

*April 2025*

*American Lutheran Church*

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

# WORD OF LIFE

*Sunday Lessons in April for your devotions*

## April 6

*Fifth Sunday in Lent*

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalms 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

## April 13

*Sunday of the Passion/*

*Palm Sunday*

Luke 19:28-40

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 22:14-23:56

## April 20

*Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter*

Isaiah 65:17-25

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

Acts 10:34-43

Luke 24:1-12

## April 27

*Second Sunday of Easter*

Acts 5:27-32

Psalms 118:14-29

Revelation 1:4-8

John 20:19-31



«Route »

«Last Name», «First Name»

«Street»

«City», «State» «Zip»



## **Congregation Council meeting summary**

March 11, 2025 at  
7:00 pm

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

Amanda Rossell, **Treasurer** – Madison Rosse,  
**Secretary** – Connie L. Dalrymple, **Property** –  
Glen Finke, **Music & Worship** – Ernie Blecha

Vice - President Rossell opened the meeting  
at 7:00 and Glen provided devotions on  
leadership and organization.

The February 11 meeting was cancelled due  
to extremely cold temperatures and those  
agenda items moved to March.

**Minutes** – the January minutes were ap-  
proved as presented.

**Treasurer's Report** – The January and Febru-  
ary reports were approved as presented.

**Pastor's Report:** Ash Wednesday services  
were March 5 and were held jointly with First  
Presbyterian.

Pastor conducted funeral services for Car-  
ol Hudson on January 27, baptized  
Wrenlee Hill on February 23 and Baker  
Jorgensen on March 2. He made 12  
home visits, including three with com-  
munion and one healing rite. He also  
presided at communion at Stone  
Hearth on February 24 and March 10.  
He'll attend the Retreat at St. Benedict  
Center in Schuyler March 30 – April 6.  
The NE Synod Assembly will be May 30 –  
June 1 in Kearney. Delegates will in-  
clude Lisa Wagner, Randy and Cressy

Rossell, and Pastor Doug.

Gretchen Ahrens, Director of Youth and  
Justice Ministries will be here April 27.  
The Synod staff is preparing a 'road show'  
for Saturday, February 7, 2026 from 10  
a.m. to 3 p.m.

Pastor has agreed to serve on the PMA  
Steering Committee for one year.  
Meetings are monthly.

He's looking for an archive / records room  
where all church records can be held in  
one place.

Since we are using younger youth as  
acolytes, it would be helpful to have a  
communion support person to assist  
with occasional spills and keeping  
servers in full supply.

**Music and Worship** – Ernie provided a  
complete itinerary, including meals, for the  
Augustana Choir concert on March 23.

Special services coming up include the  
Men's Choir 80-Year celebration on  
March 16.

Wednesday Lenten services at 7:00 p.m.,  
with meals at 5:45, Palm Sunday April  
13, Maundy Thursday, April 17, at 7:00  
p.m., Easter Sunday, April 20, at 8:00  
and 10:00 a.m. with breakfast and an  
Easter egg hunt between services.

**Property:** The County surveyor is willing to  
meet at the (Christ Lutheran) cemetery on a  
Saturday to begin work on replatting /  
restaking plots. He'll also lay out another  
access road on the north side.

New church signs have been arranged for  
the north, east, and west entrances to

town. Glen will visit with the Methodist church about a joint sign on the South side. Ken is checking on prices.

The ice bin in the kitchen works but the freezer unit on top doesn't, so Glen comes in a couple times a week to defrost and restart the machine. A new freezer unit costs approximately \$5234. Following discussion, a motion was made by Glen to pay for the new freezer unit with Memorial funds. Ernie seconded the motion, all present voted *Yea*, and the motion was approved.

The meeting with our insurance agent on Febr. 20 was very informative. We have a good company and policy to work with. As a result, our agent made some changes that will reduce our premium. Our policy is structured so as not to be affected by the recent flooding in the east or the wild fires in the west part of the country. He also agreed to review our harassment policy. He did make two suggestions; a line item in the budget to meet deductibles, and that small repairs be done in-house rather than submitting them to insurance.

White Castle is a Christian based roofing company and will come on Monday to look at the roofs.

**Memorial:** There is currently \$44,495.53 in

the account, including recent donations and interest.

#### **Discussion Items:**

Both hallways have been painted. Thank you to Mary Finke for painting them. Locks on hallway doors will be a budget item.

Council agreed to let Pat Zarek take the church history / record books to Lincoln for rebinding.

The meeting closed at 8:15 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Note: Ernie will have April devotions and Property / Mutual Ministry will serve Linger Longer.

Connie L Dalrymple, Secretary





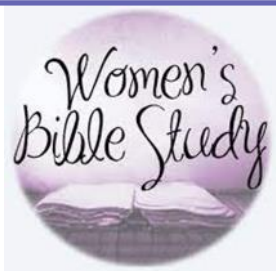


The Augustana College Choir under the direction of Dr. Jon Hurty put on a wonderful concert here at ALC on

March 23rd. This highly select mixed ensemble performs a wide variety of music in major concerts, special events and on tour. The choir has released a number of recordings, and has performed on commercial and public radio and network television. Thank you to everyone who helped prepare and serve meals for the choir.







Women's Lenten Bible Study will continue on April 7th and 14th. Every week is a different topic so if you can't be there every week, no problem! We will meet on every Monday through Lent at 7 p.m. in the Gathering Place. Come join the fun and fellowship! If you have questions, contact Kara Kreis at 640-1494.

## Be there for each other.

Two support groups will be starting soon at First United Methodist Church: a cancer support group and a grief support group.

The **CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** will meet 4-5 pm on Sundays with the first meeting March 9. This is for individuals going through or having gone through cancer, as well as their family members. The next two meetings will be March 23 and April 6.



The **GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP** is for anyone experiencing any sort of grief. It will meet 9-10 am on Tuesdays beginning March 11. The next two meetings will be March 25 and April 8.

Both groups will be led by counseling Intern Bailey Dahlgren, who is completing her master's degree in psychology. All services will be free at least until August 2025. If you know anyone in our community who needs this support, please share it with them.

**Palm Sunday is April 13th.** We will be having a procession with palms and a donkey. If you would like to participate in the procession around the block, **please be here by 9:45 a.m.**



### Prayer Requests

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

**Family & Friends of Members:** Janet Boyd (Shawn Boyd's mother), Kristy Connelly, Keith Fickenscher, Chad Fuller, Shelly Goldfish, Mairik Holbein, Charlene Morris (Jonie Birnie's sister), Jolene Parsons (Judy Hicken's sister), Gene Reinke, Jamie Reiter, Tip 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*

The Men's Choir celebrated their 80th anniversary with a special performance during the March 16th service. If you missed it, you can still watch it on our Facebook page (alcothenburg) or on YouTube (@alcg1952) .

### **American Lutheran Church – A Legacy of Music**

#### **Celebrating 80 years of Men's Choral Music**

In 1945, a group of 8 farmers decided to form a Double Quartette at Christ Lutheran Church, northeast of Gothenburg. The group consisted of Alvin Vieselmeyer, Ernie Koch, Wayne Janssen, Erwin Keiser, Ed Aden, Tony Gronewold, Don Keiser, and Renkie Aden.

Christ Lutheran merged with St. John's Lutheran (16<sup>th</sup> & D Streets) to form American Lutheran in the early 1950's. Men's choral music has continued its tradition at ALC since it began 80 years ago at Christ Lutheran.

In the early years, most of the members were farmers. They practiced faithfully once a week 52 weeks out of the year, and were invited to perform at a national Lutheran Brotherhood Convention in Minnesota in 1957 and were also invited to perform at a convention in Denver. They generally sang acapella and used a pitch pipe to find the correct notes to begin. Adelle Haynes and Arlene Aden would also help give pitches, and played some parts on the piano while they were learning the music. After a bit, they added accompaniment to some of their music.

The group began with no director, then a local Band teacher, A. T. Tollefson began to direct the group. In 1992, Arlene Aden took the reigns as director. She also played the piano for most of the selections they sang. In 2001, Ernie Blecha acquired the group and is still directing at this time.

When they are all present, our group now includes sixteen men, double the size of the original group. Current members include: Jim Long, Tim Franzen, Jim Graff, Tom Gosinski, J Buddenberg, Bob Jorgenson, Lyle Grabenstein, Greg Feather, Noel Jacobsen, Kevin Boyd, Will Rahjes, Darren Franzen, Steve Berke, Larry Franzen, Aaron Boyd, and Garry Hicken.

We trust our performance this morning will honor all those singers that have so faithfully presented anthems at Christ Lutheran and American Lutheran for the past 80 years. May we sing for many more!



Above - The Men's Choir that performed during the March 16th service.

L - R: Noel Jacobsen, Darren Franzen, Tim Franzen, Steve Berke, Tom Gosinski, Lyle Grabenstein, Aaron Boyd, Kevin Boyd, Larry Franzen, Garry Hicken, Jim Graff, Bob Jorgenson, and Ernie Blecha

Below - 1945 Christ Lutheran Double Quartette

L-R: Alvin Vieselmeyer, Ernie Koch, Wayne Janssen, Erwin Keiser, A. T. Tollefson, Ed Aden, Tony Gronewold, Don Keiser, and Renkie Aden.







## *April Birthdays and Anniversaries*

### Happy Birthday

- 1 Elizabeth Bihlmaier  
Hank Neujahr
- 2 Helene Keiser  
Kaitlyn Mannel  
Colleen May  
Deb Weidman
- 4 Jackson Aden  
Wenda Keiser
- 6 Tyler Steuben  
Jeremyah Stevens
- 7 Delores Gronewold  
Emily Keiser
- 9 Rebecca Jacobsen
- 10 Andrea Aden  
Molly Boyd  
Lavonne Werkmeister
- 11 Hayes Hill  
Jay Holmes
- 13 Dade Brock
- 14 Karen Franzen  
Gabi Daharsh  
Chris Zarek
- 15 Paul Stubbe
- 16 Karla Blasé  
Sandy Jobman  
Dan Holbein
- 18 Deb Kreis  
Kara Libich  
Blake McNulty

- 19 Riley Putnam  
Emily Morrison
- 20 Paula Donner  
Andie Geiken
- 21 Ross Hicken  
Wrenlee Hill  
Jena Rahjes
- 22 Joseph Headley  
Grace Hengen  
Dax Hengen  
Carolyn Hicken
- 23 Ron Alexander  
Jill Jorgenson
- 24 Kendi Olson
- 25 Bennett McNulty  
LaDonna Brock
- 28 Cathryn Alexander  
Jay Bell  
Della Hengen  
Wayne Janssen  
Brad Warner
- 29 Jacob Sherard

### Anniversaries

- 2 Ron & Angie Mannel
- 4 Trevor & Leslie Franzen
- 7 Roger & Paula Donner
- 10 Marvin & Jill Franzen
- 15 Ron & Connie Stevens
- 16 Lowell & Kayla Holmes
- 18 J & Pam Buddenberg  
Don & Deb Kreis  
Ernie & Jennie Rodriguez
- 20 Jeff & Kristin Harm
- 25 Dave & Della Hengen
- 27 Scott & Laurie Brown





### **Acolytes -**

April 6 - Blake Brown  
April 13 - Jay Bell, Eli Erb  
April 20, 8a - Natalie Hengen, Kya Roth  
10a - Braelen Rossell, Alec Wagner  
April 27 - Eli Erb, Alec Wagner  
May 4 - Natalie Hengen, Hadley Ostergard

### **Ushers -**

April 6- Glenn & Sue Finke  
April 13 - Ken Christensen, Lloyd Hicken  
April 20, 8a- Kim & Lori Kitzing  
10a- Kurt Stevens, Connie Stevens  
April 27- Joyce Hudson, Pat Jobman  
May 4 - Boyd Hicken, Roger Koehler

### **Communion Assistants -**

April 6 - Randy & Cressy Rossell, Kendra  
Boyd  
April 13 - Connie Dalrymple, Eldon & Linda  
Rodine  
April 20, 8a - Kevin Boyd, Macy Finke,  
LaMonte Schlake  
10a - Craig & Mary Finke, Noel & Joni  
Jacobsen, Lisa & Sophie Wagner, Rick  
Zarek  
April 27 - Tammy McMichael, Scott & Jackie  
France  
May 4 - TJ & Ashleigh Brown, Bob Jorgenson

### **Reader -**

April 6 - Lisa Wagner  
April 13 - Kendra Boyd  
April 20, 8a - Jo Fuller  
10a - Carol Keiser  
April 27 - Tim Franzen  
May 4 - Jim Long

### **Welcome Center Host -**

April 6 - Jena Rahjes  
April 13 - John Bell  
April 20, 8a - Jonie Birnie  
10a - Marlene Fiese  
April 27 - Lori Long  
May 4 - Lisa Bihlmaier

### **Greeters -**

April 6 - Marci Ostergard, Karan Smith  
April 13 - Scott & Laurie Brown  
April 20, 8a - Corey & Keri Roth  
10a - Larry & Sue Schledewitz  
April 27 - Colbie Brown, Emma Christensen  
May 4 - Kash Koehn, Kingston Koehn

### **Offering Counters -**

April - Marci Ostergard  
May - Ernie & Jan Blecha

### **Communion Bread -**

April 6 - Carol Keiser  
April 13 - Michele Warner  
April 20 - Carolyn Hicken, Connie Dalrymple,  
Carol Wahlgren, Karan Smith  
April 27 - Joni Jacobsen  
May 4 - Jan Blecha

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 2:30-3:30 JAM 5:45-6:45p Lenten Supper 7p Lenten Worship	3	4	5
6 9a Property 10a Service of Holy Communion/ Children's Church 11a Linger Longer	7 Bloodmobile  7p Women's Bible Study	8 Pony Express Cluster Text Study  7p Congregational Council	9 2:30-3:30 JAM  5:45-6:45p Lenten Supper 7p Lenten Worship	10	11	12
13 Palm Sunday 9:45a Procession 10a Service of Holy Communion / Children's Church 11a Linger Longer	14 1:30p Communion at Stone Hearth 7p Women's Bible Study	15 Pony Express Cluster Text Study	16 NO JAM NO Evening Worship	17 7p Maundy Thursday Worship	18 7p Good Friday Worship	19
20 8a Service of Holy Communion 9a Easter Brkfst Easter Egg Hunt 10a Service of Holy Communion	21	22 Pony Express Cluster Text Study	23 2:30-3:30 JAM 6p Worship 6:30p Supper 7p Confirmation/ Youtherans	24 9a Quilters	25	26
27 10a Service 11a Linger Longer	28 1:30p Communion at Stone Hearth	29 Pony Express Cluster Text Study	30 2:30-3:30 JAM 6p Worship 6:30p Supper 7p Confirmation/ Youtherans	<div>April 2025</div>		