

Messenger

January Calendar Highlights

Tuesday, January 2, Office opens and regular hours resume.

Wednesday, January 3, No Evening activities

Sunday, January 7, No Faith Formation

Tuesday, January 9, Annual reports are due to Kelly in digital form or print ready. Thank you.

Wednesday, January 10, 5:30pm, Koinonia Meal.
6:30pm is the Star Word Worship, which is an intergenerational Faith Formation event for the whole congregation.

Sunday, January 14, Faith Formation class resume for all ages
Pre K– Adult.

Monday, January 15, Office and building closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Wednesday, January 17, Wednesday evening activities resume:
5:30pm, Koinonia Meal, 6:30pm, Worship, 7:00pm, Ignite and Confirmation.

Looking Ahead

Wednesday, February 14, Ash Wednesday
4:00pm, Worship with Imposition of Ashes
5:00pm, Supper
6:30pm, Worship with Imposition of Ashes

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.



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With Thankful Hearts:

Joy flows out of gratitude. Thank you to each and all for your participation in the Advent and Christmas events and festivities. Our halls were filled with goodness, laughter, and a living faith. It is good to make memories together as we walk in Jesus' faith so that others may see Christ's light within one and all!

With Gratitude: *Thank you for the joyous celebration of the 30th Anniversary of my Ordination into Word and Sacrament Ministry. Your presence was the gift of belonging found only in the community that bears Christ's name.*

—Pastor Anne

Star Word for 2024: You will have an opportunity on January 10 to receive a personal star word for 2025 and to select a star word for ALC during worship. The focus of our worship will be discerning the prayer word or “star word” for the congregation. This will be the fourth year during worship that worshippers will pray, talk, and sing together as they lean into the Holy Spirit’s guiding for us.

From the authors of the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany series,

Having a “star word” is a prayer practice in churches all over the world. [It starts in Epiphany and helps to focus your prayers throughout the year.] There are many reasons behind this tradition. First, we know that the Magi followed a star, which ultimately led them to Jesus. Therefore, we too use all the resources we have available to us—including creative prayer practices and intention words for the new year—to move closer to Jesus. Secondly, we trust that God uses multiple ways to guide us and speak to us. Star words are one such lens that might provide us with a way to look for God in our midst, both actively and in hindsight. Finally, we know that the most common prayer practice for many involves speaking to God as opposed to silence or contemplation. However, this prayer practice invites a new prayer rhythm of reflection and review that can be a powerful way to connect with God.



ALC 2022 Star Word

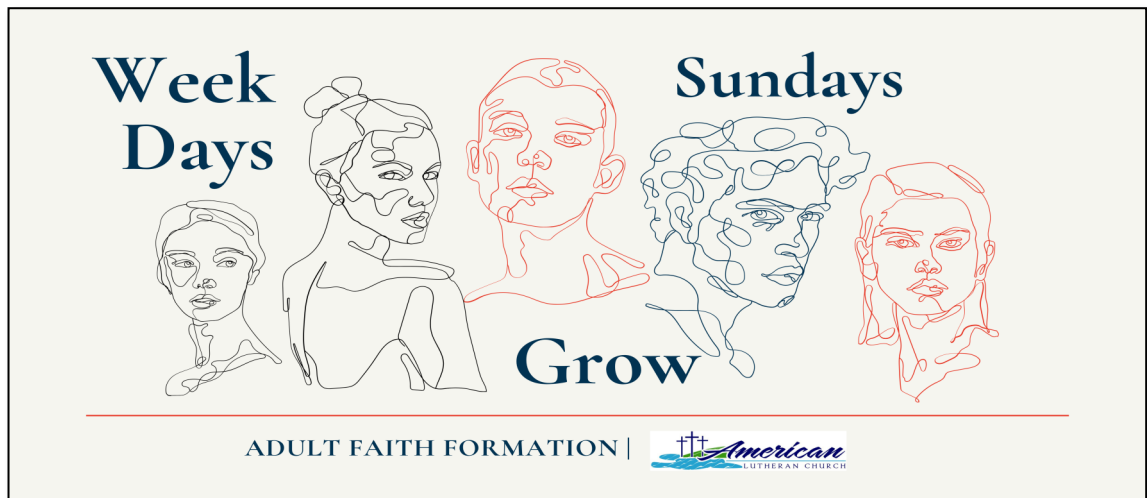
Schedule for Wednesday, Jan 10

5:30pm, Koinonia Supper

6:30pm, Star Word Worship in the Fellowship Hall

***This is an intergenerational faith formation activity.

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



January Sunday Adult Education

January 14
January 21
January 28

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. After the holidays, this class resumes on January 23 with a look at the early church in Acts and continues on January 30 with a deep dive into the call of the Apostle Paul. You are invited to join this study at any time. It will continue from January through May of this year.

Noisy offering: We return to a fun and familiar tradition with the “Noisy Offering” on the 4th 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!

New Fundraiser to Reduce Our Building Debt: A group of visionaries from ALC have combined their financial assets to provide



the seed money for this unique

matching gift project to reduce our debt. Your gift, small and large, will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$100, 000. This matching gift program runs from Dec 1, 2023, through January 31, 2024. Write “Building Match” on the memo line. If you have questions, please contact one of the pastors, Sandy, or Marv.

As of Dec 15 \$21,332.06 was donated to be matched.

4th Sunday Noisy Offering

starts Nov 26

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

Bring your change for a great cause!

EVERY MEAL

ttt American LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 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: Diana Kvilhaug, Diane Levine, Kathy Sackett

Busy Bag Monitor: Kris Besel

Church Lockup: Erlin Weness

Financial Counters (Team 5) Vern & Val Correll, Sharon Johansen

Greeters:

7th 8:00- Lori Ailts
10:15- Gary & Mary Brandt
14th 8:00- Pam & Harlan Handevidt
10:15- Marchelle Jorgensen
21st 8:00- Marv Isder
10:15- Shirley Rempel
28th 8:00- Dee & Dennis Hale
10:15- Mark & Kay Prunty

Communion Servers:

7th 8:00- Bob & Sandy Demuth, Marcia Basche
10:15- Roger & Clasine Lester, Nancy Marco
14th 8:00- Dennis & Dee Hale, Dave Nerem
10:15- Bruce & Karen Juber, Laura Hoffman
21st 8:00- Rod Obermoller, Karla Kirkeby, Connie Voss
10:15- Greg & Barb Raymo, Jill Cuperus
28th 8:00- Dave & Brenda Baerenwald, Lola Lindquist
10:15- Steve & Lori Dudley, Karen Hanbury

Worship Date	Worship Participants			
	8am, In-Person	10:15am In-Person	Wed. Night	Online as 12/15
Nov. 26	72	40	56	338
Dec. 3	87	70	55	316
Dec. 10	96	99	—	171
Dec. 17	72	72	NA	NA

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.

November Monthly Donations

Gift Card Income	\$6,800.00
Parish Ed Income	\$3,379.43
Coffee Fellowship	\$185.25
Holiday/Spec Offering	\$1,909.00
Box 1 Income	\$49,649.00
Box 1 Income-Non Synod	\$500.00
Box 2 Income	\$13,040.00
New Youth Director Gifts	\$2,929.42
Box 3 Income	\$827.00
Every Meal	\$136.49
Endowment Fund	\$290.00
Special Meals	\$1,004.00
Operation Christmas	\$ 780.00
Lutheran Women	\$6,168.75
Rental Income	\$275.00
Confirmation Gifts	\$200.00
Altar Flower	\$120.00
ALC Scholarship	\$250.00
Youth Donations	\$ 7,334.43

Operating Finances November, 2023

Income	\$95,777.77
Expenses	\$82,352.30
Net Income	\$13,425.47

Building Debt Reduction Ministry

Debt as of 1/1/23	\$790,148.37
Interest paid October 2023	\$2,301.43
Current Building Fund Debt	\$607,548.37

LUTHERAN WOMEN

January 2024

Christmas Salad Buffet

On Tuesday, December 5th, 82 ALC women, their guests and extra helpers gathered to enjoy our annual Lutheran Women's Christmas Salad Buffet. Attendees were treated to a beautifully decorated red and white "Joy Theme" in the Fellowship Hall. A delicious selection of salads and breads provided a very satisfying meal for all to enjoy! The evening concluded with a program in the Sanctuary titled "Symbols of Christmas", focusing on the different items we use to celebrate Jesus' birth such as candles, angels, the Christmas star and bells. Beautiful musical numbers provided by the Great Plains String Quartet enhanced the description and scripture reading for each symbol. We are reminded that Jesus is the true reason for our celebrations during the Christmas season!

Many thanks to:

- ♦ Mary Circle for the beautiful decorations
- ♦ Esther Circle for setting up and serving the meal
- ♦ Martha Circle for the meaningful program
- ♦ The Great Plains String Quartet for providing music and accompaniment during the program
- ♦ Sylvia Andersen and Kelly Henkels for their assistance
- ♦ Craig Pfeifer for helping with sound
- ♦ Wonderful volunteers who helped with cleanup
- ♦ All who prepared salads and bread for our meal
- ♦ All who attended and generously contributed \$354 to the offering, which has been forwarded to the Women's Organization of the SW MN Synod to support various ministries here and around the world.

Lord God, because You dwell in the midst of Your people with steadfast love, forgive our doubt and be great in the power of Your love among us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen

Begin the New Year With Circle Bible Study

Our three active Circles, Mary, Martha and Esther are committed to meet on a regular basis to engage our Sisters in Christ in Bible Study and fellowship using the Bible Study found in each monthly issue of Gather magazine. **All women are welcome to attend a Circle of their choice.** Below you will find meeting times and contact information help you find out more about attending a Circle Bible Study:

- ♦ Mary Circle meets the 1st Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. Co-chair is Diane Chapa (376-6845)
- ♦ Martha Circle meets the 1st Thursday of the month at 9:00 a.m. Co-chairs are Karen Pfeifer (360-1361) and Kris Besel (360-5797).
- ♦ Esther Circle meets the 1st Monday of the month at 3:00 p.m. Co-chairs are Marj Olson (360-1968) and Shirly Wieme (372-7126)

To receive Gather Magazine, call 1-844-409-0576 or visit www.gathermagazine.org.

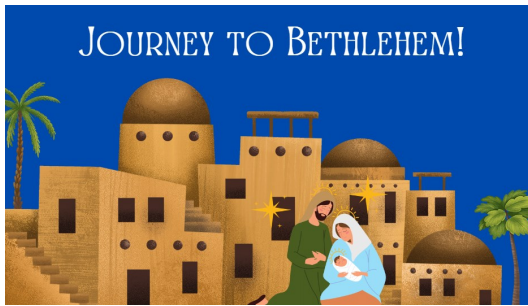
At Home with God

God wants to be your dwelling place. He has no interest in being a weekend getaway or a Sunday bungalow or a summer cottage. Don't consider using God as a vacation cabin or an eventual retirement home. He wants you under his roof now and always. He wants to be your mailing address, your point of reference; he wants to be your home...

We may think of God as a deity to discuss, not a place to dwell; as a creator to call on, not a home to reside in. But our Father wants to be much more. He wants to be the one in whom "we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28). Max Lucado

Next Lutheran Women's Board Meeting

Monday, January 8, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.



This magical (December 1st) evening invited smiles and laughter from ALL ages, as guests traveled through the "Bethlehem Marketplace" crafting, chatting, and reflecting on the joy and hope of the season.

More photos to be shared with during an upcoming worship service.



Scribe's Tent

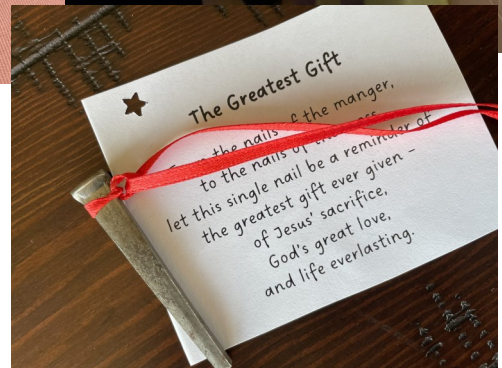


Advent Cross

The Inn



Roman soldiers with the Textile Proprietors



Blacksmith Shop Ornament



Candles of hope



Spice Shop

Confirmation Ministry– Small Group Leaders Needed

We are in need of some confirmation mentor support! As we have discovered in the last few weeks the kids need some extra support to help with guiding them during their small group time. We would love to have adults who are willing to help with the following groups:

- 6th Grade
- 7th Grade
- 8th Grade
- High School

We will provide the talk sheets and the prep material so you don't have to plan. We ask that you help facilitate discussion and to guide students in their time together. Pastor Anne and Pastor Jeremy are there to walk with you along the way. Please reach out to Pastor Jeremy if you can help!

January Confirmation Schedule:

- **Jan 3rd:** No Faith Formation No Meal
- **Jan 10th:** Faith Formation Resumes
- **Jan 17th:** Faith Formation
- **Jan 24th:** Faith Formation
- **Jan 31st:** 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.

Youth Fundraiser:

Ash Wednesday Meal; February 24th. Connect with Pastor Jeremy about details for this meal and a chance to earn money for your student accounts.

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.

Student Account Information:

There have been some questions regarding the Student Accounts at ALC. These are accounts set aside for students to use as they need/see fit. Money is raised through fundraising, or through generous adults donating in a student's name. That money can be used for the family to pay for summer trips, special events, or activities that youth could participate in. The money cannot be used to purchase food or clothing. Money earned stays in the family account until the youngest has graduated and then will be transferred to a youth scholarship account.

You can make donations directly to a specific student if you wish to help them participate in the programs offered at ALC. Student account totals will be posted on the Youth Bulletin board shortly after a fundraiser. Connect with Pastor Jeremy if you have questions.

January 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



Join us for our Winter Family Camp

Or just come out and see the beauty of the season here.

Wish List

- Vest style life jackets
- Extension Cords
- Volunteers
- **Summer Staff -**

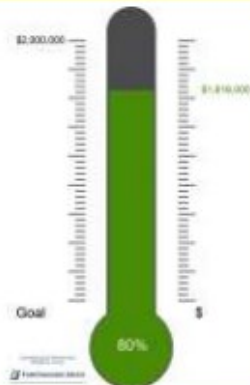
<https://shetek.org/work-at-shetek/>

Mark your Calendar

- January 17-21 Quilt and Craft Retreat
- February 23-25 Winter Family Camp
- Register at shetek.org or

Call 507-763-3567 for more information

We met our Phase 1 goal!
\$1,616,000 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!