

# Messenger

## May Notables | At A Glance

*There are more details within the Messenger*

### **Sunday, May 12**

This is the 7th Sunday of Easter, as well as Mother’s Day. It is also when we will consider Jesus’ Ascension to be with God. It is the last Sunday of the Easter liturgical Season.

### **Tuesday, May 14**

Last Tuesday Adult Bible Study for the program year. Thank you to Kris Besel for her faithful teaching and leadership. To all who participated, thank you for learning about the faith of Jesus as shaped by scripture.

### **Sunday, May 19**

New Member Sunday will be celebrated at both worship services. 9am, Graduation Reception for High School Graduates. 11:15am, Congregational Potluck in the Fellowship Hall

### **Wednesday, May 22 and Thursday, May 23**

On Wednesday, May 22, members of the Worthington Youth Orchestra will have rehearsal in preparation for their concert on May 23. Times to be announced.

### **Sunday, May 26, Memorial Day**

**\*\*\*\*Worship Time Change from May 26 through September 1.**

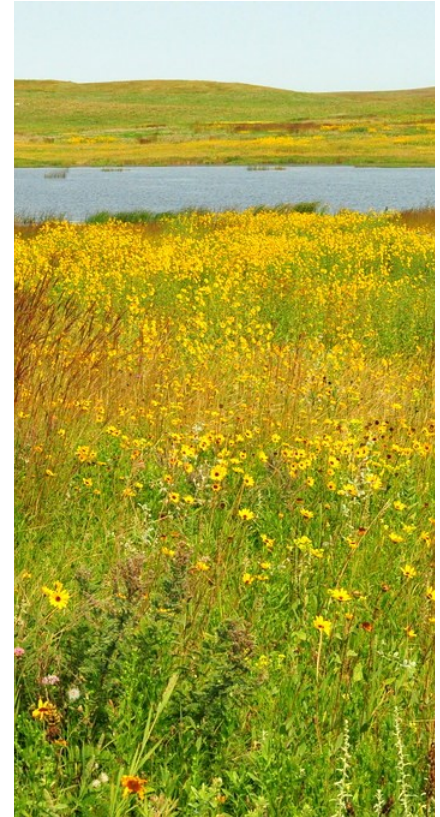
9:00am, Worship (one service with Holy Communion)  
10am, Coffee & Kinship

### **Sunday, May 26, Memorial Day Prayer Service**

**\*\*\*\***Follows the 9:00am in the Sanctuary.

### **Monday, May 27, Memorial Day**

Office Closed for the Holiday.



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Flamingos are here? Do you need Flamingo Insurance?



**Fundraiser for the Youth Ministry Program  
Connect with Pastor Jeremy**

## Visual Arts Team at ALC

Do you have a passion for creating worship visuals, or helping to tell the story of faith through art, lighting, decorations, flowers, etc.? Leaders of the Visual Arts Team would love to visit with you. This ministry team is seeking people that could think creatively about our worship space and ways to invite others to experience this life of faith in new ways.

This Lent and Easter we experimented with lighting and a way to tell the Easter story with vibrant colors and creative worship elements. This is an example of how to create textures that inspire praise of God. The lighting can be use for certain times of the year and to enhance the experience for people who learn or hear things differently. If you have any interest in helping with this type of project please consider reaching out to Pastor Jeremy, Pastor Anne, or Diana Kvilhaug.

The next season to dress the sanctuary with visual arts is Pentecost Sunday on May 19th. Ideas will also be lifted up for the summer. Bring your gifts to help share in telling God's story for all who worship at ALC.



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## One Worship Service– Memorial Day to Labor Day:

The Council Church guided by the Executive Council, Staff, Worship and Music Team have discerned that moving to one worship service starting Sunday, May, 26 through Sunday, September 1 will be beneficial to us as a faith community. Worship will be at 9am with Coffee and Kinship to follow in the Fellowship Hall.

We realize that with upcoming staff changes, summer schedules, mission trips, and a short season of transition as we seek to welcome an Interim Pastor, we want to work towards building community and sharing in the joys of ministry as a congregation.

One goal of leaders that arose during the congregational vitality survey was to build community. One worship service nurtures a sense of unity. Leaders hear from time to time that worshippers do not know other worshippers who attend the “other” service. The hope is that you have a chance to connect or reconnect with someone who attends a different service. If you have questions please reach out to Sylvia Anderson, Dave Nerem, Diana Kvilhaug, or one of the pastors.







## ***Because of YOU...Faith Formation reaches all ages!***

Faith Formation at ALC is far more than Sunday School for children! That's certainly a significant part of Faith Formation, but we believe that ALL ages need to engage in activities that build strong relationships of trust with God and with each other. Here are some of the Faith Formation activities shared at ALC:

**IGNITE** – Children grades K-5 attend Wednesday night activities following 6:30 worship. The lessons focus on “sparking” a love for Jesus.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** – Children pre-kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade gather between Sunday worship services. Pre-K students gather in their own classroom while grades 1-5 meet in a shared space. A handful of volunteers assist with the lessons. Older children are encouraged to help out, too, which reinforces their faith life.

**FIRST COMMUNION** – Fifth grade students participate in two pastor-led sessions. The focus being to understand the sacrament of First Communion in a way that connects students to their Bibles and their faith. The class culminates with the students receiving their First Communion during Sunday worship.

**CONFIRMATION** – 6-9<sup>th</sup> graders attend Wednesday night worship during the school year, followed by meeting in small groups and in larger activities. This year's focus is learning and applying the lessons of the Ten Commandments and the Apostles' Creed. Students make public affirmation of their faith on Confirmation Sunday in October of their 10<sup>th</sup> grade year.

**COMMUNITY KIDS' CAMP** – This four-church collaboration is a fun, learning experience for students aged 3 (potty trained) through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The four churches annually rotate hosting the event, and this year's camp is June 10-13<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-8:00 at First Lutheran Church with the theme “What a Mess!” ALC volunteers and staff play a big role in the planning and implementing of the camp. Contact Kristin, Children/Family Ministry Coordinator, with questions.

**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP** – Men of all ages gather on Tuesday mornings 7:45-8:45 in the Conference Room for fellowship and learning. Currently they are studying a book entitled “Encountering Jesus,” but their materials vary with an emphasis on scripture-based content. All men are invited and encouraged just to show up. Contact Harlan Handevitdt for more information.

**CIRCLES** – Women of the church gather in three different Circles which meet at various times each month. They enjoy fellowship and studying God's Word through lessons in the *Gather* magazine and in other Bible studies. Contact Kris Besel for more information.

## BECAUSE OF YOU, CONT.

**BIBLE STUDY** – All members are welcome to a Bible study that meets on Tuesday afternoon at 1:00 in the Conference Room. The study entitled “Genesis to Revelation” includes a video lecture by a Luther Seminary professor followed by group discussion. Contact the church office for dates.

**LENTEN SPEAKERS** – At the weekly Lenten services, ALC enjoys hearing a testimonial from various members of the congregation or from the community. The “Garage Gang” group of ALC women makes the contacts and arranges for these speakers. Their messages are inspirational and reflect their faith journeys.

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS** – Wednesday night meals throughout the school year, including six Lenten meals, bring people together for fellowship before the Wednesday night worship. All ages help prepare and serve the meals. The offerings received during the Lenten season are all directed to specific ministries within our congregation and out in the community. These meals promote a welcomed sense of community among the ALC family.

**THANK YOU** to all who organize these important opportunities available to us to grow in our faith and in our relationship with God! **THANK YOU** to the pastors, to the staff, to lay leaders and to the members who participate! **Because of YOU** disciples are being formed for service in God’s world.

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### **Worthington Care Center Worship Services**

You are welcome to come and participate in these worship services on the second Tuesday of each month: 2:30pm Golden Horizons and 3:30pm, The Meadows. On May 14, Cindy Anderson and one of the pastors will lead a time of singing, devotions, and celebrating the Lord’s Supper. In addition, one of the pastors will be scheduling one-on-one visits at Crossroads and South Shore during the second week of each month to visit members and friends of ALC in these senior living centers.

### **Homebound Communion Visitation Ministry**

We are renewing a ministry: Homebound Communion Visitation. On April 28 between worship services, those who have committed to bring the Lord’s Supper to our Siblings in Christ will receive their consecrated communion kits and visitation materials. Please connect with one of the pastors if you have questions

### **Time and Talents Survey Arriving in Your Home Soon**

The Stewardship Ministry Team’s annual “Time and Talent Survey” will be arriving in your mailbox the first week of May. Please return them via the mail, to the church office or place the completed survey in the offering place. New this year: There will also be a digital survey sent out via email. Complete the survey by May 12.



*So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55: 11)*

April 1, 2024

Dear Siblings in Christ, Sisters, and Brothers,

When I was ordained in 1993, the gospel story for the day was from Luke 1 about Mary's encounter with Angel Gabriel. Mary's response to Gabriel is found in Luke 1: 38: "*Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.*" This has been my guiding scripture story and verse throughout my thirty years serving Christ and God's church in ordained ministry.

In chapter 55, Isaiah speaks of a promise I have embraced as I've learned to be a preacher and a pastor in different ministry settings in the various calls that I have been privileged to serve. God's Word has sustained me in my personal and professional life. In early autumn of 2023, God's Word began to shape a new purpose in my sense of call. It was unexpected. The new sense of call was to retire. I've learned as calls have begun and ended over the past years, that sometimes a change of call is a change of direction within the call. Other times there is the tug of the Holy Spirit indicating that a new season of ministry life is on the horizon.

Through conversation with my husband, Arvid, pastoral colleagues, and American Lutheran Church's Executive Committee, I have accepted the call that God has placed before me—to retire from the active roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. This means that I will be retiring as well from my call to serve you, the good people of American Lutheran Church, as your Lead Pastor.

This week I spoke with the Church Council to inform them of my upcoming retirement. The Executive Committee and the staff have been working behind the scenes on the upcoming pastoral transition. On Sunday, April 7, 2024, a member of the Executive Committee will make an announcement regarding the pastoral transition that is forthcoming.

Pastoral transitions are never easy, nor are they meant to be. A congregation entering the process of calling a new pastor is normal. Pastors, more than members, come and go through the seasons of ministry and life. Church leadership, the staff, and I have a shared goal: this transition into retirement will be a season of strength for the congregation, staff, and for me. The Executive Committee is of one mind: "*This is a time of joy—for American Lutheran Church and for the new season in Pastor Anne's life.*"

Because of the changes in our constitution, Pastor Jeremy Hallquist's call is not coterminous. This means that because I am retiring, Pastor Jeremy does not have to resign his call as one of the pastors of this congregation. More will be said about this on Sunday, April 7, and in the months to come. I ask that you hold the church leadership and Pastor Jeremy in your prayers as discernment and decisions are made as they follow the Spirit's leading.

Here is the schedule for my retirement: *Sunday, July 28, 2024 will be my last Sunday.*

*Wednesday, July 31, 2024 will be the final day of my call. Thursday, August 1, 2024 will be my first day of retirement.*

My husband, Arvid, and I plan on remaining in our home on Willow Ave in Worthington for



the foreseeable future. I am looking forward to gardening, baking breads, canning, and attending projects, which have taken a back seat to the work of ministry. I plan on honing my painting skills as well as learning to be a better sketch artist and rose painter. Arvid and I would like to travel, spending time with distant family and days on Minnesota's North Shore and the Gunflint Trail—there are many lakes to explore in our kayaks.

I know that my decision to retire will come as a surprise to many. This will be a change for all of us. This may involve mixed emotions for you as it certainly does in me. In the weeks ahead, there will be time to honor these feelings, to grieve, speak of disappointment, and to celebrate God's future for us all. There will be space and time given to address the normal anxiety that is bound to arise when there is a normal pastoral transition. I invite you to walk with me so that this pastoral transition is a "good ending—full of kindness and grace" for all. Bishop Dee Peterson and Pastor Heather Culuris of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod are aware of my retirement decision. Both of these synod leaders have spent time listening and praying with the Executive Committee and Pastor Jeremy, as well as with me. Pastor Culuris is the primary contact with the Synod. She will guide the congregation as future pastoral call processes are undertaken.

Our 2024 Star Word is "courage." My personal 2024 Star Word is "journey." I believe that accepting this call into retirement is a *courageous journey*. Why? It is a new chapter of life unfolding. Also, to accept a call to retire when ministry is stable and going well, seems almost unthinkable. Pastoral retirements when all is well are few and far between.

I give thanks to God that I am able to accept this call onto the retirement roster because of your generosity and faithfulness to God's Word. Together, we have been Spirit-led in the past four years to bring joy and hope to God's church. As one body in Christ, we have lived into our identity as a warm and caring place for people to be accepted as God created them to be. In word and deed, we walk in the faith of Jesus as we walk with others. For all of this and more, I am beyond grateful and filled with joy. May the words of Isaiah 55: 12 guide us in the days ahead:

*For you shall go out in joy  
and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.*

*Beloved of God—thank you for your kinship in Christ. God loves you and so do I!*

Pastor Anne

Rev. Anne M. Hokenstad, D.Min.

## **God's Church Engaged in Global Mission**

The Shetek Conference continues to be engaged with our Siblings in Christ with the Ondini Partners in South Africa. Walking together develops long-term relationships between God's people in Southern Africa and Southwestern Minnesota.

For these relationships to continue to prosper and grow, we need people willing to journey to our companion circuits and people from the circuits to come to our conferences. If you are interested in this mission connect with Pr. Anne or Conference leaders: Karl and Bonnie Frederickson, 42990 900<sup>th</sup> ST, Heron Lake, MN 56137 | 507-831-5091 (H) or 507-370-2850 (cell)

# Thank You!

## FOR DONATING TO MANNA FOOD PANTRY

During Lent  
ALC donated a total of  
**\$5,609**

The total will be matched by Worthington  
Regional Health Care Foundation.

**Thanks for making a difference  
in our community!**



# Thank You!

## FOR DELIVERING EASTER PLANTS

Larry & Pat Boots  
Dennis & Dee Hale  
Harlan & Pam Handevitd  
Marchelle Jorgensen  
Kieth & Marj Olson  
Grant & Maureen Sorensen  
Bob & Shirly Wieme



# SHETEK SUMMER CAMP

## 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:

- Register your child for camp and pay the total fee.
- Turn in your receipt(s) via Email, showing your total payment(s), to the office at:  
[office@worthingtonalc.org](mailto:office@worthingtonalc.org).
- American Lutheran Church will send you a reimbursement check for half of your paid fees(s).

We will send reimbursement checks at the end of the summer when we get the campers list from Shetek.

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

SHETEK  
LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

**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.

**March 2024**

**Box 1 Income**

\$38,336.25

**Year to Date Box 1**

\$103,430.30

**Budget 2024**

\$545,000.00

**Building Loan Balance**

\$276,356.53

-As of Mid April

Thanks for your generosity!

Worship Date	Worship Participants			
	8am, In-Person	10:15am In-Person	Wed. Night	Online as 4/23
March 24	92	61	NA	299
Maundy Thurs	95	Good Friday	96	Th-115 Fr-129
March 31	197	145	NA	427
April 7	101	74	45	277
April 14	119	64	57	174
April 21	97	132	NA	247

**MAY 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:** Kris Besel

**Church Lockup:** Paul Langseth

**Financial Counters (Team 1)** Jean Bastian, Nancy Marco, Pat Remme, Mary Turner

**Greeters:**

**5th** 8:00- Harlan & Pam Handevidd  
10:15- Erlin & Jean Weness

**12th** 8:00- Dennis & Dee Hale  
10:15- Diane Levine

**19th** 8:00- Bob & Sandy Demuth  
10:15- Mary Turner

**26th** 8:00- Lori Ailts  
10:15- Bill & Judi Hoevet

\*We will change to 9:00 Service this day, the office will be in contact about changes about the 26th.

**Communion Servers:**

**5th** 8:00- Bob & Sandy Demuth, Rod Obermoller, Connie Voss  
10:15- Mark & Kay Prunty, Laura Hoffman, Jill Cuperus

**12th** 8:00- Dave & Brenda Baerenwald, Diana Kvilhaug  
10:15- Greg & Barb Raymo, Karen Pfeifer

**19th** 8:00- Dennis & Dee Hale, Lola Lindquist  
10:15- Bruce & Karen Juber, Nancy Marco

**26th** 9:00- Gordy & Lori Heitkamp, Grant Sorensen

\*Changes to 9:00 Service the 26th





## Summer Salad Buffet

Plan to attend our annual Lutheran Women's Summer Salad Buffet on **Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. This year our special program is entitled "My Story—the Faith Story of an Immigrant." We will hear about the experience of coming to live in a new country and learning to adapt to a new life in an unfamiliar community. All women are invited to join us for an evening of fellowship, delicious salads and an interesting message. **Our three Circles will provide the salads and the Lutheran Women's Board will provide the breads, so there is no need to bring anything! Just come and invite a friend!**

## Church Lending Policy

This time of year when we're busy planning graduation parties, weddings, etc., please keep in mind American Lutheran Church's Lending Policy, which was established by both the Church Council and the Lutheran Women's Board. The policy **does not allow** church items such as chairs, coffee pots, glass serving trays, tables or any other items owned by the church to be loaned out for home events or non-church related events. *We appreciate your understanding concerning this matter.*



## Be the Light

The 2023 SWMN Synodical Women of the ELCA Convention will be held on **Saturday, May 4, 2024** at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 301 North Lincoln Street, Redwood Falls, MN. Although the registration deadline was April 22, walk-ins are welcome!

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m., with a fee of \$40 to cover expenses (our Lutheran Women's Board has offered to help with the registration expense), which includes the noon luncheon and coffee time. There will be worship with Holy Communion, special speaker **Aliyah Ewing of Terebinth Refuge**, a facility dealing with survivors of sexual exploitation and trafficking, music, displays and a business meeting. The convention will conclude around 4:00 p.m. All are invited to attend! Please see Kris Besel or Diana Kvilhaug for more information.

## Reminder of New Timeline for Lutheran Women's Yearbook

By now you should have received your Time & Talent forms, which give you the opportunity to offer to serve in many different areas of our ministries. Please take the time to review, fill out and return your forms. This information will be compiled beginning this spring and throughout the summer months to be included in our annual yearbook, which will be distributed this fall when the new schedules will begin. Thanks to all for your participation!



## 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Shetek Quilt Auction Fundraiser

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Shetek Lutheran Ministries Quilt Auction Fundraiser to be held at the SLM Campground Activity Center on **Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>**. You can preview the quilts in the Activity Center on Friday evening, June 23<sup>rd</sup> between 5:30 and 8:00 p.m. A picnic meal of burgers, brats and extras will be available to purchase Friday evening between 5:30 and 7:00 p.m. The quilts will also be available to preview on Saturday morning before the auction between 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. with the auction beginning at 10:30 a.m. Many family oriented activities are being planned for this special event on Saturday! A detailed schedule and list of events will be available in our next newsletter in June. **Plan to attend this fun and important event to support our Bible Camp!**

## Important Dates to Remember

- ◆ **Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>** – SWMN Women of the ELCA Convention at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>** – Summer Salad Buffet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Friday & Saturday, June 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>** – 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Shetek Lutheran Ministries Quilt Auction Fundraiser at SLM Bible Camp

### **Next Lutheran Women's Board Meeting**

Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:30

**WHAT  
A  
MESS!**

**COMMUNITY KIDS' CAMP**

FOR CHILDREN AGE 3 (& POTTY TRAINED) THROUGH COMPLETED GRADE 5.  
SUGGESTED DONATION: \$5/CHILD

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**JUNE 10-13**  
**5:30-6PM MEAL \* 6-8PM ACTIVITIES**

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**1200 4TH AVENUE, WORTHINGTON**

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*Sponsored by American Lutheran, First Lutheran,  
First United Methodist, and Living Waters Covenant Churches*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION. CALL (507) 376-6148  
OR SCAN BELOW TO REGISTER BY MAY 26**



**Please consider donating to Community Kids' Camp.**  
ALC is responsible for one of the camp meals that serves 150 people.  
We also share in the cost of all camp supplies.

If interested, simply **make checks payable to:**  
**American Lutheran Church, with CKC Donation on the memo line.**  
Checks can be placed into the offering plate or mailed/brought to the church office.

**Thanks for your continued support of our VBS/Camp programming!**

## Campfire Conversations:



Join us the first Sunday night of the month for Campfire Conversations. Bring your instrument, lawn chair, smart device, and join us for worship, devotions and a sing along. We will provide the smores or campfire delicacies and 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.

June 2nd, July 7th, and August 4th from 6:30-9:30pm.

**THANK YOU!**

Thank you! Thank you to all of the volunteers, and helpers who supported our Wednesday meal program at ALC. We are grateful for your partnership and support as we continue to grow, explore, and deepen the faith lives of our ALC Youth and Adults. What a blessing to have so many people who want to share in supporting our kids!

## 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, 2024
- Mid Payment of \$200 due April 10th, 2024
- Final Payment due June 2nd, 2024
- Student accounts can be used to pay any of these payments. Once a payment is made, it is nonrefundable.

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## Youth Advisory Board:

Parents, we are currently looking for a few individuals who would be willing to help Pastor Jeremy plan some Youth Events. This would involve visioning with me about ways to engage youth, planning a few events to keep students connected, and helping coordinate the details of one or two events throughout the year. If you are interested please reach out to Pastor Jeremy. I would like to kick off this group by June. Thank you!



May 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



*We still have room on our river trip!*

- **Apply to work at camp.**  
<https://shetek.org/work-at-shetek/>

### Wish List

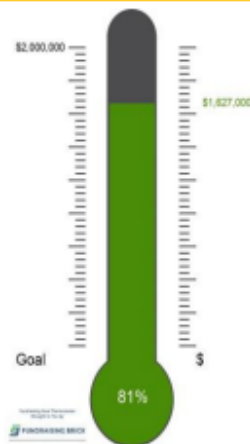
- Glue and Glue Sticks
- Power Strips
- Mini Vans
- Volunteers

### Mark your Calendar

- May 4 Spring Cleanup
- May 11 Spring Cleanup
- June 9 First day of Camp
- June 17 GOLF Fundraiser
- June 21 Garden Tour and Quilt Preview
- June 22 Pelican Fun Run/Walk
- June 22 Quilt Auction
- Register at [shetek.org](https://shetek.org) or

Call 507-763-3567 for more information

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!