

# Messenger

## October Ministry Notables

### **October Sermon Series:** Stop Going to Church



### **Special Guest: October 8 @ the Journey Worship**

The SW MN Synod is in a relationship with a Companion Synod in South Africa. Akhona, Executive Assistant to Bishop Myaka will be at the 10:15am to share a greeting.

### **Special Congregational Meeting**

October 15 @ 9:15am in the Sanctuary  
A quorum of members is needed to discussion and vote on the updated ALC Constitution and Bylaws. For questions talk to one of the pastors, Dave Nerem, or Craig Pfeifer.

### **New Member Sunday**

October 15 at the 10:15am Journey Worship  
Celebrate with the new members. Come learn their names and welcome them into God's Church called American Lutheran.

### **Sunday Adult Faith Forum**

9:15am—10:00am, bring a cup of coffee, a treat, and your faith curiosity to the Conference Room. Engage the sermon topic with a deeper dive through conversation and scripture readings.

### **Reformation Sunday with Confirmation**

Sunday, October 29 Reformation Sunday will be celebrated at both worship services. At the 10:15am Journey Worship, ALC youth will affirm their baptism. Names of the Confirmands will be shared closed to the day of celebration.



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Think of how people talk about “church.” Most say, “We’re going to church,” as though church is a building. Or, “It’s time for church,” as though church is a worship service. “Church” is SO MUCH MORE!

We are the church when...

...we pack much needed food for families in need and distribute it to our schools through Every Meal

...we provide clean-up and support to victims of disasters.

...we give the gift of play through Operation Christmas Child.

...we welcome 85+ squirrely kids to Kids Camp.

...we gather in Bible studies & Circles to grow in faith and support one another.

...we provide personal care items to help those in need.

You are the church when you take the time to listen to a friend who is hurting, prioritize your spouse, and wrap your kids up in God’s love.

God’s vision for the church is that we are *known as the people in our communities who care as much for those who aren’t here as those who are, and help others do the same.*

***The church is a living, breathing, moving, life-changing group of people known for their unrelenting, unbiased, never-ending love!***

This 4-week message series will lovingly but boldly help people consider what the church is, and urge them to be the church by serving, giving, and connecting IN JESUS’ NAME!

## **You Are Needed!**

Each week during the fall programming year, for all three worship services, between ten and twenty volunteers are need to create a welcoming and enthusiastic worship experience to nurture those worshipping in-person and those on-line.

You as members are vital to empowering our worship of God. All ages of people, younger to older, are invited in worship volunteers.





## Personal Care Items Drop off at Church during Office hours.



Laundry Soap. Watch for next session to make this product needed by many.



Shampoo & Conditions  
Needed for all ages.  
Wee ones, too!



Soap for all.  
Liquid & bar are needed.



Toothbrush & paste



Lotion & other skin care items to give a personal touch.



Wet wipes, tissues, & other items.



### **BECAUSE OF YOU... Our community is a little better!**

Thank you! To all who helped make our day(s) of service a huge success. God's work. Our hands., is part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's initiative to invite churches to be visible beyond the doors of their buildings. We as a church are continually reminded that work of Jesus begins not in the comfort of the building but in the way we see Christ in our neighbors. This year, we had a variety of ways to get out and serve. Our event began on Saturday with *Rebuilding Together*, which serves neighbors who need some assistance with home maintenance and upkeep. Volunteers laid some edging, rock, cleaned up brush and debris, and installed a few doors and windows. On Sunday morning our volunteers packed shoeboxes with *Operation Christmas Child* adding to a total of 138 boxes filled. Volunteers tied 8 blankets for our baptismal families. We packed 20 bags for kiddos walking through hospice with family members, and spent a few hours scraping and prepping St. John's Lutheran church at *Pioneer Village* for paint. As we continue to explore ways to be neighbors to those around us. Keep your eyes open to ways God might be inviting you to love and serve your neighbors. We continue to explore ways we can partner with *Hope Haven*, *Helping Hands Pregnancy Center*, *Manna Food Pantry*, and many more of our partners in care. **THANK YOU** to all who helped pack a bag for our hospice programs, or packed a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child, or spent time cutting and tying blankets together to gift our baptismal families. Your gifts of kindness and generosity help us be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. *From the Stewardship Committee*



Mission & Service



**Companion Synod News:** The Southwest MN Synod welcomes four of our South African partners from the SE Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa to the SW MN Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America from September 21 – October 12, 2023!



Agrippa is the chair of the Of the partnership committee In the SE Diocese

Akhona is the Executive Sec to the Bishop

Pastor Thabani is the diaconal minister and part-time pastor

Pastor Celiwe is working to re-establish the seminary at Umphimulo

We are privileged to meet and host our visitors in the Shetek Conference during their visit. They are beginning their visit in conferences in the northern part of the synod and will be with us as follows:

1. Members of the SW Synod Partnership Committee will be holding a welcome and potluck in Redwood Falls on September 26.
2. We will welcome three of the four delegates to Shetek Lutheran Ministries from October 2 – 4. There will be an open partnership potluck meal & meeting on Monday, October 2 starting at 5 PM. All are welcome & stay tuned for more details. The delegates will also visit Shalom Hill Farms while at Shetek along with other historical sites. Pastor Mike Stangeland who is the Dean of the Shetek Conference will host this visit.
3. We will be hosting Akhona from October 6-8. Plans are being developed to introduce Akhona to our communities and churches. We are tentatively planning on having Akhona at American Lutheran in Windom on Saturday, October 7 at their 5:30 Chapel Service. On Sunday, October 8, Akhona will be at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Lakefield at the 9 AM service and First Lutheran Worthington 9:30 service and American Lutheran in Worthington at the 10:15 am service. All are welcome to attend these services to meet and hear about the ministry in the SE Diocese of the Evangelical Church in Southern Africa.
4. Agrippa will be visiting Bethlehem in Hills on Friday, October 6-Saturday, 7. Bethlehem at Hills has a connection to a circuit in SE Diocese and will be celebrating this partnership.

*What an opportunity to learn from each other and grow in friendship and in faith in the one Lord Jesus Christ! The Shetek Conference Partnership Committee invites the members of the congregations of the Shetek Conference to pray for this important visit and take part as each are able.*

**New  
Member  
Sunday**



Oct 15 @ 10:15am





On Sundays there is an opportunity to dig deep in to the sermon theme and scripture shared during the worship service. On Sunday, October 1, 8, 15, and 22, join the conversation about the sermon. Adult Faith Forum will occur in the Conference Room. *(On Oct 15, the starting time will be immediately after the Special Congregational Meeting.)*

#### Topics:

**October 1,** You want me to LEAD?

**October 8,** 'Those people' are included?

**October 15,** It's just a phase. FAITH through the phases.

**October 22,** Taking the church to where the church is not.

Sharing the message of JESUS.

**October 29,** No Adult Faith Forum.

On Sunday, October 15, there is a *Special Congregational Meeting* to vote on the proposed updated to ALC's Constitution and Bylaws. The meeting starts at 9am, immediately after the 8am worship service.

Vote in-person (preferred)

On-line via (Zoom)

Absentee Ballot (mail-in)

An Absentee Ballot can be requested from the church office during business hours from Oct 1-13. To be counted as a valid ballot, it must be post-marked by October 14, 2023.

#### Special Congregational Meeting

**To Vote on the proposed updated**

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS  
FOR**

**AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**WORTHINGTON, MINNESOTA**

**October 15 @ 9am**



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.

*"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" said Jesus in Matthew 25:40*





“At the Barn” = A Day to Remember

## Art & Craft Fair November 4, 2023

You are invited to share your talents as a painters, bakers, crafters, 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 BBQ 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](mailto: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*

## **Scandinavian\*Smorgasbord\*Specialties\*Sale**



It's time for the Lutheran Women's annual **"Scandinavian Smorgasbord Specialties Sale"**! This is our primary fundraiser that supports our ministry and mission projects locally and globally. Once again, during the month of October we will be asking you to participate in this popular event.

There will be **3 WAYS** to participate and support the many important ministries of the Lutheran Women's organization.

**\*CASH DONATIONS** – Look for the red envelopes in the October Messenger and at the entrances to the Sanctuary to use for cash donations. These envelopes will be available throughout the month of October. You can drop your donation in the offering plate or mail it to the church office.

**\*SILENT AUCTION** – Stop by the special table in the Fellowship Hall and place your bid for some of your favorite Scandinavian specialty items throughout the month of October. The auction items are listed below:

One recipe **rice pudding**

One recipe **romme grot**

One recipe **peppernuts** (about 1 ice cream pail full)

One recipe **gifta salad**

If you place the highest bid for an item by the end of October, you will win that item! You are welcome to stop by the table anytime throughout October, on Sunday mornings or weekdays during office hours, to place your bid.

**\*SCANDINAVIAN MEATBALL, LEFSE and PASTRY SALE** – On **Sunday, October 8**, a special one-day food sale will take place featuring these Scandinavian Smorgasbord favorites:

<b>MEATBALLS</b>	<b>\$8.00/quart</b>
<b>LEFSE</b>	<b>\$8.00/18 pieces</b>
<b>PASTRIES</b>	<b>\$5.00/container of a half dozen</b>
<b>Rosettes, Sandbakkels or krumkakke</b>	

Come to the Fellowship Hall on October 8 to purchase food for your next family gathering for the holidays! The sale will take place after both the 8:00 and 10:15 services until sold out. *If you are unable to attend, please make arrangements with a friend to purchase your items for you.*

Last year, we were extremely grateful and overwhelmed by your generous support totaling over \$7,405.

**Thank you** for your generosity throughout October! We hope you will continue to help support our Lutheran Women's organization and its many important ministries!

***Mange tusen takk!***



## **OCTOBER WORSHIP HELPERS AND LEADERS**

**Ushers 8:00 AM (Team 1)** Paul Landberg, Diane Levine, Lori Ailts, 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:** Diane Levine

**Church Lockup:** Dennis Hibma

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

### **Greeters:**

**1st** 8:00- Vern & Val Correll  
10:15- Marchelle Jorgensen  
**8th** 8:00- Audrey Brake  
10:15- Jerry & Mavis Sandstrom  
**15th** 8:00- Bruce & Karen Juber  
10:15- Roger & Clasine Lester  
**22nd** 8:00- Laura Hoffman  
10:15- Dennis & Gloria Hibma  
**29th** 8:00- Paul & Marlys Busse  
10:00- Shirley Rempel

### **Communion Servers:**

**1st** 8:00- Harlan & Pam Handevidt, Jean Bastian  
10:15- Mark & Kay Prunty, Karen Hanbury  
**8th** 8:00- Dave and Brenda Baerenwald, Dave Nerem  
10:15- Bruce & Karen Juber, Judi Hoevet  
**15th** 8:00- Mike & Lisa Peterson,  
Russ Obermoller, Dee Hale  
10:15- Roger & Clasine Lester,  
Jill Cuperus, Laura Hoffman  
**22nd** 8:00- Gordy & Lori Heitkamp, Karla Kirkeby  
10:15- Greg & Barb Raymo, Mary Turner  
**29th** 8:00- Paul Landberg, Aubrey Anderson,  
Lola Lindquist  
10:15- Steve & Lori Dudley, Nancy Marco

Worship Date	Worship Participants		
	8am, In-Person	10:15am In-Person	Online as 9/26
Aug. 27	Barn	134	172
Sept. 3	74	63	175
Sept .10	79	GWOH	120
Sept. 17	65	63	181
Sept. 24	77	78	121

### **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.

### **July Monthly Donations**

Gift Card Income	\$5,400.00
Parish Ed Income	\$434.00
Youth Fund Income	\$800.00
Hospitality Income	\$381.93
Box 1 Income	\$26,398.80
Box 1 Income-Non Synod	\$600.00
Box 2 Income	\$9,826.19
New Youth Director Gifts	\$1,590.00
Box 3 Income	\$800.00
EJ Scholarship	\$10.00
ALC Scholarship & Correction	\$25,800.00
Endowment Fund, Correction	\$(15,000.00)

### **Operating Finances June, 2023**

Income	\$57,040.92
Expenses	\$77,873.08
Net Loss	\$(20,832.16)

### **Building Debt Reduction Ministry**

Debt as of 1/1/23	\$790,148.37
Interest paid June 2023	\$2,528.67
Current Building Fund Debt	\$628,248.37



# LUTHERAN WOMEN

October 2023

## Thankoffering Sunday

For over 100 years, it has been a commitment of the women of the ELCA to carry on the important tradition of *giving in gratitude* for the many blessings we have received throughout the year.

**Please join us for our *Thankoffering Sunday* worship on October 1<sup>st</sup> at both the 8:00 and 10:15 services.**

This special worship service will be an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks to God for all that we have received and continue to receive! Plan to bring your *Thankofferings* using the special envelope found in this issue of *The Messenger* or look for them in the narthex



## Semiannual Kitchen Cleaning

**Thank you, Mary Circle,** for organizing the important task of cleaning our much used kitchen! And thanks to all who helped on September 29 to keep our kitchen in tip top shape for use throughout the coming year!

## Dates to Remember



- Month of October – Scandinavian\*Smorgasbord\*Specialties\*Sale Fundraiser
- Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> – Annual Thankoffering Worship Service at 8:00 & 10:15
- Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup> – Scandinavian Food & Pastry Sale, 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

## Operation Christmas Child/Shoebox Ministry

Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, as part of our service for **GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS**, just under 20 Shoeboxes were filled by several willing volunteers! In addition, Lori Heitkamp and friends filled about 125 boxes as a service project for Sanford Health! Thanks to all who helped to bring joy to children around the world who are less fortunate - what a terrific response to this important ministry!



## Scandinavian\*Smorgasbord\*Specialties\*Sales

ALC's 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Lutheran Women's Fundraiser will be taking place during the month of October, and once again, we will be asking for your help. We are extremely grateful for your generous support in the past and hope you will help us out again this year! Below is a list of opportunities to participate in to help support our organization and its many important ministries.

**Cash Donation** – Use the specially designated red envelopes found in the Messenger and at the entrances to the Sanctuary for your cash donations throughout the month of October. Drop them in the offering plate or return to the church office.

**Silent Auction** – Stop by the special table in the Fellowship Hall to place your bid on some of your favorite Scandinavian specialty items – *rice pudding, romme grot, peppernuts and gifta* – throughout the month of October. The highest bidder of each item (by the end of October) will be the winner.

**Scandinavian Food and Pastry Sale-** Come to the Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup> between 9:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. and again at 11:15 a.m.** to purchase the following Smorgasbord favorites:

<b>Meatballs</b>	\$8.00/quart
<b>Lefse</b>	\$8.00/18 pieces
<b>Pastries</b>	\$5.00/container of a half dozen
<b>Rosettes, Sandbakkels or Krumkakke</b>	

Please note this food sale will take place on October 8<sup>th</sup> only. *If you are unable to attend on this day, consider having a friend purchase for you.*

Last year, your generous giving of over \$7,400 greatly helped with the support of our ministry and mission projects locally, regionally and globally!

Thank you for your generosity in the past and we hope you will continue to help support our Lutheran Women's organization and its many important ministries! **Mange tusen takk!**



**Next Lutheran Women's Board Meeting**  
Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m.

## October Opportunities:



## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8 Gift of the Word



9:15AM-10AM  
**BIBLE ORIENTATION**  
LOWER-LEVEL GREEN ROOM  
3RD GRADERS

10:15AM **WORSHIP**  
NEW PRESCHOOLERS  
1ST GRADERS  
3RD GRADERS  
(AND PARENTS)



Scan the QR Code  
to help lead a  
Fall Festival Station!

### October Faith Formation (preschool-5th grade):

- Sunday, October 1: God Made Us (Pre/K), Zacchaeus (1st-5th)
- Wednesday, October 4: God Creates the Stars (Ignite)
- Sunday, October 8: Noah's Big Boat (Pre/K), The Unforgiving Servant (1st-5th)
- Sunday, October 8: Gift of the Word & Bible Orientation (see above)*
- Wednesday, October 11: Abraham and the Stars (Ignite)
- Sunday, October 15: Noah's Big Boat (Pre/K), The Unforgiving Servant (1st-5th)
- Wednesday, October 18: STARRY NIGHT (ALL AGES)**
- Sunday, October 22: NO CLASS
- Wednesday, October 25: FALL FESTIVAL (ALL AGES)**
- Sunday, October 29: Noah's Big Boat (Pre/K), The Lost Son (1st-5th)



## Confirmation Ministry

### Junior High Youth Gathering

This year we will be headed to the Junior High Youth Gathering in Willmar MN November 17th and 18th. 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.

## Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, October 29th at 10:15am



10th Graders and their families will have a chance to confirm their faith at a special Confirmation Service! We invite you to join us as we celebrate our young people!

## Youth & Family Ministry

### SAVE THE DATES:

- Oct 25th: Fall Festival for all ages.
- Oct 20th– Hang Night 6-12th grade.
- Confirmation Sunday: Oct 29th @10 am Service.
- Nov 17th-18th. Junior High (6-8th Grade) Youth Gathering.

### Bible Orientation:

October 8th  
Instruction for 3rd Graders will be at 9:15 am. Bible Presentation will be at the 10:15 am Service.

### First Communion Classes

November 19th  
December 3rd  
December 10th  
Instruction for 5th graders will be at 9:15 am. Celebration will be at 10:15 am on Dec. 10th.

### Mission 2024: Harrisburg PA!

Our 2024 Mission Trip has been posted! Join us June 16th -21st (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 to Pastor Jeremy for more details.

### Fall Dates:

- **Oct 4th:** Faith Formation
- **Oct 11th:** Faith Formation
- **Oct 18th:** Faith Formation
- **Oct 25th:** Fall Festival: At The Barn
- **Nov 1st:** Faith Formation
- **Nov 8th:** Faith Formation
- **Nov 15th:** Faith Formation
- **Nov 22nd:** NO Faith Formation

## 6-12th Grade Hang Night

October 20th  
6-10 pm

We want to invite our 6-12th grade students and friends to join us for a night at ALC. We will plan to have some chaos games, board games, food, laser tag, and much more. Sign up on the Youth Board to let us know you are coming!

## Youth Pie Fundraiser

**The Pies are Coming!**  
**ALC Youth will be raising funds for Youth Events.**



We will be selling pies in between services starting September 24th to November 5th. Pies will be available in time for the Thanksgiving Holiday. All proceeds support the kids!

**October 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



"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." **Ecclesiastes 3:1**

### Wish List

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

### Mark your Calendar

October 20-21 – Octoberfest

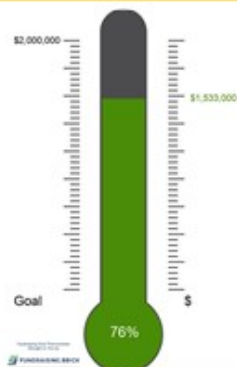
October 23-26 – Quilt & Craft Retreat

November 3-4 Confirmation Retreat

Register at [shetek.org](https://shetek.org) or

Call 507-763-3567 for more information

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!**