

Messenger

July Ministry Notables

Contemporary Coffee & Music: On Sunday, July 9 at 9:15, there will be coffee and contemporary Christian music in the Gathering Space between worship services. This is a “coffee house” atmosphere to mill about, listen to music, and visit.

Summer Celebration Worship: “At the Lake: On Sunday, July, 16, we gather at Centennial Park Picnic Shelter for our “At the Lake” worship service at 10am. See page 2 of this *Messenger* for more detailed information.

Summer Preaching Series Overview: #FOR

Most people are more familiar with what the church is against, rather than what the church is “for.” We could make a laundry list of all the things the church has been against throughout history: smoking, dancing, drinking, gambling... (having fun). Which is ironic, because Jesus’ message in the Bible – over and over again - was all about who God was *for!* *The Bible is clear: Jesus was for peace, for inviting and loving your neighbors, for the poor, for the lost, for community, for children, for sharing, for not fearing, for inclusion, for thankfulness, peace, hope and joy! ...and Jesus was for YOU!*

Of all the institutions in the world, the church should be known for what it is for. For families, couples, singles, students, and children. For the young and the old. For Republicans and Democrats. For those who have it all together and those whose lives are messier than messy. The church is for all people because God is for all people. The most famous verse in the Bible clearly states this: “For God so loved the *world that he gave his only Son.*” - *John 3:16*

During this series, we’re going to uncover the people, things and life God is *FOR!*

Article continues on page 5



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Special points of interest

- Survey Overview
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- Summer Kids Camp Photos

Summer 2023 CELEBRATION WORSHIP



Information for all services.

One worship service at 10am. Lunch will follow.
Accessible locations. All sites are in Worthington.
Worship services recorded for a later broadcast.



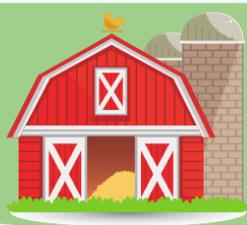
June 25 "Around the Town"

10am, Worship

Location: Downtown Pavilion
Lunch follows worship

July 16 "At the Lake"

10am, Worship
Centennial Park Shelter
Lunch follows worship



August 27 "On the Farm"

10am, Worship
Al Oberloh's Barn
Lunch follows worship

Freewill Lunch Offering

A freewill offering will be taken at each worship during lunch to support the new Youth Director.



Detailed information available
in the worship bulletins

Summer Celebration Worship

Each of these Celebration Worship services will be unique.

- Different Worthington location
- Three different menus
- New perspectives on faith and life.

Each of these Celebration Worship services will have similarities

- Same time. 10am.
- All are accessible.
- Meal follows each worship service
- Bring a guest or friend.
- Freewill donation taken as a way to financially support the new Youth Director Position.

Details for "At the Lake" on July 16 @ 10am.

Location is in the Centennial Park Picnic Shelter. Restroom facilities are nearby as well as ample parking. Consider bringing your own lawn chair for comfort.

Menu

Barbque Sandwiches
Chips
Desserts
Beverages

Results from the Congregational Vitality Study

Dear ALC Members,

On May 18 at the Council meeting, the Church Council received the results of the survey from Pr. Troy Pfibsen, Director of Evangelical Mission for the SWMN Synod. On June 16, the council did an assessment activity to focus in on the results that they felt were most pertinent to ALC's mission as we move forward in grace and by God's leading. Overall, the survey revealed a healthy and vibrant congregation with growth areas, deep strengths, and gaps in ministry to some age groups.

During the month of July, Cottage Meetings will be offered both at the church and in homes to discuss the results of the survey. You are encouraged to sign-up for one of the Cottage Meetings listed below. The Cottage Meetings in homes will be small groups of 10 people, while the meetings at church will meet between worship services.



Cottage Meeting Dates:

*****Sign up at church or in the office. There are 10 openings at each meeting in a home.**

***Thursday, June 29, 1:00pm @ Church, in the Gathering Space (*only June date)**

Sunday, July 2, 9:15am, @ Church in the Gathering Space

Wednesday, July 5, 10am, @ Church, in the Gathering Space

Thursday, July 6, 6:30pm @ Marj and Kieth Olson's House

Monday, July 10, 6:30pm @ Karen and Craig Pfeifer's House

Thursday, July 13, 6:30pm @ Sharon Johanson's House

Monday, July 17, 6:30pm @ Pastor Anne and Arvid's House

July 18, 9:00am @ Church, in the Gathering Space

July 23, 9:15am @ Church, in the Gathering Space

Tuesday, July 25, 6:30pm @ Pam & Harlan Handevitd's House

Survey at a Glance

- 134 out of 135 surveys were valid.
- 110 surveys were taken online and submitted digitally.
- More women than men completed the survey.
- Most of the people who completed the survey were age over 65.
- 70 respondents stated that "most of our ministry is done excellently and with a great deal of compassion." Compared to 9 respondents who stated that "ministry is done poorly and without much passion."
- 81 respondents agreed that "Our congregation has a vision statement, but it doesn't significantly shape what we do." Compared to 39, who answered "that we have a compelling vision statement."

Growth Areas:

The following are areas were identified as areas of growth and for deeper conversation: 1) ALC's relationship with the diverse Worthington population, 2) perceptions about growth and decline, 3) awareness of participation in ministry activities, and 4) some programs such as retaining visitors who come to worship and ministry events. (Participation in ministry is the growth area of most concern to the Church Council.)

Art & Craft Fair November 4, 2023

You are invited to share your talents as a painter, baker, crafter, wood workers, and more.

The Annual Art & Craft Fair is a fundraiser for our building debt reduction ministry.

This is a time to celebrate arts and crafts, as well as baked goods. **New This Year**, we will serve Barbque Sandwiches.

Come browse , shop, and eat lunch with us.

Connie Voss is the leader for this event.

Please connect with her by phone 507-360-8362 or email her at cmvoss10@gmail.com

In 2022, we combined our resources in this event and were able to dedicate \$4,600 for debt reduction. We are excited to do that again.

*Thank you all
for all you do.
Connie Voss*

Worship & Music

Reminder of Annual Communion Registration – The 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*

From Sylvia Andersen



The organ will be silent for a couple of months. I am scheduled for cataract removal surgery at the end of summer and finds that reading music and playing are close to impossible until the surgery and

recovery have been completed. If all goes well, we will celebrate when its voice can return to worship services. In Colossians 3:16, Paul writes this: “...with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God.” In the meantime, we can do this whether our voices are unaccompanied or accompanied by piano or guitar!

Sisterhood & Coffee

**WOMEN'S
COFFEE**
@ HY-VEE
MEETS WEEKLY ON TUESDAY
10:00AM
JOIN WHEN POSSIBLE.
COME OFTEN AND BRING
FRIENDS.

Walking in the Faith of Jesus: Serving Others

Every Meal: Fight Child Hunger Together

Together, we can support and sustain the state-wide program called, Every Meal. Each week, during the 2022-2023 school year, 191 Intermediate School students received Every Meal food bags distributed by ALC members. This became a ministry that was effective and meaningful. Leaders of this ministry are asking members of our congregation to directly support this program with a financial donation in order to sustain this program. In addition, grants will be applied for and fundraising events will be planned in the future. If you wish to contribute directly and immediately, send a check to Every Meal, 2723 Patton Road, Roseville MN 55113. Thank You! *Mission and Ministry Team*



Providing Warmth & Prayer



A number of ALC members have received prayer shawls from the pastors, friends, and the Befrienders. If you know of a person who would like a prayer shawl, Kelly and/or one of the pastors can get you one to share.

Summer Preaching Series Overview: (cont. from page 1)

July 9, What are you FOR? Question #1: *What do you want to be known for? What kind of father, mother, spouse, leader, boss.* Question #2: *What are you known for?*

July 16, "At the Lake" Celebration Worship

July 23, FOR "those people." We're all too familiar with "those people." But, guess what? It's "those people" Jesus came to earth for.

July 30, FOR taking risks (vs. playing it safe) Christians are known for playing it safe...which is ironic, because Jesus was always taking risks like we could never imagine!

August 6, FOR gray (vs. black & white/right & wrong thinking) Right and wrong. This is what Christianity is normally known for. What if the faith of Jesus wasn't all that clear? What if Jesus came for those of us whose lives are messy?

August 13, FOR you (vs. the version of you you think you should be.) We all think there is a version of ourselves that is better than the one we are. Stop! God is for you. The Real you. The you RIGHT NOW.

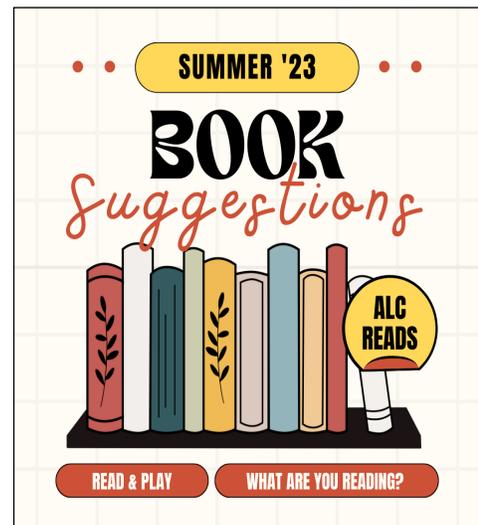
Worthington Crailsheim International, Inc. Host Families Are you ready to experience a new culture at home while sharing and representing your own? The Worthington Crailsheim international Inc. committee is looking for host families for the student representative for the 2023-2024 school year. Hosting an exchange student gives you the chance to learn about new cultures, create lasting friendships and build a global family. This experience will enrich the life of your family and community! Host families usually house the student for three months.



For more information about this amazing opportunity please visit:

<http://wgtn-crailsheim.org/> or call Lon Lien at 507-360-9142.

Sylvia Anderson recommends: Mere Christianity by CS Lewis. In the classic Mere Christianity, C.S. Lewis, the most important writer of the 20th century, explores the common ground upon which all of those of Christian faith stand together. Bringing together Lewis' legendary broadcast talks during World War Two from his three previous books The Case for Christianity, Christian Behavior, and Beyond Personality, Mere Christianity provides an unequalled opportunity for believers and nonbelievers alike to hear this powerful apologetic for the Christian faith. (Amazon Publishing)



This book has been a part of my life for so long that I cannot pinpoint the first time I read this! My best guess is that it was when I was in my teens or early twenties. I have read it in its entirety several times throughout my life. Each time I read it, I feel that I am discovering it all over again! In each stage of my life, it has spoken to me a bit differently. My understanding of it deepens with each reading. I am guessing that most of you have read this book also – or at least skimmed it. Read it again! Read it with the insight that your current life circumstances bring to your understanding.

Pastor Anne recommends: *A Girl Named Samson* by Amy Harmon

I am recommending this book because it is dynamic story about real-life girl grown into a woman who served in the American Revolutionary War as a soldier. It is a coming of age story with many classic and biblical references. It gives an up-close portrayal of the cost of war on family and identity. It struggles with one's dreams and society's rules. The dialog is real and the characters are relatable.

BECAUSE OF YOU...

Wednesday night meals became a feeding ministry! Did you know that a total of 1,146 meals were served at Wednesday night Koinonia meals during the past school year? That's an impressive crowd at each of the 23 meals held throughout the year! Thank you to all of you who attended and enjoyed the Wednesday night activities at ALC.

But this article is a huge THANK YOU to the 58 volunteers who helped ensure the success of this feeding ministry that impacts young people, families, singles, seniors, guests, and more. These willing workers made bars, came early and helped prepare the meals, served the meals and helped clean up. Most importantly they extended hospitality to our diners by welcoming them with a smile and a kind word and grew to know each other even better in the process. We laughed, told stories, shared happy moments and sad ones as well, and grew as friends...all while we enjoyed working together to serve a tasty meal.

Please join the Stewardship Committee in thanking all these servant leaders who helped with meals this past year:

Heidi Ahlers
Cindy Anderson
Elisabeth Anderson
Ethan Anderson
Sarah Anderson
Marcia Basche
Jean Bastian
Kris Besel
Pat Boots
Gary Brandt
Mary Brandt
Bill Buxengard
Joanne Carlson
Jill Cuperus
Jozie Cuperus
Lane Cuperus
Lawson Cuperus
Shari Dale
Bob Demuth
Sandy Demuth
Lori Glawe
Ellie Hallquist
Anne Hokenstad
Harlan Handevitd
Pam Handevitd
Lois Harberts
Kelly Henkels
Kirk Honius
Sharon Johansen

Marchelle Jorgensen
Diana Kvilhaug
Greg Kvilhaug
Clasine Lester
Diane Levine
Nancy Marco
Martha Naab
Dave Nerem
Ann Obermoller
Carol Olson
Linden Olson
Kieth Olson
Marj Olson
Craig Pfeifer
Karen Pfeifer
Brayden Raymo
Kaylee Raymo
Tasha Raymo
Pat Remme
Clea Rickert
Jerry Sandstrom
Mavis Sandstrom
Marcia Shepherd
Mary Turner
Connie Voss
Lyle Voss
Erlin Weness
Bob Wieme
Shirly Wieme
Jeremy Hallquist



Perhaps you would like to help out next year! Watch for weekly sign-up sheets this fall!

Children & Family



Each day focused on a different Bible story, with music, worship, and fun activities (science, games, and hands-on) to reinforce the lesson.

Theme Verse:

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge HIM, and HE will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6



Bible Story: Moses in the Wilderness
Hands-On Activity: Tent Building



Bible Story: The Wise & Foolish Builders
Hands-On Activity: House Building



Bible Story: The Burning Bush
Hands-On Activity: Breath Painting



Bible Story: Peter Walks on Water
Hands-On Activity: Boat Building

Council Action: Full-Time Youth Director Update

The most recent information to share with each of you is that the Job description has been created and posted. We are beginning the process of creating a search committee, and receiving candidate applications in at the church office. If you are interested in helping us interview, and to work in the hiring process please let Pastor Jeremy know. We are looking for a few parents from a variety of age groups.



Youth Group– July 9th Join us for a night out. We will be using Wild Goose Chase and having a scavenger hunt around town! Join us from 6-9pm. We will need a few parent drivers for this event. Talk to Jeremy asap if you plan to attend!

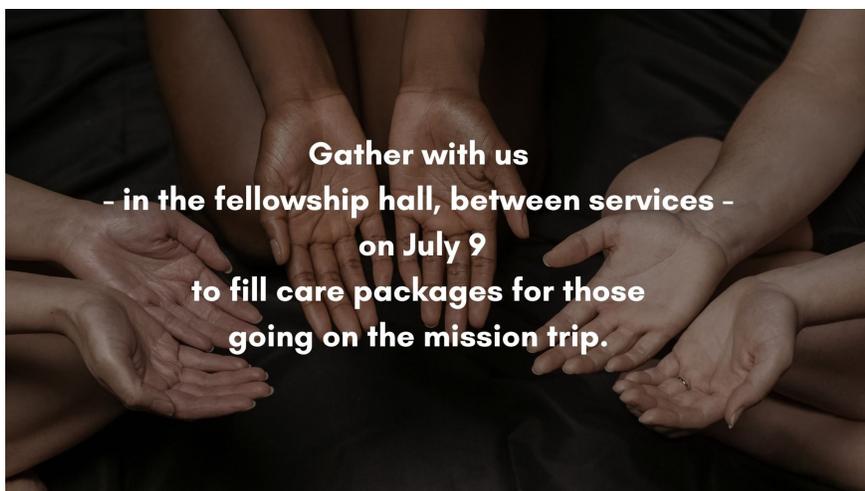
July 14th- 22/23 Mission Charleston, WV 6th-12th graders will be heading on a mission trip to Charleston, WV. Please plan to attend worship on July 9th, for a special blessing at the 10:30 am service.

July 30th to Aug 4th– Confirmation Camp. Students are invited to sign up for Confirmation Camp at Shetek. Once you sign up, please email Pastor Jeremy so we can help with costs!

Mission Trip Minute:

If you are interested in following along with the mission trip, Pastor Jeremy will post periodic photos and highlights of the trip on our church Facebook page. If you are not following that page you can do so by searching American Lutheran Church– Worthington MN. We would love to have you leave comments, prayers, and words of support to the youth and adults as they experience this week.

Youth will be serving in a variety of contexts and so each student will have a unique experience throughout the week. If you are interested in hearing part of their story please come to worship on July 30th, as youth tell their story, and share where God showed up during the week.



LUTHERAN WOMEN

July 2023

Summer Salad Event

On Thursday, June 22nd, women from our congregation, their guests, and women from neighboring Lutheran congregations gathered for a delightful evening for our annual Summer Salad Event! The Fellowship Hall was decorated to reflect our theme, "Every Flower Must Grow Through Dirt", with table centerpieces of pretty flowers surrounded by rocks. We enjoyed a delicious variety of salads and breads along with dessert and wonderful fellowship! Our special speaker for the evening was Worthington native Jill Koopman, who shared her presentation, "Growing through Adversity". Her story of perseverance, character and hope during a challenging season of her life was very inspiring! A free-will offering was collected at the tables during the meal to benefit Project Morning Star. Many thanks go out to the following people who helped make this evening special:

Martha Circle and the Mission Growth Committee for the decorations

- ◆ Mary Circle for setting up, serving the meal and providing the delicious punch
- ◆ LW Board members and Circles for providing the delicious array of salads and breads
- ◆ Mission Growth Committee for providing the dessert
- ◆ Deb Stoll for devotions
- ◆ Diana Kvilhaug for serving as MC
- ◆ The Mission Growth Committee for planning and preparing for this event (those members are Marj Olson, Marcia Basche, Judi Hoebet, Jean Bastian and Karen Pfeifer)
- ◆ Esther Circle and friends for clean-up
- ◆ And lastly, thanks to all of you who attended and made this evening a great success!

Time and Talent Sheets

If you have not already done so, **NOW** is the time to consider **how you can serve** in the coming year (September 2023 to August 2024) by filling out your intentions using the mailing you received in June. Or stop by the office if you do not have your mailing. Once again, you will notice the Lutheran Women's items are designated with an asterisk and incorporated into the main Time and Talent sheets. The many ministries of the Lutheran Women depend on members just like you. Take time to reflect on your interests and skills and the ways you can share the gifts God has blessed you with. **As you lean into Christ's light, consider how the Holy Spirit is calling you and where you can create space for God in your life and in the lives of others by volunteering to serve!** Together, let's lean into Christ's light and celebrate God's amazing love and generosity with our time and talents!



Scandinavian Smorgasbord

Plans will soon be underway for the 38th annual Scandinavian Smorgasbord. Once again, we look forward to your help and participation to make this event a successful fundraiser for our Lutheran Women's Organization's important work. We ask for your prayers as we move forward with the planning process, turning to God for help and guidance in our decision making. Stay tuned for more information coming soon!



Shetek Quilt Auction

Thanks to everyone who attended the 37th annual Quilt Auction to benefit the Summer Camp Ministry at Shetek Lutheran Ministries, which was held on Saturday, June 24th. Also, thanks to the members of our Shetek Quilt Auction Committee for providing the cute theme basket of "This and That", to our Lutheran Women's Organization for donating \$300, and to all who contributed in any way by providing items to make this year's fundraiser another great success! More details about the auction will be shared in the next newsletter.



Operation Christmas Child/Shoebox Ministry

Our summer Mission Action Project, Operation Christmas Child/Shoebox Ministry is well underway! Be sure to check out the red wagons located at the church entryways to pick up a list of ideas for items to donate and drop in the wagon. Or you can also pick up a box to fill on your own. Special envelopes are available as well, if you wish to help with a monetary donation. This fall, during "God's work, our hands" Sunday, we hope to fill **MANY BOXES** with the collected items to be distributed to children around the world, serving God by bringing joy to those less fortunate!

Twelfth Triennial Gathering of the Women of the ELCA

Theme "**Just Love**"

September 21-24, 2023 Phoenix, AZ

Money from Lutheran Women has been designated to help with expenses if you wish to attend. Please contact Kris Besel or Diana Kvilhaug for more information about registering and attending, or go to:

WOMENOFTHEELCA.ORG/TWELFTHTRIENNIALGATHERING

**Next Lutheran
Women's Board Meeting**
Monday, July 10th at 4:30 p.m.

July 2023



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

Shetek Lutheran Ministries Where Christ Renews and Empowers



Please keep our staff in your prayers!



When I feel the warm sun on my face, I better understand "God is light, in Him is no darkness at all."

Mark your Calendar

June 11-August 11

Summer Programs

We still have openings!

Register at shetek.org or

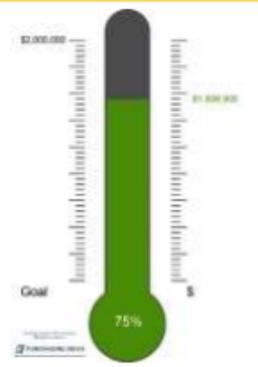
Call 507-763-3567 for more information

Wish List

- 17 foot Aluminum canoe
- Vest style life jackets
- Office supplies - reams of paper
- Good Vacuums
- Volunteers



We met our Phase 1 goal! \$1,533,000 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!

JULY WORSHIP HELPERS AND LEADERS

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

Ushers 10:00 AM (Team 2) Lyle Oberloh, Gary Brandt, Megan Prins

Altar Committee: Diana Kvilhaug, Diane Levine, Kathy Sackett

Busy Bag Monitor: Kathy Sackett

Church Lockup: Erlin Weness

Financial Counters2) Scott & Heidi Langerud, Maynard & Jeanene Townswick

Communion Server:

2- 8:00 -Mark Shepherd, Marv Isder, Dave Nerem

10:00- Jill Cuperus, Linden Olson, Melissa Jensen

9- 8:00 - Russell Obermoller, 2 Youth

10:00- Jill Cuperus, 2 Youth

16- 8:00 - **No 8:00 Service-**

Only 10:00 @ Centennial Park

10:00- Mark & Kay Prunty

23- 8:00 - Diana Kvilhaug, Jean Bastian, Lola

Lindquist

10:00 - Steve & Lori Dudley, Karen Hanbury

30- 8:00- Gordy & Lori Heitkamp, Grant Sorensen

10:00- Nancy Marco

Greeters:

2 8:00 - Paul & Marlys Busse

10:00 - Jerry & Mavis Sandstrom

9 8:00 - Harlan & Pam Handevitd

10:00 - Roger & Clasine Lester

16 **10:00- Only one service @**

Centennial Park

Gary & Lola Lindquist

Dennis & Gloria Hibma

23 8:00 - Jerry & Kathy Sackett

10:00 - Gary & Mary Brandt

30 8:00- Lyle & Connie Voss

10:00- Shirley Remple

Worship Date	Worship Participants In-Person		
	8:00 am	10:00 am	Online
May 28	68	76	177
June 4	61	64	155
June 11	59	50	152
June 18	75	40	180

May Monthly Donations

Gift Card Income	\$	4,950.00
Parish Ed Income	\$	
Youth Fund Income	\$	
Hospitality Income	\$	347.00
Box 1 Income	\$	23,535.00
Box 1 Income-Non Synod	\$	500.00
Box 2 Income	\$	3,362.28
Thrivent Donations	\$	
Box 3 Income	\$	732.00
EJ Schol/ALC Schol/Col Learn	\$	10.00
Wednesday Suppers	\$	273.00
Holiday Offering	\$	
Lutheran Women	\$	145.00
Maintenance	\$	40.00
Food Shelf	\$	
Campership	\$	500.00
Mission Grant from Synod	\$	
Work Comp Refund	\$	73.00

Operating Finances May, 2023

Income	\$	34,467.28
Expenses	\$	51,924.11
Net Loss	\$	(17,456.83)

Debt as of 1/1/23 \$ 790,148.37

Interest paid April 2023 \$ 2,213.95

Current Building Fund debt \$ 640,948.37