

# Messenger



“**Courage**” was the prayer word or star word chosen to lead our congregation in 2024. How might you need courage during these days? What is the relationship between faith and courage? Who are our faith ancestors who lived out a quiet courage sustained by God’s promise of abiding love?



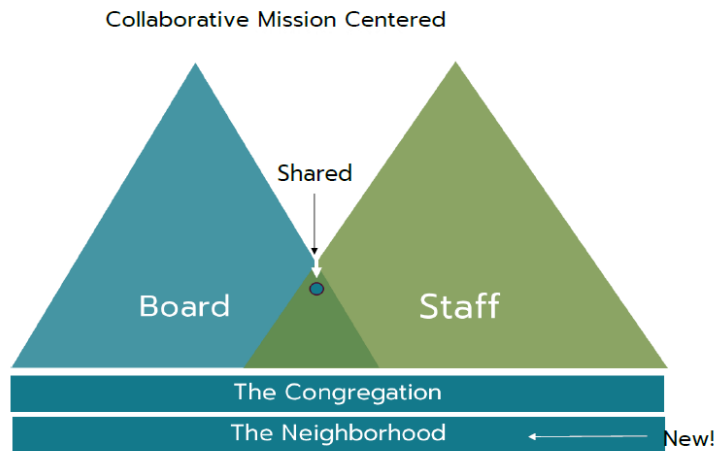
## Council Leadership

### \*\*\*Notice of 2023 Annual Meeting of the Congregation\*\*\*

On Sunday, February 18, at 11:30, the Annual Meeting of American Lutheran will be held. A Zoom link will be available on Sunday, February 11. Contact Kelly in the church office or Sylvia Andersen. Annual Reports will be available in print on Sunday, February 4. If you need a copy mailed or emailed to you, contact Kelly Henkels after February 4, 2023.

### \*\*A Look at Our Congregation’s Structure\*\*

In April of 2021, the Church Council through discernment, prayer, and conversation began the development of a vision of how it will be Spirit-lead to be God’s Church planted at 915 Winifred St. in Worthington. Here is an image of the organizational structure and brief overview of leaders’ roles. Pr. Anne’s 2023 Annual Report will address this with more detail.



Board	Shared	Staff
Creates space to learn.	Creates space to learn.	Creates space to learn.
Oversees committees.	Deepening discipleship growing trust and building new habits.	Oversees ministry teams.
Stewards the strategy, for alignment with a readiness to pivot or persevere.	Engages God’s vision with strategic planning and goal alignment.	Discerns outward vision in response to God’s call to partnership with the neighborhood and congregation.
Stewards resources including staff, finances, and property.	Designs and manages annual spending plan in alignment with God’s vision for the whole community.	Equips and nurtures the gifts of the congregation for mission by growing a deeper discipleship in daily life.

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# Lent 2024

THAT YOU MAY HAVE LIFE



Ash Wednesday  
Worship & Meal  
February 14, 2024

4:00pm, Worship

5:00pm, Meal

6:30pm, Worship

†† American  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## **February 14**

Lent begins with a traditional service with the imposition of ashes made from last year's Palm Sunday palms. The Lord's Supper will also be celebrated.

Each ministry team that serves a meal will be collecting a freewill donation to be gifted to various community charities serving those in need within our community.

## **Mid-week**

### **Lenten worship**

**services** begin on Feb 21.

Speakers from our community will be bringing a story of their faith at each worship service.

Offerings collected during mid-week worship will be given to UCAP, which supports SWMN people facing hunger, homelessness, and poverty.

Wednesdays in  
Lent 2024

5:00pm, Meal  
6:30pm, Worship

JOYOUS LIGHT  
EVENING PRAYER

Community Speakers will be sharing their faith stories

†† American  
LUTHERAN CHURCH



**Reminder of Annual Communion Registration** – The Southwestern Minnesota Synod requests a count of American Lutheran members who commune at least once during the year. To do this, please fill out the Communication Form slip included with your bulletin with your name, date and indicate that you have received communion. This is necessary to do only once a year and can be done at any time of the year. Thank you. The Worship & Music Committee

# Lent 2024

THAT YOU MAY HAVE LIFE



## Ash Wednesday

THAT YOU MAY HAVE LIFE  
February 14

Focus Scriptures: John 1: 1-18,  
John 1: 29-42, John 20: 310-31

## 1st Sunday In Lent

NICODEMUS ENCOUNTERS JESUS  
February 18

Focus Scriptures: John 1: 1-18,  
John 1: 29-42, John 20: 310-31



## 2nd Sunday in Lent

THE WOMAN OF SAMARIA  
February 25

Focus Scriptures: Romans 5: 1-11,  
John 4: 5-42

2024

# Lenten Services

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT**

**5:00 - MEAL -FREE WILL OFFERING**

**6:30 - WORSHIP -OFFERING TO UCAP**

*Joyous  
Light*

## **Speakers**

Community Speakers sharing  
their faith stories.

**FEBRUARY 21 - LAUREN WEG**

**FEBRUARY 28- DEB & MIKE MARQUARDT**

**MARCH 6- KARRIE OLMANSON**

**MARCH 13- PHILLIP BENSON**

**MARCH 20- DANIEL BERNSTROM**

## **American Lutheran Church**

915 Winifred St.

Worthington, MN 56187

507-376-5264

**Naomi Evenson is Celebrating her 95th Birthday on February 4th.**

Her family invites you to send cards to help her celebrate.

-Mail to 7260 South Robert Trail, #113

Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077



## ECUMENICAL LUNCHEONS LENTEN WORSHIP & MEAL

JOIN  
US

### DATE / LUNCHEON HOST

THURS. FEB 22 - AMERICAN LUTHERAN  
PRESIDING PASTOR- FIRST UNITED METHODIST

THURS. FEB 29 - LOCATION TBD  
PRESIDING PASTOR- WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN

THURS. MARCH 7 - FIRST LUTHERAN  
PRESIDING PASTOR- AMERICAN LUTHERAN

THURS. MARCH 14 - FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
PRESIDING PASTOR- FIRST LUTHERAN

12:00/Noon- 30 Minute Service  
12:30- Luncheon

Since 1939, we as Lutherans have been involved in welcoming new people into our nation as immigrants and Refugees. The following is from the website of the newly named Global refuge ([globalrefuge.org](http://globalrefuge.org)).

Leaders are thrilled to announce that Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) will now be known to the world and the people we exist to help as “Global Refuge.” The decision to rebrand as Global Refuge is rooted in the growing worldwide need for compassion and support. With millions of people displaced by war, famine, climate change, persecution, and more, our mission of providing the “long welcome” has become more crucial than ever. The accompanying growth in the demand for our essential, expanded suite of services has sparked the need to identify ourselves ever more clearly and create a bigger table of supporters.

**New Name, Same Mission:** As Global Refuge, we become even more accessible to clients, partners, and supporters without altering our core mission. We remain dedicated to fostering a world of just and welcoming communities, informed by our Lutheran heritage and nearly 85 years of experience. Our faith-based identity remains integral to our organization, reflecting the spirit of love that shapes our work of welcome and strengthens our relationships with Lutheran communities and congregations, as well as with nondenominational and interfaith partners.

## BECAUSE OF YOU... people were cared for at Christmas



ALC members again demonstrated a willingness to be the hands and feet of Jesus at this blessed time of year. This is another way we follow Jesus with glad and generous hearts. (Acts 2: 42-46) Here are some of the ways you shared the love and mercy of God.

**Christmas plant deliverers** – On Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, **10** families delivered poinsettia plants to these **45** members who were in need of an extra dose of God's mercy at Christmas time. Thank you to Larry and Pat Boots, Paul and Karen Hanbury, Harlan and Pam Handevidt, Bill and Judi Hoevet, Jay and Melissa Jensen, Roger and Clasine Lester, Kieth and Marj Olson, Shirley Rempel, Grant and Maureen Sorensen, and Bob and Shirly Wieme.

**Sharing Tree stars** – You took large yellow stars off the Sharing Tree during December and brought back the money for Christmas poinsettias and gift cards. You donated **\$400** for the plants which were delivered to members. **45** members of our congregation were recipients of your generous gifts as they live with the recent loss of a loved one, experience health issues or are home-bound. *Thank you for your generosity!*

### **Small Sharing Tree stars for Helping Hands Pregnancy Center –**

You took small pink and blue stars off the small Sharing Tree and filled the Pack 'n Play with needed items for the clients at the Pregnancy Center. Here is what you shared:

**\$825** Cash and gift cards for strollers, car seats, highchairs, bassinets, Pack 'n Plays, and other needed equipment, including **692 diapers** in all sizes!!!!

### **103 baby items**

6 bath towels	6 wash clothes	11 bibs
32 pairs of socks	10 outfits	21 sleepers
4 Dreft	2 baby wipes	4 bottles
4 shampoo/lotion	2 cross necklaces	1 Bible

*Thank you for your generosity! Together we shared the love of God with many grateful recipients! Thank you to the Stewardship Committee for coordinating this annual project.*

## **ELCA Responds to the Middle East Crisis**

Due to escalating conflict in Israel and Gaza, a severe humanitarian crisis has unfolded in the Holy Land. The ELCA has a longstanding relationship with partners in the region, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, and the Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem.

The ELCA is closely tied to two humanitarian arms - Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response – which work around the world and specifically now in the Holy Land. Both of these non-governmental organizations focus on disaster relief and recovery, whether natural disasters or man-made ones. Both organizations are currently answering the call for assistance from their partners in the Middle East by providing food, water, medical supplies, health care items, quilts, and financial assistance. Our donations to both Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) help ensure continued delivery of critically needed resources.

Your gifts to assist the ELCA's response to the crisis in the Middle East can be made through our ALC congregation. 1) Write your check to ALC or 2) Write in the memo either "LWR Middle East Crisis" or 3) "LDR Middle East Crisis." ~ *Thank you from the Stewardship Committee.*



## Noisy Offering

The Mission and Ministry Team is behind the “Noisy Offering” on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month.

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

February 25

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. You are invited to join this study at any time. It will continue from January through May of this year.

**Lenten Scripture Study:** Gather a group of people on personal time going through the scripture study that provides a deeper dive into the scripture stories for the Sunday worship series, “That You May Have Life.” Cost of the book is \$7. Write in the memo line “2024 Lent book.” Copies are available in the office during the week and at the Welcome Center on Sundays.

Dec 1, 2023 - Jan 31, 2024

Dollar for Dollar

**DOUBLE  
YOUR  
Impact**

Your donation to the building debt retirement fund will be matched up to \$100,000



## Thank You For Your Gifts

At the time of this printing, \$80,000 has been gifted to the ALC Debt Reduction Ministry. Matching funds increase these gifts to a total of \$160,000 designated to paying off our mortgage.

The total gifts will be tallied on February 1, 2024 and the total shared with the investors providing the matching funds. On Sunday, February 4, 2024, the total amounts will be announced.

## **FEBRUARY WORSHIP HELPERS AND LEADERS**

**Ushers 8:00 AM (Team 1)** Paul Landberg, Diane Levine, Lori Ailts, Justin Graff

**Ushers 10:15 AM (Team 2)** Lyle Oberloh, Gary Brandt

**Altar Committee:** Marj Olson, Shirly Wieme, Deb Stoll, Sue Rose

**Busy Bag Monitor:** Diane Levine

**Church Lockup:** Arvid Nielsen

**Financial Counters** (Team 4) Linden Olson, Grant Sorensen, Arvid Nielsen, Craig Pfeifer

### **Greeters:**

**4th** 8:00- Vern & Val Correll

10:15- Diane Levine

**11th** 8:00- Audrey Brake

10:15- Mary Turner

**18th** 8:00- Bruce & Karen Juber

10:15- Bill & Judi Hoevet

**25th** 8:00- Kieth & Marj Olson

10:15- Laura Hoffman

### **Communion Servers:**

**4th** 8:00- Gordy & Lori Heitkamp

10:15- Judi Hoevet

**11th** 8:00- Grant Sorensen, Diana Kvilhaug,

Lola Lindquist

10:15- Mark & Kay Prunty, Mary Turner

**18th** 8:00- Harlan & Pam Handevitd, Dave Nerem

10:15- Mike & Lisa Peterson, Karen Pfeifer

**25th** 8:00- Russell Obermoller, Mark Shepherd

Rod Obermoller

10:15-Deb & Mike Stoll, Laura Hoffman

## **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 God's ministries.

### **December Monthly Donations**

Gift Card Income	\$7,150.00
Parish Ed Income	\$432.00
Coffee Fellowship	\$320.55
Holiday/Spec Offering	\$1,951.00
Box 1 Income	\$53,319.25
Box 1 Income-Non Synod	\$6,600.00
Box 2 Income	\$48,376.22
New Youth Director Gifts	\$100.00
Box 3 Income	\$821.00
Every Meal	\$364.63
Endowment Fund	\$300.00
Special Meals	\$1,004.00
Operation Christmas	\$1,315.00
Lutheran Women	\$875.00
Rental Income	\$50.00
Confirmation Gifts	\$200.00
Altar Flower	\$70.00
EJ Scholarship	\$10.00
Envelopes	\$10.00
Meals	\$417.00
Youth Donations	\$25.00
Thrivent	\$88.00
Food Shelf	\$1,000.00

### **Operating Finances November, 2023**

Income	\$123,594.65
Expenses	\$81,151.42
Net Income	\$42,443.23

### **Building Debt Reduction Ministry**

Debt as of 1/1/23	\$790,148.37
Interest paid December 2023	\$2,247.10
Current Building Fund Debt	\$578,848.37

Worship Date	Worship Participants			
	8am, In-Person	10:15am In-Person	Wed. Night	Online as 1/24
Dec. 24	232 9 & 4	154 6 & 10	_____	360
Dec. 31	86 9	One Service	_____	105
Jan. 7	78	79	60	308
Jan 14	NA Weather	NA Weather	53	9
Jan. 21	61	53	33	NA



# LUTHERAN WOMEN

February 2024

## 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Southwest Minnesota Synodical Organization Women of the ELCA Convention

Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> is the day for the SW MN SWO Convention, which will be held at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Redwood Falls. This will be a one-day event, so mark your calendars and plan to attend. The In-Kind offering will be Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits. More information and details of the Convention will be made available soon.

## Ecumenical Lenten Service and Luncheon

For many years, churches in our community have taken turns hosting an Ecumenical Lenten Service and Luncheon during the season of Lent. This worship service takes place weekly at noon on the designated day and is open to community members of all ages. The worship service is followed by a luncheon prepared by the hosting church, with our Lutheran Women's organization coordinating the meal when our church is hosting. At this time, plans and the schedule have not been finalized. **Please watch the bulletin for further information. Sign-up sheets for volunteers to bring food and work at the meal will be posted when more information is available.**

## Shetek Conference Women of the ELCA Spring Gathering

The Shetek Conference of the Women of the ELCA Spring Gathering will be held on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at Jasper Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jasper, MN. (Snow date is Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>). The Conference begins at 9:30 a.m. Special speaker will be Pastor Allan Bakke, speaking on Human Trafficking. Make plans to attend this interesting event!

**Next Lutheran Women's Board Meeting**  
Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:30

## 13th Triennial Convention of the Women of the ELCA

The date and location of the 13<sup>th</sup> Triennial Convention of the Women of the ELCA has been set for July 12 – 19, 2026 in Des Moines, IA. This Convention features many interesting and exciting events and speakers. Since this location is relatively close, keep it in mind as you look toward making future plans in your schedule! More information will be available as we get closer to the date.

## Kitchen Cleaning

At one of the last LW Board meetings, a decision was made to change things up a bit. Instead of having our Circles take turns hosting the semi-annual kitchen cleaning, it was decided that **ALL WOMEN could plan to participate, with the Lutheran Women's Board organizing the event.** The date has been set for **Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.** Please plan join us for cleaning and fellowship as we work together to make our well used kitchen shine!

## Important Dates for Your Calendar

- ♦ **Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.** – Kitchen Cleaning
- ♦ **Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>** – Shetek Conference Women of the ELCA Spring Gathering at Jasper Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jasper, MN
- ♦ **Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>** – 37<sup>th</sup> Annual SW MN SO Convention at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, MN

## Nearness to God Brings Likeness to God

*The more you see God, the more of God will be seen in you.* Charles Spurgeon

The more we behold and treasure God, the more we become like Him and see His purposes in our circumstances. We are transformed as we walk with Him. The most ordinary days become extraordinary places of transformation. No circumstance is too ordinary or too forgotten for God to meet us right where we are. His transforming grace turns our "everyday ordinary" into a holy place. Ruth Chou Simons

## Night at the Rink

Wednesday, February 7  
6-8pm



**FREE EVENT**  
Invite friends & family  
(ALL AGES)

ice skating  
snacks  
hot chocolate bar

### Children, Youth, & Family

Hello, families!

Put on an extra pair of socks, grab your gloves, and join us for "Night at the Rink"!

We'll be heading to the Worthington ice arena, **Wednesday (February 7), from 6-8pm**, for a joyous evening of skating, snacking, chatting, and a yummy hot chocolate bar!

This event is totally FREE (including skate rental).  
Invite family and friends to join us.  
If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out.

*Blessings,*

*Pastor Jeremy & Kristin*

[associatpastor@worthingtonalc.org](mailto:associatpastor@worthingtonalc.org)

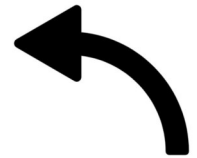
[children@worthingtonalc.org](mailto:children@worthingtonalc.org)

### Weekly Schedule

Wednesday, February 7:  
6-8pm Night at the Rink  
(Worthington Ice Arena)

Sunday, February 11:  
8am First Word Worship  
9am Coffee Fellowship  
9:15am Faith Formation  
10:15am Journey Worship

Wednesday, February 14:  
Ash Wednesday  
(No Faith Formation)



For upcoming events and up-to-date schedule, Check out our CYF page in our weekly "Community News". (See example, at left)

If you're not receiving our weekly newsletter, via email, please let the office know.

### Coming Up



Night at the Rink!  
February 7



Ash Wednesday  
February 14



Lent meal & worship  
February 21

## Confirmation Ministry- Lenten Expectations

The Season of Lent is a different season in the life of American Lutheran. It is meant to be a season of focusing in on faith and learning about where we intersect with the life of Jesus in our world today.

Our confirmation program isn't much different. It's another chance for students to walk in faith and to explore how people experience the faith of Jesus in their lives.

During the season of Lent we expect that our students participate, help usher and lead worship, and listen to the stories of faith from people in our community. We ask that you as parents help them connect with the faith stories, and to share in the ways God is moving in your life this season.

We hope to see you there!  
~Pastor Jeremy

### **February Confirmation Schedule:**

- **Feb 7:** Night at the Rink
- **Feb 14:** Ash Wednesday: Faith Formation
- **Feb 21:** Lenten Supper/Worship/ Faith Formation
- **Feb 28:** Lenten Supper/Worship/ Faith Formation



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

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, 2023
- Mid Payment of \$200 due April 10th, 2023
- Final Payment due June 2nd, 2023
- Student accounts can be used to pay any of these payments. Once a payment is made, it is nonrefundable.

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## Night at the Rink

The night at the rink event will be February 7th from 6-8pm. We will meet at the Worthington Ice Arena for skating, fellowship and a chance to have some laughs! We will not have supper this evening. Instead, we will have a Hot Chocolate bar and snacks! This event is open to students of all ages, and we welcome parents to stay if you so choose! There are learning tools and skate rentals for anyone that needs help!



Address: 553-641 Stower Drive, Worthington, MN.

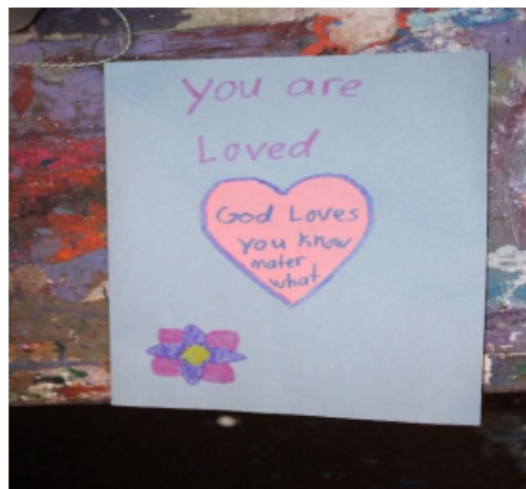


**February 2024**



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

## Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers



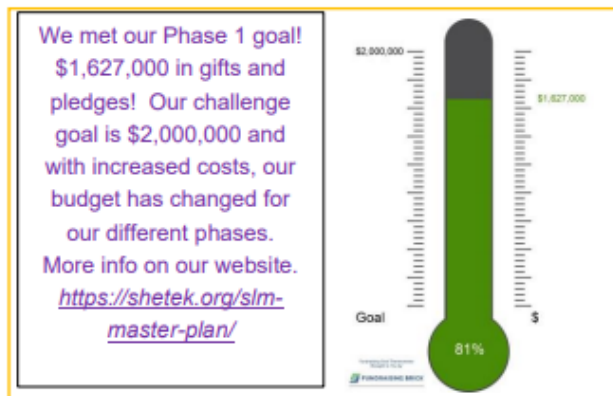
**Happy Valentines!**

### Wish List

- Glue and Glue Sticks
- Extension Cords
- Volunteers
- **Summer Staff -**  
<https://shetek.org/work-at-shetek/>

### Mark your Calendar

- February 4 Comfort Bird Whittling Class
- February 23-25 Winter Family Camp
- March 15-16 March Confirmation Retreat
- Register at [shetek.org](https://shetek.org) or  
Call 507-763-3567 for more information



**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!**