Rich Besel as well as Dave Nerem as Council President.

Thank you all who have taken the Befriender training since 2013. Thank you for all the visits and prayers shared with your befriendees.

There is a life-cycle for ministries just as there is for human life. This is in God's care and for this we give thanks and trust the faithfulness of God's love.



Card Making
Thursday, August 22
5:00pm - 7:00pm
CREATE CARDS FOR ALC'S CARD MINISTRY

-Sign up by **Wednesday, August 21** at the Welcome Center Connect with Cindy Anderson or Sandy Demuth with questions.

Connie's Cards now meets at "The Oasis" at **Living Waters Covenant Church in Wgtn.**



4th Sunday Noisy Offering
August 25 ~ Worship in the Park
Our noisy offering will support **Every Meal** a weekend food assistance program that helps feed Worthington students.





Bring your change for a great cause!



CARD MINISTRY



GATHER, CREATE, CONNECT
\$2/CARD
Available in the church office




TO: Building Debt

Debt
REDUCTION MINISTRY

Gift Cards are available at the Welcome Center on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month.

Available in the Church Office during office hours.

From: ALC Members




FAREWAY
MEAT & GROCERY



July, 2024

Dear American Lutheran Church Member,

We've just finished the first six months of our budget year 2024. Your Church Council is very excited about the accomplishments of this congregation during the first 6 months of this year. We've been truly blessed.

Probably the most significant achievement was the fund-raising effort to reduce our building debt by over \$300,000.00. Since January 1st, we've been able to reduce the building debt from \$578,000.00 to its current balance of \$270,000.00. This congregation truly displayed its "financial capacity" when asked to accept the challenge.

The Church Council is extremely excited about the positive momentum in our weekly attendance; the large number of visitors and new guests attending worship each week; and the increased participation in our adult programs and most important, the increase in the number of children participating in our youth programming. Many of our youth just returned from a highly successful Mission experience in Pennsylvania. It's an exciting time to be a member of American Lutheran Church.

This letter is to inform the congregation that we, the council, need your financial support to keep this positive momentum going. During the Congregational Annual meeting, the congregation unanimously supported the proposed 2024 Operating Budget of \$545,000.00. Several factors such as inflation, (increase in the cost of living), flood damages, and the overwhelming support of paying down the church building debt earlier in the year, has caused us to fall behind financially approximately \$56,000.00 in our Box 1 operating fund.

We know that many of you gave very generously during the fund-raising effort for reducing the building debt. We're asking you to consider continuing your generous contributions to Box 1 Operating Fund and help us cure this shortfall.

Please consider our Simply Giving program to have a predetermine dollar amount transferred from your bank account to the church account each week or month. If you're already using Simply Giving, please consider increasing your amount. It's simple and consistent. The council feels strongly that the successes mentioned earlier will continue and we can maintain this positive momentum.

Please consider increasing your financial support of Box 1 Operating Fund. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or any other council member. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Greg Raymo, Treasurer
American Lutheran Church



BECAUSE of YOU, ALC Channels Faith into Action

Lutheran World Relief is a global mission organization that works to tackle global poverty by helping people adapt to challenges that threaten their livelihoods and wellbeing. Their mission statement reads: "Affirming God's love for all people, we work with Lutherans and partners around the world to end poverty, injustice and human suffering". One of the ways they accomplish their mission is through quilt ministry, having donated over 11,880 to needy individuals across the world. Being a part of something bigger and making warm, comfortable and sturdy quilts that help others are just some of the reasons Lutherans gather to make quilts. Channeling faith into action is another. American Lutheran Church has a quilt ministry and has donated hundreds of quilts over the years. If you're interested in channeling your faith through quilting, the quilting ministry meets weekly on Wednesdays from 9am-11am at the church. Contact Donna Cargin to learn how you can get involved.



Your generous giving and support have enabled us to share God's love around the world.

Thank you from the Stewardship Committee.

AUGUST WORSHIP HELPERS AND LEADERS

Ushers 9:00 AM (Team 1 & 2) Paul Landberg, Diane Levine, Lori Ailts, Justin Graff, Gary Brandt

Altar Committee: Judi Hoevet, Connie Voss
Karen Pfeifer

Busy Bag Monitor: Christine Bullerman

Church Lockup: Paul Hanbury

Financial Counters (Team 2) Scott & Heidi Langerud, Maynard & Jeanene Townswick

Greeters:

August 4 - 9:00 | Mike & Lisa Peterson
Mark & Kay Prunty

August 11 - 9:00 | Steve & Lori Dudley
Erlin & Jean Weness

August 18 - 9:00 | Jean Bastian
Diane Levine

August 25 - 9:00 | Marv Isder
Mary Turner

Communion Servers:

August 4 - 9:00 | Steve & Lori Dudley, Karen Pfeifer, Diana Kvilhaug (Host)

August 11 - 9:00 | Connie Voss, Karla Kirkeby, Laura Hoffman, Karen Hanbury (Host)

August 18 - 9:00 | Sheila Pedersen, Dave Nerem, Jay & Melissa (Host) Jensen

August 25 - 9:00 | Judi Hoevet, Bob & Sandy Demuth, Mark Shepherd (Host)

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 a 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 God's ministries.

June 2024

Box 1 Income

\$37,447.33

Year to Date Box 1

\$200,235.73

Budget 2024

\$545,000.00

Building Loan Balance

\$270,856.53

Thanks for your generosity!

Worship Date	Worship Participants		
	9:00am In-Person	Wed. Night	Online as 7/23
June 30	133	NA	257
July 7	128	NA	237
July 14	125	NA	142
July 21	133	NA	208

Shetek Quilt Auction

The 38th Annual Quilt Auction of Shetek Lutheran Ministries was held on Saturday, June 22nd and, thanks to the hard work and generous contributions from within and outside of the church communities of the Shetek Conference, the auction was once again a huge success! A huge variety of quilts in various sizes as well as other items including Christmas tree skirts, denim rugs and table runners, were donated for the auction with dollar amounts ranging from \$20 to \$3000! **Thank you** to our own Shetek Quilt Auction Committee, who put together a theme basket titled "Blazing Stars" for the Silent Auction. Also, thanks go out to our Women's Organization, which made a donation of \$300 to the auction. SLM reports that a total of \$47,045, the second highest amount ever, was raised to support their ministries! **Thanks to those who attended and purchased items to help make the auction such a success!**

Shetek Conference Women's Fall Gathering

On Saturday, September 28th, The Shetek Conference Women of the ELCA will hold their annual Fall Gathering at Shetek Lutheran Ministries. This will be a morning event, beginning with registration at 8:30 a.m. This year, the camp will serve brunch as you arrive and then will have the session ending by noon, with everything taking place in the Dining Hall. This is a different schedule than in the past, but there is another group using the camp on that day so our Conference Board happily agreed to try something new! More details will be available prior to the gathering.



Dates for Your Calendar

- ◆ Saturday, September 28th – Shetek Conference Women's Fall Gathering at Shetek Lutheran Ministries
- ◆ Month of October – Annual Scandinavian Smorgasbord Fundraiser
- ◆ November (date to be determined) – Annual Thankoffering Worship Service

Next Lutheran Women's Board Meeting

Monday, September 9th at 4:30 p.m.



Scandinavian Smorgasbord

Preliminary plans are underway for our 39th annual Scandinavian Smorgasbord fundraiser, which again will take place during the month of October. The fundraiser will continue, as in the past few years, with monetary donations and special activities. There will be another Silent Auction of traditional Scandinavian goodies and a Food Sale featuring meatballs, lefse and baked goodies. More details will be coming soon!



Busy Bag Helpers Needed

It has come to our attention that there is a need for more people to serve as "Busy Bag Monitors". This is a very easy task that you can do on your own time. You would serve on a monthly basis, checking the bags to make sure the contents are in order and replacing or replenishing items as needed. **Many little hands have enjoyed using these bags during worship and would be very grateful for your help!**

Update on Summer Salad Event

Around 85 people, including extra kitchen helpers, attended this year's annual Summer Salad Event on June 20th. Southwest Crisis Center was the recipient of the free will offering collected that evening, which totaled \$440. Also, in last month's newsletter it should have stated that the person who shared devotions for the event was Karla Kirkeby. Thank you, Karla and thanks to all who attended for your generosity!

A Prayer for Clarity

Holy parent of all, your servant, Paul of Tarsus, tells us it is in you "that we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28). This truth brings a ray of clarity into the mystery of our faith. Since the fullness of who we are is contained in you, you hold our questions, our doubts, our frustrations, our hurts and our hope. Holy One, your faithfulness is the bedrock of our own believing, even in what we have not seen or fully understood. Grant us openness to mystery and revelation. Help us set aside certainties that are rooted in our own narrow experience and ways of thinking. Forgive us when our certainties have caused us to be separated from you and from others. We long to perceive the world through the broadness of your mercy. Through your divine loving kindness, guide us more deeply into a life where we embrace questions and faith as action. We trust (and it is most certainly true) that your goodness and mercy will follow us all of our days. Amen

Taken from "A Ray of Clarity" by Julia Seymour, published in Gather Magazine, July/August 2024

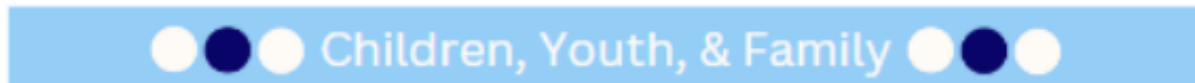
CHILDREN & FAMILY

Families, stay in the loop!

Check your inbox for “**ALC WEEKLY NEWS**” for weekly CYF (Children, Youth, & Family) updates.

Simply scroll to the last page for a message and important dates.

Here's what it looks like:



Hello, families!

We are beginning our plans for FALL PROGRAMMING. Check out ALC's weekly emails and monthly newsletter for upcoming opportunities, events, classes, and important dates.

Reach out to Pastor Jeremy or Kristin, if you'd like to be a part of Children's and/or Youth Ministry. There are lots of ways - big and small - to make a difference in the lives of others.

Blessings,

Pastor Jeremy & Kristin

associatpastor@worthingtonalc.org

children@worthingtonalc.org

Weekly Schedule

Sunday, August 11:

9am Worship

10am Coffee & Kinship

Coming Up



WHAT A MESS!
Slideshow during worship

August 18



Outdoor Worship &
Backpack Blessing

August 25



Get the Scoop Sundae:
Fall Programming Kick-Off
(between services)

September 8



Campfire Conversations: All ages welcome

Gather around the fire! A summer fellowship event on the first Sunday Night of the month for Campfire Conversations on August 11 at the Church, 6:30-9:30pm.

Bring your instrument, lawn chair, smart device, and join us for worship, devotions and a sing along. S'mores or campfire delicacies will be provided as well as a good time!

If you would like to host a group please let Pastor Jeremy know. Our hope is that people feel free to gather, and celebrate the joy of summer together.



Mission Trip 2024 Harrisburg Pennsylvania

I've been asked a few times to put into words what this week was about. To be honest, it's been more challenging than I thought. So, I'll give you a rundown to the best of my abilities. STUDENTS AT ALC ARE AMAZING. On our second night of the trip students were invited to take big risks, to try new things, and to challenge themselves to set the tone for the trip.

I want to report that our students did. If there was something happening that was silly, and exceptional it was because our students started it. One of our crews unloaded a trailer full of mulch for a beautifying community project and did it so fast that the crew organizers were shocked and ordered a second one. Well, the kids unloaded that before the day was out. Again, shocking the crew organizers.

Students helped with a theatre program that allows students to attend a day camp during the day and perform shows on the weekends. They helped do some heavy lifting for the boys and girls clubs in the community. They helped a local church beautify its property. Planted gardens for people who have struggled since covid, so they could one day give food away to their communities who need it. They worshipped, cleaned, laughed, played and connected with community storytellers. They even washed feet and prayed with one another.

The power of mission trips remains one of my core beliefs about ministry to this day. They leave students engaged with one another. They challenge students mentally, physically, and spiritually. They open eyes to see where communities are working to better themselves, and where a little help goes a long way. This year our students shined. We had our hiccups, don't get me wrong. At the end of the day, our students walked away from an experience they wouldn't have had otherwise.

Thank you. Thanks for giving financially, prayerfully, and honestly to our students. Thank you for making these trips possible and for allowing students the ability to learn and grow. Thank you for the ways you continue to support the youth, and the leaders of our church.

I also want to extend a word of thanks to Jill Cuperus, Dylan Graff, and Justin Graff for their willingness to lead and accompany our students this week. They gave tirelessly and showed up to help these students experience something new.

August 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



Welcome to the new Shetek Hiking Club - our monthly gathering to explore trails all across southwest Minnesota! Hike with us once a month throughout the year to meet new friends and explore our region. Hikes range from easy to strenuous, and include state parks and trails, county parks, and more. Let's move and learn together! Contact Katie at Katie@shetek.org or 507-763-3567 for more information.



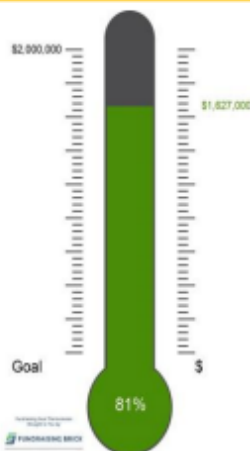
Golf Tournament Rescheduled to Monday August 5. Let us know if you can make it.

Call 507-763-3567 for more information

Wish List

- Glue and Glue Sticks
- Power Strips
- Mini Vans
- Volunteers

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!