



February 2025

American Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the ELCA

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

WORD OF LIFE

Sunday Lessons in February for your devotions



February 2

Presentation of Our Lord

Malachi 3:1-4

Psalm 84

Hebrews 2:14-18

Luke 2:22-40

February 9

Time after Epiphany

Isaiah 6:1-13

Psalm 138

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

February 16

Time after Epiphany

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Psalm 1

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Luke 6:17-26

February 23

Time after Epiphany

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

Luke 6:27-38



«Route »

«Last Name», «First Name»

«Street»

«City», «State» «Zip»



Congregational Council
meeting summary
January 14, 2025 at 7:00

pm

*Congregational
Council*

Present: **Pastor** – Doug
Hjelmsted, **President** – Kara

Kreis, **Vice President** – Amanda Rossell, **Treasurer** – Madison Rosse **Secretary** – Connie L. Dalrymple, **Property** - Glenn Finke, **Hospitality & Outreach** - Lori Johnson-Berke, **Youth & Family** – Stacy Anderson

President Kreis opened the meeting at 7:00 and Lori provided devotions from Philippians 3, promoting thoughtfulness as to whether we feel 'called' about things we do or just think of them as a 'job or task'.

Minutes – December minutes were approved with the specific use of Margaret Block's memorials as contributions to the Gathering Place renovation.

Treasurer's Report – December's report was approved as presented. The Gathering Place renovation is entirely paid for.

Pastor's Report: He found the Advent / Christmas seasons to be meaningful and was pleased with the Cantata and pageant and Lessons & Carols at New Year. Unfortunately, weather cancelled the Epiphany service on the 5th. Stewardship Sunday is tentatively set for February 9. Ash Wednesday will be March 5 and we will combine with First Presbyterian.

Conducted funeral services for Garry Dishman on December 13, baptized Aria Seams on December 22, and made four home and hospital visits. He presided at Communion at Stone Hearth on December 23 and January 13.

The 2024 Retreat at St. Benedict Center in Schuyler was very good. He plans to attend this year, March 30 – April 6.

The NE Synod Assembly will be May 30 – June 1 in Kearney and delegates are needed.

Hospitality & Outreach: They're reviewing and updating the 2016 job descriptions and discussing ways to assist Pastor.

Lori will put a new ad in the Chamber's Tourist Guide using an updated picture. The ad will be bigger and contain more information about ALC.

Youth & Family: With a Synod youth service project in Nashville in July, 2025 and the National Youth Gathering in 2026, Youtherans, are working on fundraisers such as pizza / dip for Super Bowl Sunday and the Shrove pancake feed March 4th. They had a lock-in Dec. 28 and 29th and made baked goods all night for sale after church on Sunday. Their Christmas hayride and caroling was well attended and lots of fun. These are great faith-building activities and they have a few students coming from Cozad, Lexington, and Eustis Lutheran churches as well as local Methodist and Presbyterian youth. They are also working on monthly service projects such as care packages to college freshmen.

Property: The committee is working with the Cemetery Board on plot layouts and costs at the (Christ Lutheran) cemetery. Since ALC owns and maintains the cemetery, there is no cost for active ALC members to be buried there.

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

Plots are 16 x 16 as originally laid out, probably for families. It's nearly impossible to find stakes and since most second and third generation family members are not buried here anymore, it may be prudent to contact the county surveyor to reduce the plot size and restake the plots allowing for uniformity.

There have recently been burials of non-members and inactive members at our cemetery. Due to ownership residing with American Lutheran, prior to any graveside services or committals there, a request should be submitted to the ALC pastor or Congregation Council. With such approval, the service should be conducted by our pastor. We should also determine a fee for those parcels, along with a logical expansion method into the unused area.

Our property insurance renews on February 10. According to the agent, personal property insurance should cover 10% to 20% of our property and he also suggests we establish a separate fund to build up a balance sufficient to cover deductibles since the methodology and cost have changed considerably. Council had no objection to Glen's request for a meeting with the agent to discuss the insurance and to explain how we should proceed. Glen will set it up.

Glen suggested we get a *handicap van accessible* sign for the back of the church.

Discussion Items:

The annual meeting to approve the 2025 budget is Sunday, January 19.

Going forward, the budget will be reviewed in-depth each meeting to simplify the budget process at year end.

Safe Church Policy: The following changes will be made on page 5. The first sentence of Section E, " Incident Reporting, Investigation, and Response", will be changed to read: "Any person with reason to believe that ~~a child or youth's~~ someone's physical or mental well-being.... ". Paragraph four, sentences two or three will now read: "...with utmost seriousness and investigated promptly with care and discretion by the Congregation Council ~~or a designated committee~~".

The meeting closed at 9:00 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Note: Madison will have devotions in February.

Connie L Dalrymple, Secretary



Beloved Community of ALC,

For as long I can remember, “stewardship” has generally meant raising the money necessary to support the church and its mission. The giving we do is in service to the Gospel and even though stewardship can – and should – inform a much broader scope of our lives: from the way we manage our time, the ways we use and care for the lands, waters, and natural resources that sustain us, to the ways we care for ourselves in body, mind, and spirit, to the ways we engage in community life and care for our neighbors. But in the end, stewardship in the church means money.

Money that we give to support the mission of the church, and money the church uses to meet its financial obligations and money the church gives away in service to the Gospel.

From the earliest days of the church, Christian communities were known for meeting the basic needs of and caring for the poor, i.e. widows and orphans, the sick and injured, the imprisoned. The Christian response to the needs of others set them apart from wider society. It was the generosity of community members who provided for the church’s mission of spreading the gospel, which included providing for people’s physical and spiritual needs.

As followers of Christ, we are called to see the world differently and resist the worldly powers of materialism and accumulation. We do not overcome the power of money by trying to accumulate more...

Then [Jesus] told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So, it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.

~ Luke 12: 16 – 21

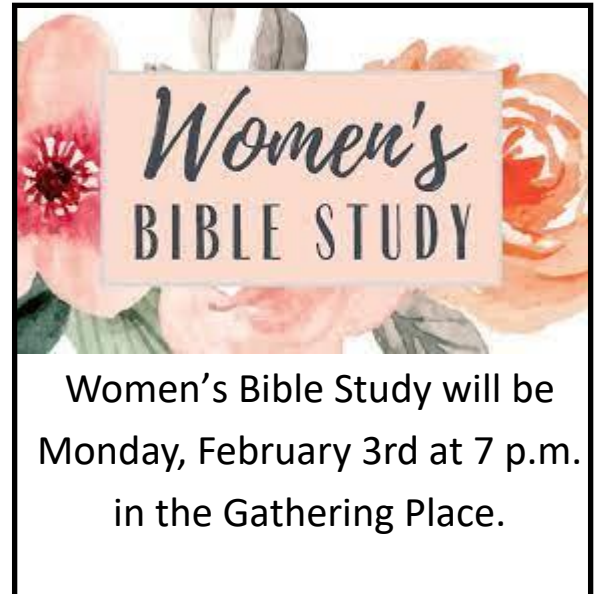
Our stewardship giving is a faithful act of resistance to the power of money in our lives. Giving money away renders it powerless in a way that it becomes a sign of grace instead of dominance. Giving money away as an act of resistance is a daring way to think about our stewardship. The challenge for us is to trust the abundant life in Christ that God gives us and dispel the myth of scarcity the world would have us believe.

In a spirit of abundance, generosity, and resistance,

Pastor Doug

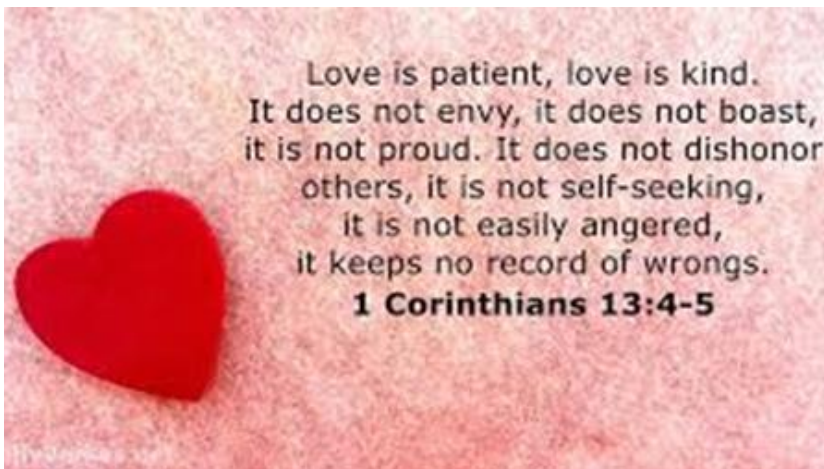
ALC friends! Please sign up to deliver Meals on Wheels the week of February 17 -- each day has seven routes to cover. **If you are able to deliver to more than one route, please sign up for each route separately so that other drivers are aware and the Center knows each route is covered.** Plan to be at the Senior Center at 11:15. Any questions? Contact Lori Long. Thank you for serving our community!

<https://bit.ly/ALCMealsFeb2025>



Women's
BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible Study will be
Monday, February 3rd at 7 p.m.
in the Gathering Place.



Your 2024 contribution statements are available. Just contact the office at 308-537-3433, office@alcg.org or stop in. We can send them by mail or e-mail.

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.

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.

Youth Of American Lutheran Church



The Youtherans and friends from other area congregations, along with some brave adults, had a lock-in on December 28-29. They did some late night baking for their bake sale. Proceeds from the bake sale go toward the Nebraska Synod youth trip to Nashville.





A NEW COMMANDMENT
I GIVE UNTO YOU, THAT
YE LOVE ONE ANOTHER;
AS I HAVE LOVED YOU,
THAT YE ALSO LOVE
ONE ANOTHER.
JOHN 13:34 KJV



February Birthdays and Anniversaries

24 Jed Clark

25 Kristin Bartlett

Boyd Hicken

Amber Wear

26 Barb Hicken

Bowe Jorgenson

Lathan Johnson

Jennie Rodriguez

Donna Ronning

Karan Smith

Melody Titkemeier

28 Kathy Graff

Amy Headley

Randy Holbein

29 Molly Magana

Anniversaries

2 Jerry & Joyce Hudson

4 Jerry & Enid Macken

7 Anthony & Erin Finke

10 Joe & Carol Keiser

14 Scott & Stephanie Aden

15 Jay & Sonia Richeson

20 Jay & Suzanne Holmes

24 Curtis & Beth Ostendorf

Happy Birthday

1 Cindy Garcia

2 Pat Jobman

Braden Sabin

4 Heather Miller

5 Jo Johnson

6 Xanthia Brian

7 Steve Bihlmaier

8 Lori Kitzing

9 Colbie Brown

10 Kim Kitzing

Logan Koehler

11 Kendra Boyd

Marvin Franzen

LaMonte Schlake

12 Brooks Lauer

Brittany Harms

Alora France

15 Vickie Keiser

16 Dirk Kolbo

18 Lindly Anderson

Glenn Finke

Brian Keiser

19 Chandler Harm

20 Trinity Brian

Kiel Holmes

21 Jill Franzen

McKinley Harm

Dave Keiser

22 Donna McConnell

Mark Ostergard

23 Cody Ostergard



February 16 - Mary Finke

February 23 - Jo Fuller

March 2 - Carol Keiser

Welcome Center Host -

February 2 - Connie Dalrymple

February 9 - Jonie Birnie

February 16 - Elaine Keiser

February 23 - Marlene Fiese

March 2 - Lisa Bihlmaier

Greeters -

February 2 - Kash Koehn, Kingston Koehn

February 9 - Corey & Keri Roth

February 16 - Joe & Carol Keiser

February 23 - Dave & Wenda Keiser

March 2 - Larry & Sue Schledewitz

Sound -

February 2 - Eldon Rodine

February 9 - Cressy Rossell

February 16 - Kurt Stevens

February 23 - Scott Aden

March 2 - Lori Johnson-Berke

Offering Counters -

February - Eldon & Linda Rodine

March - Karl & Becky Randecker

Communion Bread -

February 2 - Lisa Wagner

February 9 - Carol Keiser

February 16 - Michele Warner

February 23 - Carolyn Hicken

March 2 - Connie Dalrymple

Acolytes

February 2 - Jay Bell

February 9 - Landon Feather

February 16 - Braelen Rossell

February 23 - Natalie Hengen

March 2 - Lathan Johnson, Alec Wagner

Ushers

February 2 - Greg Feather, Boyd Hicken

February 9 - Lloyd Hicken, Kim Kitzing

February 16 - Ken Christensen, Kurt Stevens

February 23 - Roger Koehler, Connie Stevens

March 2 - Joyce Hudson, Pat Jobman

Communion Assistants -

February 2 - Macy Finke, Jim & Lori

Long

February 9 - Tammy McMichael, Randy &

Cressy Rosell

February 16 - LaMonte Schlake, Lisa Wagner,

Rick Zarek

February 23 - Stacy Anderson, Kendra Boyd,

Kara Kreis

March 2 - Kevin Boyd, Connie Dalrymple,

Bob Jorgenson

Reader -

February 2 - Melissa Bell

February 9 - Erin Feather

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9a Property 10a Service of Holy Communion/ Children's Church 11a Linger Longer	3 7p Women's Bible Study	4 Pony Express Cluster Text Study	5 2:30-3:30 JAM 6p Worship 6:30p Meal 7p Youtherans/ Confirmation	6	7	8
9 10a Service of Holy Communion/ Children's Church 11a Linger Longer	10 1:30p Communion Stone Hearth	11 Pony Express Cluster Text Study 7p Congregational Council	12 NO JAM 6p Worship 6:30p Meal 7p Youtherans/ Confirmation	13	14	15
16 10a Service of Holy Communion/ Budget Meeting 11a Linger Longer	17	18 Pony Express Cluster Text Study	19 2:30-3:30 JAM 6p Worship 6:30p Meal 7p Youtherans/ Confirmation	20	21	22
23 10a Service of Holy Communion/ Children's Church 11a Linger Longer	24 1:30p Communion Stone Hearth	25 Pony Express Cluster Text Study	26 2:30-3:30 JAM 6p Worship 6:30p Meal 7p Youtherans/ Confirmation	27 9a Quilters	28	