American Lutheran Church, ELCA

November 2023

Messenger

Ministry Notables In November

Stewardship Month: Day By Day

With glad and generous hearts, we learn and discern how our God-given gifts in baptism shape each of our individual lives to give generously to God's mission through American Lutheran Church. Discover on page 2 of this issue of the "Messenger" how the Stewardship Ministry Team has designed this month long focus to deepen our commitment as "Stewards of the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

All Saints Sunday

November 5 at both services, we as a congregation will incorporate specific times of celebration and remembrance of the saints who have been welcomed into our lives through baptism and into the great cloud of witnesses through their dying. Any member of ALC who has experienced the death of a loved since November 6, 2022, and would like their beloved name printed in the bulletin and read in worship, please call the church office.

Veteran's Day Prayer Service

November 12 at 9:15am in the Sanctuary, there will be a Veteran's Day Prayer service. All are invited to attend.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship & Pie Social

November 22 at 6:30pm, on Wednesday, there will be a Thanksgiving Eve worship services with Holy Communion. Following the worship service, join together for kinship, beverages, and pie!

Christ the King Sunday

Sunday, November 26, is the final day of the liturgy year. On this Sunday we lift up the truth that Jesus Christ is Christ who reigns with mercy and justice for all people. Some call this "Reign of Christ" Sunday.

November Dates

- Nov 5, Daylight Saving Time ends
- Nov 11, Veteran's Day
- Nov 23, Thanksgiving Day, USA
- Nov 23, Church Office Closed—Holiday
- Nov 24, Native American Heritage Day
- Nov 26, Christ the King Sunday



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November is Stewardship Month

The month of November is dedicated to exploring how as God's Church, God's people are called, invited, and asked to live our lives day by day trusting in God's goodness. This trust moves us into relationships of sharing the foods of the earthy with friend and stranger. As people who walk in the faith of Jesus Christ as we walk with others, our attitude towards life, relationships, and service is one of joy and generosity.

Your household will receive a mailing from the Stewardship Ministry Team to guide you through your spiritual discernment of how much of your God-given fiscal resources to commit to God's work through the ministry of ALC.

There are numerous ways to explore what it means to be stewards of God's blessings during November. It is a month of intentional prayer and worship to deepen each person's understanding of how to share your assets to nurture a vital congregation.

Stewardship Sermon Series

November 5: "Day by Day" Stewardship

Song of the Day: Day By Day Scripture Stories Genesis 1: 1-5, and Psalm 90: 1-2, 4-6, 10 & 12. Acts 2:42-47, and Luke 11: 1-4

November 12: "Breaking Bread Together" Stewardship

Song of the Day: Loves Were Broken, Words were Spoken. Scripture Stories: Genesis 18: 1-8, and 1 Corinthians 11: 23b—27

Acts 2:42-47, and Matthew 14: 13-21

November 19: "With Glad & Generous Hearts" Stewardship

Song of the Day: I Come With Joy Scripture Stories: Deuteronomy 15: 1, 7-11 and Psalm 9: 1-11 Acts 2:42-47, and Luke 24: 28–35

Stewardship Devotional Booklet, Available on November 1 in the Church Office and on November 5 at the Welcome Center, the ALC Stewardship Devotion Booklet contains scripture stories and reflections to support the theme "Day by Day, they Broke Bread Together with Glad and Generous Hearts."

Stewardship Sourdough Bread Baking Class, Pastor Anne will be leading a Sourdough Bread baking workshop for 10-12 participants. On Friday, November 17 at 6:00 learn the first stages of this no-knead bread. On Saturday, November 18 at 9am, prepare your bread for baking and learn how to care for your starter and receive recipes.

Stewardship Commitment Sunday is Sunday, November 19 at both worship services. You will be invited to bring forward your 2024 Financial Commitment card to the Altar for a blessing. Between worship services, a Stewardship Brunch celebrating the glad and generous people of ALC will be served and hosted by the Stewardship Ministry Team. The menu is Egg Bake and homemade Cinnamon Rolls.

2023 Veteran's Day Prayer Service Over the past four years, there has been a Veteran's Day prayer service at ALC the Sunday prior to Veteran's Day. All Veteran's, their families, as well as active duty service members and families are welcome to come to the Sanctuary for prayers of remembrance, safekeeping, and peace. Available near the Office are red ELW Prayerbooks for the Armed Services. This is a free gift to Veterans and active duty service members from the congregation.

2023 Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany Series, As we begin a new liturgical year with the first Sunday in Advent, we also begin a new sermon and worship series that will run from Advent through Epiphany. There will be numerous ways to take a deeper dive into this series to grow in your faith and cross-shaped spirituality. Look for a Advent Devotional Book and a Sunday Faith Forum focused on this year's theme: *How Does A Weary World Rejoice?* This theme comes to us from a group of writers and artists called "Sanctified Arts."

2023 Advent Worship Series

****In mid-November, there will be an opportunity for individuals and families to sign-up to lead the Advent Candle lighting portion of each Advent & Christmas Worship service. Watch the weekly E-News and Sunday Announcements for details.

December 1, at 5:30pm, begins our "Journey to Bethlehem." This is an Intergenerational and Interactive whole congregational event to begin the Advent and Christmas seasons.

December 3, 1st Sunday in Advent: "We Acknowledge Our Weariness" December 10, 2nd Sunday in Advent: "We Find Connection in Joy" December 17, 3rd Sunday in Advent: "We Allow Ourselves to Be Amazed" December 24, 4th Sunday in Advent: "We Sing Stories of Hope." ****9:00am Worship on the 4th Sunday of Advent. (Take note)

2023 Christmas Eve Worship Services

December 24, Christmas Eve: "We Make Room"

4:00pm 6:00pm 10:00pm

2024 Christmas into Epiphany Worship Services

December 25, No Worship Service at American Lutheran Church December 31, 1st Sunday After Christmas: "We Root Ourselves in Ritual" January 7, Baptism of our Lord: "We Trust Our Belovedness"

During the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany seasons, you are invited to share your musical gifts with the congregation. Connect with the Director of Worship & Music, Sylvia Andersen for ways you can serve God through song.



Personal Care Items Drop off at Church during Office hours. Laundry Soup. Watch for next session to make this Shampoo & Conditions soap for all. Needed for all ages. Liquid & bar are needed. product needed by many. Wee ones, too! Toothbrush & paste Lotion & other skin care Wet wipes, tissues, & items to give a personal other items. touch. Amerícan love Worthington

Worthington

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Coat Closet

Donated Clean, gently used and new coats are need.

BO

Winter boots, hats, mittens, and scares, too!

Winter Clothing Needed

Donations of clean, new, gently used coats can be dropped off at First Lutheran Church at 1200 4th Ave in Worthington or at Love INC on 515 South Shore Drive.

All sized are need from children to adults.

Items in short supply and high demand are children's coats sizes 2T to Junior's size 14. Snow boots and snow pants for students in grades K-8th are often requested.



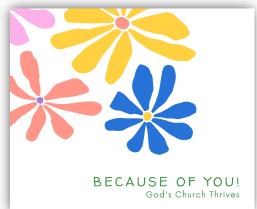
Bell Ringers Need: One of the best gifts to give those among us who are the most vulnerable is the gift of time at a Salvation Army Red Kettle. 88% of donations stay within Nobles County and are used to assist people who are experiencing homelessness, and seeking shelter, and food. It register to ring call the

local coordinator at 507-329-6571 or register online by entering this website address: www.registertoring.com. Thank you for your glad and generous hearts!

BECAUSE OF YOU...the GARAGE GANG gets things done!

Have you ever wondered how certain activities happen at ALC? Who comes up with the ideas – pastors, other staff, ministry teams? What's the behind-the-scene process?

Well, sometimes volunteers such as the "GARAGE GANG" generate ideas that turn into projects we all are fortunate to enjoy. You've never heard of the "Garage Gang?" You'll probably be surprised to know the gang consists of a group of women who started gathering in a heated garage in 2020 when COVID-19 prevented socializing the way they were accustomed. They were creative and found a fun way to be together in a safe place. This gang included Beve Vajgrt (owner of the heated



garage), Mary Brandt, Marchelle Jorgensen, Sheila Pederson and Connie Voss (plus a Catholic and a Presbyterian.)

Sometimes the group did book studies together, other times they played games or discussed community news, and sometimes they discussed creative ideas for ALC. One of their first projects occurred during the 2022 Lenten season. You probably remember the theme "Full to the Brim." These five women recruited the speakers for Wednesday Lenten services (John Nau, Paul Summers LaRoche, Dr. Mary Webbens, and Pat Henkels). They organized the Healing Bowl art project which included the repair of a broken ceramic bowl by bonding the broken pieces together with gold. The "Walk to Jerusalem" was their project, as well, as members of the congregation took part in the imaginary 80-mile walk from Capernaum to Jerusalem.

The Garage Gang launched the first Arts and Craft Fair in November of 2022. hey recruited craft items and baked goods from the congregation plus advertised in the community and area churches to creative a very impressive event in the Gathering Room and lobby area. The proceeds totaling \$4,600 were applied to ALC Building Debt.

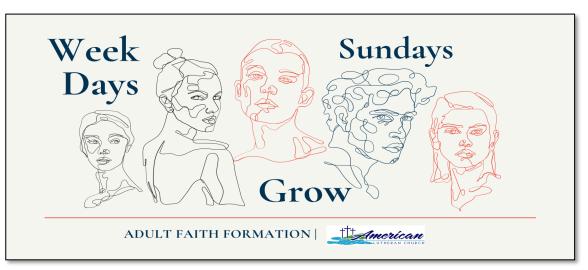
Again, they are organizing the second Art Craft and Bake Sale coming up November 4 and 5 with proceeds going toward building debt. In addition to the sale of lovely holiday crafts, original artwork and other handmade items, there will be a bake sale, complimentary flavored coffee and a BBQ lunch. With their detailed planning, the sale will likely be another successful event!

Next on the Garage Gang's plate will be assisting with the Lenten 2024 season. Again, they will secure the Wednesday night speakers to enrich our time of worship together. We look forward to the season!

What a difference these five women have made in the life of our congregation during the last couple years! They have shared their imagination, their talents, their gift of organization and attention to detail for all our sakes. Because of you, Garage Gang, ...meaningful things get done!

The Stewardship Committee

Eternal God, too often I turn my thankfulness inward. Help me to reach out to those around me and share the many blessings you have bestowed on me. Amen



Adult Education Ministry Team, Recently, a new ministry team was organized to facilitate Adult Faith Formation. Currently, members of this team are Connie Voss, Jean Bastian, Linden Olson, and Pastor Anne. As this ministry team gets its footings, it will focus on a the Adult Faith Forum for Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:00am. This class will meet in the Conference Room.

November Sunday Faith Forum Schedule:

Nov 5, "Tending Your Grieving Soul: Making Lifegiving Meaningful Connections" Nov 12, Veterans Day Prayer Service Nov 19, Stewardship Conversations at the Stewardship Brunch Nov 26, No Faith Formation for all Grades

December Sunday Faith Forum Schedule, ***The December Faith Forums will focus on growing a spirituality of awareness through scripture, art, and guided reflections. We will be using a prayer practice called "Visio Divina."

Visio Divina, latin for "divine seeing," is a method of meditation, reflection, and prayer through a process of intentional seeing. Visio Divina extends the 6th century Benedictine practice of Lectio Divina by the use of visual imagery. Traditionally, Visio Divina was accompanied by Benedictine iconography and illuminations, however, different faith traditions have adapted the process over time, utilizing both secular and nonsecular images. (Sanctified Arts writers).

There will be Faith Forums on December 3, 10, and 17.

Tuesday Genesis to Revelation Adult Bible Study, This whole Bible survey course continues on Tuesdays at 1:00pm. The class meets in the Conference Room where a Seminary Professor teaches a video lesson and then the group discusses the scripture readings and uplifted themes. Kris Besel is the instructor. Connect with her to receive the schedule of topics. People can join at any point in this study.

ELCA Women's Bible Studies, meet monthly. If you would like to join one of these circles of women who study God's Word, connect with Kelly Henkels in the Church Office and she will direct you to one of the group leaders.

Men's Bible Study, A men's Bible Study group meets weekly on Tuesdays at 7:45am. The studies vary. Men are invited to join at any time. Friends of ALC are also welcome.



SATURDAY NOV. 4 9AM-4PM SUNDAY NOV. 5 9AM-12PM

Complimentary Flavored Coffee

Holiday Crafts Original Artwork Baked Goods

Barbecue, Chips & Lemonade \$5 Bars \$1

All Proceeds Go to the Building Debt Fund

American Lutheran Church 915 Winifred Street Worthington

NOVEMBER WORSHIP HELPERS AND LEAD-

<u>Ushers 8:00 AM (Team 6)</u> Greg Kvilhaug, Scott Langerud, Alec Langerud

<u>Ushers 10:00 AM (Team 4)</u> Bruce Juber, Dave, Skog, Marc Janssen

<u>Altar Committee</u>: Marj Olson, Shirly Wieme, Deb Stoll, Sue Rose

Busy Bag Monitor: Kathy Sackett

Church Lockup: Paul Langseth/Harlan Handevidt

<u>Financial Counters</u> (Team 3) Donna Cargin, Diane Levine, Pam Handevidt

Greeters:

5th	8:00-
	10:15- Gary & Mary Brandt
12th	8:00- Gary & Lola Lindquist
	10:15- Mark & Kay Prunty
19th	8:00- Jerry & Kathy Sackett
	10:15- Diane Levine

- 22nd 6:30- Thanksgiving Eve
- 26th 8:00- Lyle & Connie Voss 10:15: Erlin & Jean Weness

ALC BY THE NUMBERS:

A SNAPSHOT IN TIME

The report of the monthly budget reflects the income and expenses at the end of July. 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 encourage to give to support God's ministries.

September Monthly Donations	
Gift Card Income	\$4,200.00
Parish Ed Income	
Youth Fund Income	
Hospitality Income	\$820.75
Box 1 Income	\$24,827.00
Box 1 Income-Non Synod	\$800.00
Box 2 Income	\$3,986.22
ALC Scholarship	\$20.00
New Youth Director Gifts	\$50.00
Box 3 Income	\$842.00
EJ Scholarship	\$200.00
Church Rental	\$50.00
Special Meals	\$188.00
Youth funds- Wed Kick off	\$150.40
Lutheran Women	\$321.00

Communion Servers:

- 5th 8:00- Connie Voss, Russell Obermoller, Dave Nerem
 10:15- Mark & Kay Prunty, Laura Hoffman
- **12th** 8:00- Harlan & Pam Handevidt, Marcia Basche
 - 10:15- Greg & Barb Raymo, Mary Turner
- **19th** 8:00- Marv Isder, Rod Obermoller, Lola Lindquist
 - 10:15- Steve & Lori Dudley, Jill Cuperus
- 22nd 6:30 Thanksgiving Eve- Bob & Sandy Demuth, Lori Ailts
- 26th 8:00- Grant Sorensen, Diana Kvilhaug, Russell Obermoller, Dave Nerem
 - 10:15- Mark & Kay Prunty, Laura Hoffman, Karen Hanbury

Worship Date	Worship Participants		
	8am, In-Person	10:15am In-Person	Online as 10/24
Oct. 1	86	51	242
Oct. 8	79	116	149
Oct. 15	84	68	158
Oct. 22	70	54	136

Operating Finances September, 2023					
Income	\$36,455.37				
Expenses	\$58.571.10				
Net Loss	\$(22,115.73)				
Building Debt Reduction Ministry					
Debt as of 1/1/23	\$790 <i>,</i> 148.37				
Interest paid September 2023	\$2,401.12				
Current Building Fund Debt	\$628,248.37				

LUTHERAN WOMEN

November 2023

Thankoffering Sunday

During our worship service on Sunday, October 1st, we observed our annual Thankoffering celebration by giving thanks for the ministry of the Lutheran Women's organization here at American Lutheran. We are blessed to have a wonderful group of faithful disciples who live out their faith in Jesus as they walk with others. As part of the worship service, a special litany and prayer to honor women and their work throughout the years was shared. Thanks to Pastor Anne, Pastor Jeremy, Sylvia Andersen, Kelly and all who helped make this service special! Our Thankofferings collected are sent to support the many life-changing ministries of the Women of the ELCA. Together, we do more than we should ever do apart! God has indeed blessed us to be a blessing to others!

Thanks to Mobile Meals Drivers

The following people generously gave their time to help with the important ministry of delivering Mobile Meals recently: Larry & Jan Petersen, Vern & Val Cornell, Donna Cargin, Shirly Wieme, Dee Hale, Marcia Basche, Grant & Maureen Sorensen, Judi & Bill Hoevet, Paul Langseth, Jay Jensen, Pam & Harlan Handevidt, Marchelle Jorgensen, Sharon Johansen, Erlin Weness, Dennis Hibma, Lori & Steve Dudley, and Roger & Clasine Lester. Thank you for being a blessing to those who in need!

Affirmation of Baptism

Congratulations to the ALC students who were confirmed at our 10:15 worship service on Sunday, October 29th! These students were recognized by our Lutheran Women's organization with gifts of Study Bibles and flowers. May God richly bless you as you continue your faith journey!



Christmas Salad Buffet December 5th at 6 PM



- Meal in the Fellowship Hall followed by a program in the Sanctuary
- All women and their guests are invited
- To better insure a variety of salads. Please use the following guidelines. Last names beginning with:

A-H Meat I-P Vegetable Q-Z Fruit Each salad should serve 8-10 people. Lutheran Women board members will provide breads.

 The Circles of our congregation host the evening: Decorations – Mary Circle Program – Martha Circle Set up & serve – Esther Circle Clean-up – Volunteers

Plan to attend as we begin our journey through Advent in preparation for the birth of our Savior, Jesus!

Next Lutheran Women's Board Meeting Monday, November 13th at 4:30 p.m.

Bibles Presented

On Sunday, October 8th, Bibles were presented to several young people in our congregation during the 10:15 worship service. Each year, Lutheran Women is able to support this important ministry by providing funds to help with the purchase of the Bibles. Students will be able to use these Bibles through the years until they are confirmed. Placing Bibles in the hands of our youth continues to be a priority of Lutheran



*Scandinavian*Smorgasbord*Specialties*Sale*



On behalf of the Lutheran Women's Organization, the Smorgasbord Team old like to extend a huge **THANK YOU** to all who contributed to this years fundraiser, the ***Scandinavian* Smorgasbord*Specialties*Sale*** during the month of October! Again, we are overwhelmed by your generosity! Thanks to all who gave cash donations, to those who took part in the Meatball, Lefse & Pastry Sale, and to all who participated with friendly competition during the Silent Auction. Also, thanks to Sylvia, Kelly, Pastor Anne and Pastor Jeremy for their help and support. And, thanks to several Thrivent members on our congregation, we were able to take advantage of using 5 Thrivent Action Cards to help with many of our expenses! The profit made will enable us to continue to support the numerous ministries of our women's organization! Look for final numbers and results in next months news-letter. **MANGE TUSSEN TAKK! MANY THOUSAND THANKS!**

Upcoming Opportunities:



Preschoolers & Kindergarteners have finished a unit on Creation, and want to share their joy through song! Students will sing "God Made Me" on Sunday, November 12, during both worship services.

First Communion:

5th graders are invited to take part in a 3-part class Series*, before celebrating their First Communion during worship on December 10.

November 19—Classes begin. December 3—Classes continue. December 10—Final Class & Worship Celebration

*Students meet in the lower-level Green Room during Sunday school 9:15AM-10AM





Journey to Bethlehem is a COMMUNITY-WIDE event! We need YOUR HELP to make it happen! Together, we can share the hope of Jesus!

Scan the QR code to sign up for a station (or to lend items or help with setup). You'll receive detailed instructions and all the supplies will be prepped for you. (Reach out to Kristin Appel with questions.)



Confirmation Ministry

Junior High Youth Gathering

This year we will be headed to the Junior High Youth Gathering in Willmar MN November 17and 18. Cost per student is \$120 and that includes food, hotel stay, speakers, and the events for the night! This is open to 6th–9th grade students and their friends. **Registration Deadline is October 15th.**

Fall Dates:

- Nov 1: Faith Formation
- Nov 8: Faith Formation
- Nov 15: Faith Formation
- Nov 22: NO Faith Formation

Youth & Family Ministry

SAVE THE DATES:

Nov 17-18. Junior High (6-8th Grade) Youth Gathering. "Ministry is not about helping these kids be better Christians; it is about helping them be what God created them to be-human. . . .Ministry is about suffering with them in their dehumanization, celebrating their human endeavors and in all things pointing to the true human, Jesus Christ our Lord." —Andrew Root "Revisiting Relational Youth



First Communion Classes

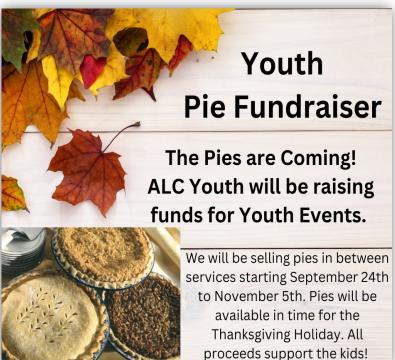
November 19th December 3rd December 10th

- Instruction for 5th graders will be at 9:15 am.
- Held in a lower level classroom
- Celebration will be at 10:15 am on Dec. 10th.

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.

Talk with Pastor Jeremy for more details.





November 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



steadfast love endures forever! 1 CHRONICLES 16:34

Wish List

- 17 foot Aluminum canoe
- Vest style life jackets
- Good Vacuums
- Volunteers

We thank you for all your

generosity this year!



Mark your Calendar

- November 3-4 Confirmation Retreat
- December 3 Annual Meeting
- December 3 Scandinavian Dinner
- December 28 Winter Fun Day

Register at <u>shetek.org</u> 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!