

*January 2025*  
*American Lutheran Church*  
*A Congregation of the ELCA*

1512 Avenue G    Gothzemburg, NC 69138    308-537-3433    office@aleg.org

# WORD OF LIFE

*Sunday Lessons in January for your devotions*



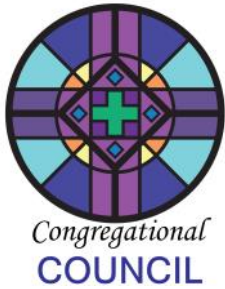
January 5  
*Second Sunday of Christmas*  
Jeremiah 31:7-14  
Psalm 147:12-20  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
John 1:1-18

January 12  
*Baptism of Our Lord*  
Isaiah 43:1-7  
Psalm 29  
Acts 8:14-17  
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 19  
*Second Sunday after Epiphany*  
Isaiah 62:1-5  
Psalm 36:5-10  
1 Corinthians 12:1-11  
John 2:1-11

January 26  
*Third Sunday after Epiphany*  
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10  
Psalm 19  
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a  
Luke 4:14-21





Congregation Council  
meeting summary  
December 10, 2024  
at 7:00 pm

Present: **President** – Kara  
Kreis, **Vice President** –

Amanda Rossell, **Secretary** – Connie L.  
Dalrymple, **Property** - Glenn Finke, **Music &  
Worship** – Ernie Blecha, **Parish ED** – Erica  
Johnson, **Hospitality & Outreach** -Lori  
Johnson-Berke

President Kreis opened the meeting at 7:00  
with devotions from Proverbs 21:5, regarding  
budgeting.

**Minutes** – November minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report** – November report was  
approved, showing a balance of \$19,546,84.

- Thanks to the donation of furniture, refrig-  
erator, and paint, the renovation of the  
Gathering Place was \$20,469.84. Ernie  
moved to

transfer to the Improvement Fund \$16,673.19  
from Arlene Peterson's memorial, and  
\$3,796.65 from other memorials to cover the  
cost of renovating the Gathering Place. Glen  
seconded the motion and it was approved by  
all present.

**Hospitality & Outreach:** They were pleased  
with the Advent event on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Lunch was  
provided and about 70 attended, working on  
projects for children to make, while adults  
made Advent logs, and others visited.

The committee will look into a visitor book  
and having service times in the local paper.

**Property:** Glen has the name of a person to

install blue, handicap striping at the back  
entrance. This will be done in the spring.

- The City is still having work done on side-  
walks and is planning to repair ours in the  
back.
- The baptismal font is in the Gathering  
Place and can be moved back to the  
sanctuary as needed.

**Music & Worship:** They finished decorating  
the church for Christmas today.

**Parish Ed:** There has been 12 – 13 children  
each of the last three weeks in Children's  
Church and they are practicing songs for the  
Christmas program on the 22nd. Some of the  
songs will be signed. There will be ornaments  
instead of goodie bags for children this year.  
Hopefully they can have a children's program  
in the spring also.

**Memorial:** The current balance is \$44,012.23  
and they will be working on the memorial  
book pages.

- Amanda talked with Logan Ricley regarding  
AED equipment for the church. He has  
recommended a unit for \$1746.51 which  
he will order, install, and train persons to  
operate, after the new year. He will also  
service the unit.

A motion was made by Glen authorizing the  
purchase of an AED unit as recommended by  
Logan Ricley and to make the purchase from  
Memorial Funds. Erica seconded the motion,  
and it was approved by those present.

**Discussion items:** Committees completed  
their 2025 budgets and Amanda moved to

*Continued on page 3*

*Continued from page 2*

approve the proposed budget for presentation to the congregation at the annual meeting on January 19. Erica seconded and all present approved the motion. The budget will be available to members before the meeting.

Due to the political climate in Haiti, it was recommended to the Council that we discontinue our special offering to Haiti for the time being. Stewardship will be asked to explore options to support outside our own church and community.

The history books of St John's Lutheran and Christ Lutheran churches need to be rebound. When last checked, the cost would be \$900. These books contain the history of our church and are important to ALC. We'll check with the Synod for available grants for preserving historical records.

Amanda moved to seek an estimate to rebound the history books. Glen seconded and those present approved the motion.

Reminder: All annual committee reports should be turned into the office as soon as possible.

The meeting closed at 8:38 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Note: Lori will have devotions in January and Executive Committee and Stewardship will serve Linger Longer.

Connie L Dalrymple, Secretary

**Thank you** for the gift given to me for Christmas! It's very much appreciated, and please know how much I also appreciate ALL the talented and dedicated individuals our congregation has been blessed with. ALC is a family of wonderful individuals and talents!  
~ Ernie Blecha

### **Prayer Requests**

**Remember in Prayer: Members:** Larry Bihlmaier, Gail Block, Elsie Cyriacks, Anne Franzen, Pam Gage, Jim Gonzales, Judy Hicken, Molly Magana, Dennis McCain, LaVon Reinke, Lavonne Werkmeister;

**Family & Friends of Members:** Kristy Connelly, Keith Fickenscher, Chad Fuller, Shelly Goldfish, Mairik Holbein, Jolene Parsons (Judy Hicken's sister), Gene Reinke, Jamie Reiter, Tipp Ronnekamp, Shirley Stombaugh, Kathy Stull (Lori Long's mother), Boone Tederman;

**Service Members:** Colton Bebensee, Johanna Keiser, Brandon Reinke, Chad Schmiett.

*If you or a family member are ill or in the hospital, let us know so Pastor Doug can visit you and include you in our prayers or if a family member is on the prayer list and you feel that they no longer need to be included in them, please call the office at 537-3433.*



Poinsettias were purchased in honor or in memory of  
the following

**In memory of Wendell Hjelmstad**  
from Pastor Doug Hjelmstad

**In memory of John and Marth Wolf, Ken Wolf, and Glenn Haas**  
from the Haas family

**In memory of Dennis and Carol Bihlmaier, Rollie and Dorothy Brown, and  
Ed and Margaret Block**  
from Steve and Lisa Bihlmaier

**In memory of Joe and Marjie Streeter, Rankey and Ellen Block, Glenn and  
Kaye Dalrymple, and Lloyd and Delories Streeter**  
from Jim and Connie Dalrymple

**In memory of Larry and Carolyn Parker and Wayne and Janice  
Lichtenwalter**  
from Mark and Tracy Lichtenwalter

**In memory of Elmer, Joy and Luke Jacobsen**  
from Noel and Joni Jacobsen family

**In memory of J. R. Graff and Kris McElroy**  
from Kathy Graff and Jim Graff

**In memory of Woody and Vera Rossell, Shawn and Gordon Rossell, Dick and  
Thelma Graham and all who have gone before**  
from Sue Rossell and family

**In memory of Robert Keiser**  
from Elaine and family

**In memory of Evonne Hicken**  
from Garry and family

**In memory of Leonard and Eileen Sieb**  
from Dan, Kara, Katie and Ty Kreis







**In memory of Ed and Katie McBride**  
from Dan, Kara, Katie and Ty Kreis

**In memory of Stephanie Block**  
from Doug and Allison Block

**In memory of Leonard and Marye Franzen and Erwin and Helen Keiser**  
from David and Wenda Keiser and family



**The Annual Budget meeting will be January 19th during the 10 a.m. service. We need enough people to make a quorum. Please plan to attend!**



**Augustana**

The choir from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois will be putting on a free concert here at ALC on **March 23** at 7 p.m. We are **looking for hosts for that night** for as many choir members as possible. They have 55 people total. Please let the office know if you would be willing to provide accommodations.



# Youth Of American Lutheran Church



The annual Soup Cookoff was held December 18th. There were 14 soups to choose from. A hot chocolate bar with all the fix-ins as well as sandwiches and snacks were also available. No one went away hungry!



# Children's Christmas Program



The Parish Education Committee with Ernie Blecha presented the Christmas program on 15th of December. Along with Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus, there were angels, shepherds, farm animals and the three wisemen made an appearance. Even the first Christmas couldn't compare with the cuteness!





## *January Birthdays and Anniversaries*

### Happy Birthday

1 Jerry Hudson  
Betina Weidman

2 Andrew Block

3 Todd Block  
Misty Roberts  
Casey Schmeeckle  
Jill Schmeeckle

4 Terry Jobman  
Drake Hoffman

5 Julie Koehler  
Trey Stevens  
Kyle Wolf

6 Joyce Hudson

7 Lucas Sabin

8 Charlie Bihlmaier  
Nora Mckim

9 Christy Jobman  
Khloe Magnuson

10 LaVon Reinke  
Jason Block  
Jacob Franzen

11 Shawn Boyd

13 Rick Zarek

16 Devin Holbein

17 Shelby Eggleston  
Austin Karges

18 Tracy Lichtenwalter  
Kressy Ristine

19 Bob Harm

21 Miles Barkmeier  
Brady Hendricks

23 Jim Bebensee

24 Jennifer Ballmer  
Rhonda Putnam  
Amanda Rossell

25 Iziekial Brian  
Greg Hirsch  
William Mannel  
Pam Gage

26 Nadine Schlake

27 James Gundell

28 Eric Christensen  
Pauline Holmes

30 Arlene Aden  
Blayre Miller

31 Leona Cummins  
Jayla Geiken  
Justin Geiken  
Cole Lauer

### Anniversaries

1 Ron & Sandy Jobman  
2 Landen & Jordan Haake  
4 LaMonte & Darla Schlake  
Larry & Sue Schledewitz  
11 Dale & Anne Franzen  
22 Norv & Joyce Kolbo  
25 Don & Patti Barkmeier  
James & Gwen Gundell  
27 Craig & Libby Franzen  
28 Brad & Michelle Warner





January 12 - Tim Franzen  
January 19 - Logan Feather  
January 26 - Jim Long  
February 2 - Melissa Bell

**Welcome Center Host -**

January 5 - Barb Hicken  
January 12 - Linda Rodine  
January 19 - Jena Rahjes  
January 26 - Kurt Stevens  
February 2 - Connie Dalrymple

**Greeters -**

January 5 - Steve & Lisa Bihlmaier  
January 12 - Larry Franzen, Elaine  
Keiser  
January 19 - Glenn & Sue Finke  
January 26 - Colbie Brown,  
Emma Christensen  
February 2 - Kash & Kingston Koehn

**Sound -**

January 5 - Eldon Rodine  
January 12 - Lindly Anderson  
January 19 - Kurt Stevens  
January 26 - Lori Johnson-Berke

**Offering Counters -**

January - Marci Ostergard  
February - Eldon & Linda Rodine

**Communion Bread -**

January 5 - Carol Wahlgren  
January 12 - Karan Smith  
January 19 - Joni Jacobsen  
January 26 - LaVon Reinke  
February 2 - Lisa Wagner

**Acolytes**

January 5 - Eli Erb, Alec Wagner  
January 12 - Kya Roth  
January 19 - Blake Brown  
January 26 - Hadley Ostergard  
February 2 - Jay Bell

**Ushers**

January 5 - Kevin Boyd, Joyce Hudson  
January 12 - Randy & Cressy Rossell  
January 19 - Rick & Pat Zarek  
January 26 - Rhonda Jobman, LaMonte  
Schlake  
February 2 - Greg Feather, Boyd Hicken

**Communion Assistants -**

January 5 - Connie Dalrymple, Kim  
Kitzing, Lisa Wagner  
January 12 - Craig & Mary Finke,  
Carolyn Hicken  
January 19 - TJ & Ashleigh Brown,  
Will Rahjes  
January 26 - Eldon Rodine, Noel & Joni  
Jacobsen  
February 2 - Macy Finke, Jim & Lori  
Long

**Reader -**

January 5 - Kendra Boyd

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>January 2025</i>			1	2	3	4
5 10a Service of Holy Communion/ Children's Church 11a Linger Longer	6 7p Women's Bible Study	7 Pony Express Cluster Text Study	8 2:30-3:30 JAM 6p Worship 6:30p Meal 7p Youtherans/ Confirmation	9	10	11
12 10a Service of Holy Communion/ Children's Church 11a Linger Longer	13 1:30p Communion Stone Hearth	14 Pony Express Cluster Text Study 7p Congregational Council	15 2:30-3:30 JAM 6p Worship 6:30p Meal 7p Youtherans/ Confirmation	16	17	18
19 20 10a Service of Holy Communion/ Budget Meeting 11a Linger Longer	20	21 Pony Express Cluster Text Study	22 2:30-3:30 JAM 6p Worship 6:30p Meal 7p Youtherans/ Confirmation	23 9a Quilters	24	25
26 10a Service of Holy Communion/ Children's Church 11a Linger Longer	27 1:30p Communion Stone Hearth	28 Pony Express Cluster Text Study	29 2:30-3:30 JAM 6p Worship 6:30p Meal 7p Youtherans/ Confirmation	30	31	