

Messenger

Lent 2023

Sunday's in Lent will feature "Feeding Jesus." As a congregation we will be reading the book *Five Loaves, Two Fish, Twelve Volunteers* by Elizabeth Mae Magill. What would a food ministry look like at ALC? How do the stories of Jesus feeding those he encounters shape and change the ministry in the world we serve? Copies of the Lenten book series are available for purchase at the welcome center.

Wednesday's in Lent will look a little different than years past. Wednesday's will include our meal at 5:00 pm. followed by our worship service at 6:30 pm. We will still use our Holden Evening Prayer as the basis for worship. However, the change will be instead of using speakers as the central focus of our worship, we will be using the poems of Mary Oliver as the catalyst for reflection during the season of Lent.

Mary Oliver in her book "Devotions" wrestles with some very earthy and real challenges of life, death, and the greatness of the wilderness. As people of faith we are invited to wonder aloud where God might be moving in creation and how we might see the places around us as sacred and special.

Faith5 Crosses: Throughout the season of Lent we invite you to participate in a faith formation activity at home. Anyone who wants to can pick up a cross that highlights the Faith 5 practices. Share, Read, Talk, Pray and Bless. A simple tool to enhance your faith life at home and help you shape the faith you pass on to other generations. We will provide you tools to start a new tradition in your own home!



SHARE



READ



TALK



PRAY



BLESS

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Special points of interest


- Prayer Shawl Schedule
- Children & Youth Schedule
- Potluck & Bingo

LENT 2023



**LENTEN
BOOK STUDY
AND SERMON
SERIES**

Throughout the season of Lent, we will be studying.
"Five Loaves. Two Fish. Twelve Volunteers"
 If you would like a copy, they are available in the office for \$14, or you can pay what you can afford.



**LENTEN
SMALL
GROUPS AND
SMALL
GROUP
LEADERS**

Small Groups are forming. We are looking for
 leaders to host conversations and small group
 participants. We will provide the discussion sheets
 if you help facilitate them!

2023 Lenten Supper Schedule

Date	Team	Meal	Ministry
March 1	Youth- Ash Wed	Taco	Fundraiser for Youth Events
March 8	Men's Fellowship	BBQ's	Lutheran Disaster Response
March 15	Befrienders/Worship & Music	Tater Tot Hot Dish	Befrienders
March 22	Martha Circle	Pulled Pork	Shetek Camperships
March 29	Mission & Ministry	Baked Potato Bar with Chili	Laundry Soap/Every Meal
April 5,	No Meal		

Lent 2023 | Feeding Jesus



The intimacy of prayer must be captured at a dedicated, quiet time during the day. Just as we would make any other appointment, make an appointment with the Lord to pray.

Lenten Focus Scriptures for Ash Wednesday and Sundays		
Mar 5	Lent 2	Mark 6: 30-44
Mar 12	Lent 3	Mark 8: 1-9
Mar 19	Lent 4	Mark 8: 1-9
Mar 26	Lent 5	John 6:1-13
Holy Week Dates		
April 2	Palm Sunday	
April 6	Maundy Thursday	
April 7	Good Friday	
April 9	Easter Sunday	

Wednesday Night Schedule During Lent (March 1st– March 29th)

5:00 Meal

6:30 Lenten Service

No Youth Formation during Lent

No Bible Study during lent, it will start again April 18 thru May 10

Inclement Weather

As a general rule, if District #518 cancels school or dismisses early, due to inclement weather, ALC events and programming for that day/evening, will also be cancelled. If poor weather conditions begin later in the day, a decision to cancel/postpone will be made as early as possible. Members will be notified by email and/or text and the notice will be posted to Facebook. Inclement weather on Sundays could result in the cancellation of worship and/or Faith Formation. Members will be notified by email and/or text and the notice will be posted to Facebook.

CHANGE OF TIME FOR ESTHER CIRCLE

Esther Circle will be changing the time of our Bible Study to the second Monday of each month at 3pm.

We will still meet in the Fellowship Hall and use the Gather Magazine for the study. We would love to have any of you ladies join us. Our next study will be March 13th at 3pm. Hope to see you!!

From the Stewardship Committee...

Lenten Offerings for Manna Food Pantry



The Manna Food Pantry needs our help! It's March, which means it is time to restock the shelves of the pantry. During this season of Lent, American Lutheran will again be joining in the month-long drive to help the pantry continue its important work in the community as we care for our neighbors.

This year, our gifts to the pantry will be matched by the Worthington Regional Health Care Foundation with a dollar-for-dollar match. What a blessing! Last year ALC members contributed **\$7,413** (without a match last year), and let's see if we can surpass that amount in 2023!

Here are some significant facts about the pantry's work in 2022:

- 10,891 individuals were served.
- 3,215 households were served.
- 240,116 pounds of food were dispensed

When to make your gift: From February 27th – April 7th.

How to make your gift:

- Use the special "Manna Food Pantry" envelope found in your March *Messenger*.
- Use your Wednesday "Lenten Offering" envelopes. These gifts will be designated to the pantry.
- Use the envelopes found in baskets located by church entrances.
- Loose offering at the Wednesday evening Lenten Services will be designed to the pantry, as well.
- Please write your check to American Lutheran Church with "Food Pantry" in the memo line.

Thank you for bringing hope to many through your gifts! Together we serve as a grateful and generous church that longs for an abundant life through Christ for everyone in our community.

LUTHERAN WOMEN

March 2023

35th Annual SWMN Synodical Women of the ELCA Convention

Theme: REDO, RENEW, REJOICE

Date: Friday, May 5, 2023

Shetek Lutheran Ministries

14 Keeley Island Drive

Slayton, MN

Theme Verse: Zechariah 3:17b

"He will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival."

Registration information will be available soon. Think about attending and bring a friend!

Save the Date

Now is the time to put upcoming dates on your spring calendar:

- **Thursday, March 2nd at noon**- Ecumenical Lenten Service and Luncheon here at ALC
- **Saturday, April 22nd** – Shetek Conference Women of the ELCA Spring Gathering at American Lutheran Church in Windom, MN
- **Friday, May 5th** – SWMN Synodical Organization Women of the ELCA Convention at Shetek Lutheran Ministries
- **September 19-24** – Triennial Convention of the Women of the ELCA at Phoenix, AZ

Ecumenical Lenten Luncheon

ALC is hosting the annual community Ecumenical Lenten Service and Luncheon on Thursday, March 2nd. The noon worship service is open to community members of all ages. The 12:30 luncheon following the worship service is being planned by our Lutheran Women's organization with help from men and women of our congregation. To make this possible, we have asked for help with food donations and volunteers to help with the meal using sign-up sheets near the entrances to the sanctuary. The lunch includes BBQ sandwiches, salads, bars and beverages. **Thank you to all who are helping!**

Next Lutheran Women's Board Meeting

Monday, March 13th at 6:30

Shetek Conference Women's Spring Gathering

The annual Shetek Conference Women of the ELCA Spring Gathering is being planned for **Saturday, April 22nd at American Lutheran Church in Windom, MN.**

The special speaker for the conference will be Katie Chapman, Environmental Education Director at Shetek Lutheran Ministries. This is a fun and inspirational time for women of the congregations in our conference to come together for worship and fellowship. Put this date on your calendar and watch for more detailed information in next month's newsletter.

Esther Circle New Meeting Time

Esther Circle has made a decision to change their meeting time from the first Monday of the month at 6:30 to the **SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT 3:00 in the afternoon.** All are invited and welcome to join them for Bible study at this new time! The next meeting will be Monday, March 13th at 3:00 p.m. in the church Fellowship Hall.

Update on School "Resupplies" Project

Recently, an inventory of items donated for the Elementary School Resupplies Project was taken. Thanks to very generous monetary donations, several additional items were purchased to fill in the amounts where needed! Again, **THANK YOU** to all who donated to make this a very successful project!

Prayer to Start the Day

Father, I give you all that I am today. Please take away my weariness, so that I may be inspired in all I do throughout the day. Help me to find new ways to reveal your love to all I meet. Keep my mind clear and focused on all I need to achieve, and give me the wisdom to overcome difficulties and find solutions. I look to you and trust you are with me this day. Amen.

Kitchen Cleaning

On Friday, February 10th, Martha Circle hosted the semi-annual cleaning of our much used kitchen. **Thanks** to Martha Circle for organizing this event and to all who helped with this very important task to make our kitchen sparkle!

Let the Pastors Know. . .

In today's world of privacy laws, it is essential to let Pastor Anne and Pastor Jeremy know directly if you are

- In the hospital
- Need conversation
- Want to share a prayer
- Talk about matters of life and faith.

It is not uncommon for each of the pastors to hear in a given month, "you did not visit me."

We can only visit when you (preferably) or one of your family members tell us you would like a visit or a pastoral conversation or home communion.

If the pastors hear rumors of illness or hospitalization, they can "check-in" but cannot directly ask you or your family about your health.

Here are mobile numbers for each pastor:

Pr. Anne 608-469-9688

Pr. Jeremy 612-201-6382

Please put their phone numbers in your contact list so that they are not flagged as "spam."

JOIN other Lutherans respond to earthquakes in Turkey and Syria!



As we know, two powerful earthquakes hit Turkey and significantly impacted neighboring Syria a couple weeks ago.

The two quakes have devastated Turkey and Syria, collapsing thousands of buildings and damaging infrastructure. Over 30,000 people have been killed and thousands more have been injured. The countries are in need!

Lutheran Disaster Response has been active in this region of the world for several years, partnering with meaningful organizations that have feet on the ground - ACT Alliance, the Lutheran World Federation and the Middle East Council of Churches. These organizations help displaced people with food, water, shelter, health services and sanitation support.

Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to supporting ACT Alliance and other partners in responding to these earthquakes. Since the earthquake struck, these organizations have been distributing emergency supplies, including medicines, bedding and other relief items. As Lutherans, we have confidence the funds we donate will be put to immediate use.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN JOIN IN THE RESPONSE: 100% of your gifts will go to supporting earthquake survivors and other people affected by disasters in the region.

Write your check to "American Lutheran Church".

In the memo line write "Lutheran Disaster Response – Middle East Crisis" or "LDR – Middle East Crisis".

Put your gift in the offering plate or give to the church office.

All of our gifts will be combined and sent in a check from ALC directly to Lutheran Disaster Response – Middle East Crisis.

By standing with the earthquake survivors, we follow Christ's call to share hope and healing with our neighbors in need! *Thank you from the Stewardship Committee.*

Home Communion Ministry

On Monday, March 6 from 6:30-7:00pm, in the Gathering Space, there will be an informational meeting to rejuvenate ALC's home communion visitation ministry. Consider coming to this start up meeting, learn the basics, and begin bringing the gift of Jesus' love to others in need. RSVP to Pastor Anne, leadpastor@worthingtonalc.org

Time Commitment: 1 meeting/month. Time 20-40 minutes/visit

Work with the pastors

Log your visit in a binder in the office

Grow your connection with God

Pray with others.

Prayer Shawl Schedule

Prayer Shawl Gathering Dates
for the upcoming months
(Please share with others):

Mar 7, 6:30pm

Mar 8, 1:00pm



*Prayer Shawl
Ministry*

KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.



Register for Summer Camp @ Shetek

Hello, families,

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

1. Register your child for camp and pay the total fee.
2. Turn in your receipt(s), showing your total payment(s), to the church office (via email, or stop in).
3. American Lutheran church will send you a reimbursement check for half of your paid fee(s).

*For Confirmation students, attending Confirmation Camp (DATES TBD), there is NO fee. American Lutheran Church handles registrations and fees for these students.

If you have any questions or need clarification, please contact the church office, Pastor Jeremy, or Kristin Appel.



Children & Family



Join us
on
March 5
for Food,
Fellowship, Fun
(& Prizes)

11:30AM Potluck
12:30PM **BINGO**

**ALL AGES
WELCOME!**



**Ash Wednesday Meal:
Taco Bar**

~~February 22~~

March 1st @ 5:00-6:30PM

Youth Fundraiser

March 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

Mark your Calendar

- March 10-11 Confirmation Retreat
- March 18 Pre-Marriage Retreat
- March 25 Square Dance 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- March 26 Sugar Bush Pancake Breakfast
- April 22 Pre-Marriage Retreat
- April 28-29 Confirmation Retreat

Register at shetek.org or

Call 507-763-3567 for more information



Work at camp this summer! -
shetek.org/work-at-shetek

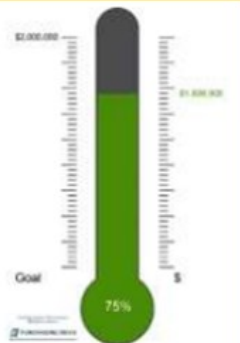


*Sugar Bush Pancake Breakfast
March 26 9:00a-1:00p*

Wish List

- 17 ft Aluminum canoe
- Vest style life jackets
- Office supplies – reams of paper
- Flat screen computer monitor
- Volunteers

We met our Phase 1 goal!
\$1,530,000 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/](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!

SPRING 2023

ALC CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 SOB Night	2	3	4
5 Faith Formation	6	7	8 Faith Formation	9	10	11
12 Faith Formation	13	14	15 Faith Formation	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 ASH WEDNESDAY	23	24 Lent	25
26 Faith Formation	27	28				

MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 LENT SUPPER AND WORSHIP	2	3	4
5 Faith Formation	6	7	8 LENT SUPPER AND WORSHIP	9	10 Lent	11
12 Faith Formation	13	14	15 LENT SUPPER AND WORSHIP	16	17	18
19 Faith Formation	20	21	22 LENT SUPPER AND WORSHIP	23	24 Lent	25
26 Faith Formation	27	28	29 LENT SUPPER AND WORSHIP	30	31	

APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Faith Formation	3	4	5 Faith Formation	6 MAUNDY THURSDAY	7 GOOD FRIDAY	8
9 Happy Easter	10	11	12 Faith Formation	13	14	15
16 Faith Formation	17	18	19 Faith Formation	20	21	22
23 Faith Formation	24	25	26 Faith Formation	27	28	29

REGULAR GATHERINGS

Wednesday Night Faith Formation

Faith Formation happens on Wednesdays with a meal beginning at 5:30 p.m. **Confirmation** begins with worship at 6:30 p.m., followed by small groups from 7:00-7:45 p.m. **Ignite**, our pre-K to 5th-grade program, meets with Kristin in the lower-level from 7:00-7:45 p.m.

Sunday Morning Faith Formation

Sunday morning Faith Formation happens throughout the academic year for our pre-K to 5th-graders. Students gather in the lower level from 9:15-10:00 a.m.

Lent Supper and Worship

Throughout the season of Lent, **confirmation students are expected to attend worship**, which includes Holden Evening Prayer, Mary Oliver poetry, scripture, meditation, and prayer. There will be NO small group time, during Lent.

Younger-than-Confirmation students may take a "Kids' Worship Activity" (and a snack) from the basket in the Narthex, for use during worship.

SPRING HAPPENINGS

Ash Wednesday - February 22

Worship with us at 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Also, join us for dinner, served from 5-6:30 p.m. This is a fundraiser for the Mission Trip. Sign up with Pastor Jeremy if you are interested.

Club 345 - February 24 & March 10

Club 345 will meet on **February 24th** from 6-9 p.m. Friends are invited. RSVP with Pastor Jeremy. Snacks, games, and chaos will be provided! **March 10th** location TBD.

All Ages Bingo - March 5

Join us for an all-ages Bingo Party! Following worship on March 5th. Potluck at 11:30 a.m. and **Bingo at 12:30 p.m.**

9-12th Hang Time - March 24

We invite our 9th-12th graders to hang out with Pastor Jeremy and his family at their house from 6-9p.m. We'll have a low-key evening, watch a movie and chat. Friends are welcome to join us!

End-of-the-Year Party - April 26

Join us for the end-of-the-year (Wednesday night) celebration! We plan to set up our 9 Square in the Air. Along with other games, we plan to have food, and a rocking good time! We look forward to seeing you all there!

SUMMER 2023

ALC CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3 507 Night	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Senior Sunday	22	23	24 Baccalaureate Service	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 YOUTH GROUP			

JUNE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5 VBS!	6 VBS!	7 VBS!	8 VBS!	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 YOUTH GROUP	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Bonfire	

JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 YOUTH GROUP	13	14	15 VBS!
16 VBS!	17 VBS!	18 VBS!	19 VBS!	20 VBS!	21 VBS!	22 VBS!
23 VBS!	24 VBS!	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

May 3rd - 507 Night at American Lutheran

American Lutheran will be hosting our May 507 night! Join us for Pizza, games, and worship with other youth from our community. 6:30-8:00 p.m.

May 21st - Senior Sunday

Calling all SENIORS! You are invited to join us for Senior Recognition Sunday. We want to honor your gifts as you go out into the world! So, join us for worship at 10:15 a.m. and refreshments between services from 9-10 a.m.

May 21st - Sunday School Celebration!

Preschool-5th grade students celebrate the last day of Sunday school with a special project to celebrate our graduating seniors.

May 24th - Senior Baccalaureate Service

Save the date for our Senior Baccalaureate Worship service. More details to come.

May 31, June 21, July 12 -

Summer Youth Group

Open to 6th-12th graders, and their friends, from 6-8 p.m. Events may include water balloons, human foosball, Gaga ball, and slip-and-slide kickball. Location and events TBD.

June 5-8

Community Kids' Camp (VBS)

BRAND NEW & coming to a church near you!

Where: First United Methodist Church

When: 5:30 p.m. MEAL / 6-8:30 p.m. CAMP FUN!

Who: Preschool-5th grade students

RSVP: childrensworthingtonalc.org

(More details to come)

June 30th- High School Bonfire

9th-12th graders and friends, join us for a bonfire, smores, and a chance to "check-in". Bring a lawn chair and some yard games for the night. (6-10 pm.)

July 14th- 22/23 Mission Charleston, WV

6th- 12th graders will be heading on a mission trip to Charleston, WV. There are spaces available. **Talk to Pastor Jeremy ASAP!**

July 30th-August 4th- Confirmation Camp!

Open to students entering 9th grade. **Please note the date change** from previous communications.

Join Pastor Jeremy and your classmates for a week at Shetek Bible Camp. Fees are paid by ALC.

RSVP to Pastor Jeremy as soon as possible.

MARCH WORSHIP HELPERS AND LEADERS

Ushers 8:00 AM (Team 3) Laura Hoffman, Russell Obermoller, Dave Nerem

Ushers 10:15 AM (Team 5) Randy Thompson, Mark Prunty, Kay Prunty, Nicholas Raymo

Financial Counters: (Team 2) Scott & Heidi Langerud

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

Busy Bag Monitor: Kris Besel

Church Lockup: Paul Hanbury

Greeters:

5th 8:00 - Paul & Marlys Busse
10:15 - Greg & Barb Raymo
12th 8:00 - Dale & Joanne Carlson
10:15 - Paul & Karen Hanbury
19th 8:00 - Gary & Lola Lindquist
10:15 - Marchelle Jorgensen
26th 8:00 - Jerry & Kathy Sackett
10:15 - Jerry & Mavis Sandstrom

January Monthly Donations

Gift Card Income	\$ 7,700.00
Parish Ed Income	\$ (500.00)
Youth Fund Income	\$ 518.95
Hospitality Income	\$ 719.09
Box 1 Income	\$ 47,931.86
Box 1 Income-Non Synod	\$ 600.00
Box 2 Income	\$ 117,082.34
Wills/Gifts/Memorials	\$ 48.00
Box 3 Income	\$ 2,481.00
Endowment	\$ 100.00
EJ Schol/ALC Schol/Col Learn	\$ 20.00
Meal	\$ 503.00
Holiday Offering	\$ 1,521.00
Lutheran Women	\$ 100.00
Reimb Expenses	\$ 245.00

Operating Finances January, 2023

Income	\$ 180,070.24
Expenses	\$ 164,992.54
Net Income	\$ 15,077.70

Debt as of 1/1/22	\$ 790.148.37
Interest paid December 2022	\$ 3,130.14
Current Building Fund debt	\$ 679,448.37

Worship Date	Worship Participants In-Person		Worship Participants Online (as of 2/21)
	8:00 am	10:15 am	
January 29	83	47	182
February 5	88	83	287
February 12	85	72	99
February 19	75	74	137