

American Lutheran Church

November 2025

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

WORD OF LIFE

Sunday Lessons in November for your devotions



November 2
All Saints Sunday
Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18
Psalms 149
Ephesians 1:11-23
Luke 6:20-31

November 9
Time after Pentecost
Job 19:23-27a
Psalms 17:1-9
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
Luke 20:27-38

November 16
Time after Pentecost
Malachi 4:1-2a
Psalms 98
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Luke 21:5-19

November 23
Christ the King Sunday
Jeremiah 23:1-6
Psalms 46
Colossians 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43

November 30
First Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalms 122
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

«Route »
«Last Name», «First Name»
«Street»

«City», «State» «Zip»





Congregation Council
meeting summary
October 14, 2025
at 7:00 pm

*Congregational
Council*

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

Kreis, Treasurer - Madison Rosse, **Property** -
Glen Finke, **Music & Worship** - Ernie Blecha,
Outreach & Hospitality - Lori Johnson-Berke

President Kreis opened the meeting at 7:00
p.m. and Madison provided a devotion about
giving our problems to God in hard times.

Minutes – August and September meeting
minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report - Approved as presented.
An organ savings account was opened with
the extra money raised during the organ fund
drive.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor Doug was very happy with the
Bishop's visit.
- Logan Ricley asked if the Cub Scouts could
meet at the church on either Tuesday or
Thursday after school.
- There has also been a request for an AA
group to use the church for meetings.
After discussion, the council agreed to
allow both groups to use the church.
- Pastor would also like the council to start
working on evacuation plans for the
church in case of emergencies.

Outreach & Hospitality: An Advent event is
being planned for the first week of Advent,
which would be November 30th.

Music & Worship: The committee is looking
at purchasing new green paraments.
Memorial money will be used to cover the
expense.

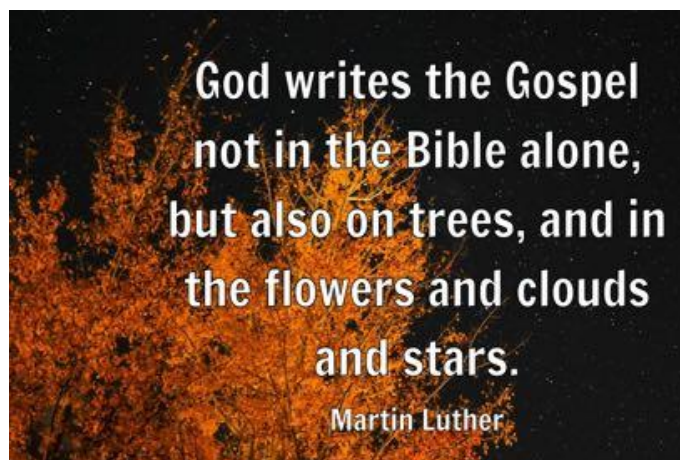
Property:

- Signs advertising the church are up on the
edges of town. A big thank you to Ken
Christensen for helping get this project
done.
- Work is still being done on getting
automatic doors installed.

Youth & Family: Breakfast will be served to
the confirmands on October 26th before the
church service.

Discussion items: President Kreis reported
that the nomination committee has been
formed and they will be meeting to fill vacant
spots on the council for the next term.

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



November reflections from Bishop Scott Johnson

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands.

They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" —Revelation 7.9-10—

Dear siblings in Christ in the Nebraska Synod,

On Saturday, October 4th, members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, including the ELCA Church Council, the Conference of Bishops, and honored guests from around the country and the world gathered at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, MN for the installation of the Rev. Yehiel Curry as Presiding Bishop of the ELCA. It was an afternoon of deep emotion and joyous celebration. I would highly encourage all of you to stream the sermon of the Rev. Dr. Kevin Vandiver at the very least – you can find the service on the ELCA YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uc7KzC2mPto&t=10927s>

As I think back on this remarkable day, I continue to marvel at how the service embodied what this church has been and what this church can become (and is already becoming). Some of the service was deeply familiar: a shape of Gathering, Word, Meal, & Sending; liturgical song; our best celebratory vestments; thunderous pipe organ and brass in a beautiful cathedral splendidly decorated for the day. Some of the service introduced elements with which I was not so familiar: a liturgical rite known as the Pouring of Libations; fervent and regular responses from the congregation during the service, especially during the sermon; a standing ovation following the sermon (decidedly well-deserved, to be clear).

All told, it was a worship service befitting our new presiding bishop. Bishop Curry first encountered the ELCA as a middle school teacher who wanted to get connected to a support group for young Black men sponsored by a mission church on the south side of Chicago. This is how it happened, according to *Living Lutheran*:

"I didn't even realize it was Lutheran," says Bishop Curry, "I was invited by a friend...I had these unique students, and I was interested in services for them. ... There was a worship service I stayed for. And I loved it." Curry went home and told his wife, LaShonda, about the great experience he had had there, and they returned together the following weekend. "We came back and joined," he said. "And we didn't understand the organizations of the Lutheran church. We just saw a home, we saw a community."^[1]

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In a world where people are looking more and more for genuine community (and are less and less willing to let denominational loyalty or simple inertia guide their faith practices), our corner of God's church has called a presiding bishop we've never seen before: an adult convert who saw the Holy Spirit doing something that called to him. First it changed his life, then it changed the lives of his family, then it changed the course of an entire church. Imagine how that wily, poetic, unpredictable Holy Spirit might show up next?

As we continue our adventure together as God's Nebraska Synod, I give thanks for the part each of you plays in the great multitude gathered before the throne of the Lamb. We get a glimpse of that great multitude every now and again, and I feel like I got one of those glimpses in Minneapolis. I see it when we gather together as well, and I hope that you, like me, are encouraged and enlivened by those glimpses of God's glory, especially when it shines in ways we haven't seen before. God has done and continues to do marvelous things: we, too, sing praises with a new song!

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Johnson

^[1] <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2025/07/casting-a-vision-for-the-church/>

Zion Lutheran Church will be having their annual bake and craft sale on Saturday, November 15th, at the Gothenburg Senior Center. Doors open at 9 a.m.



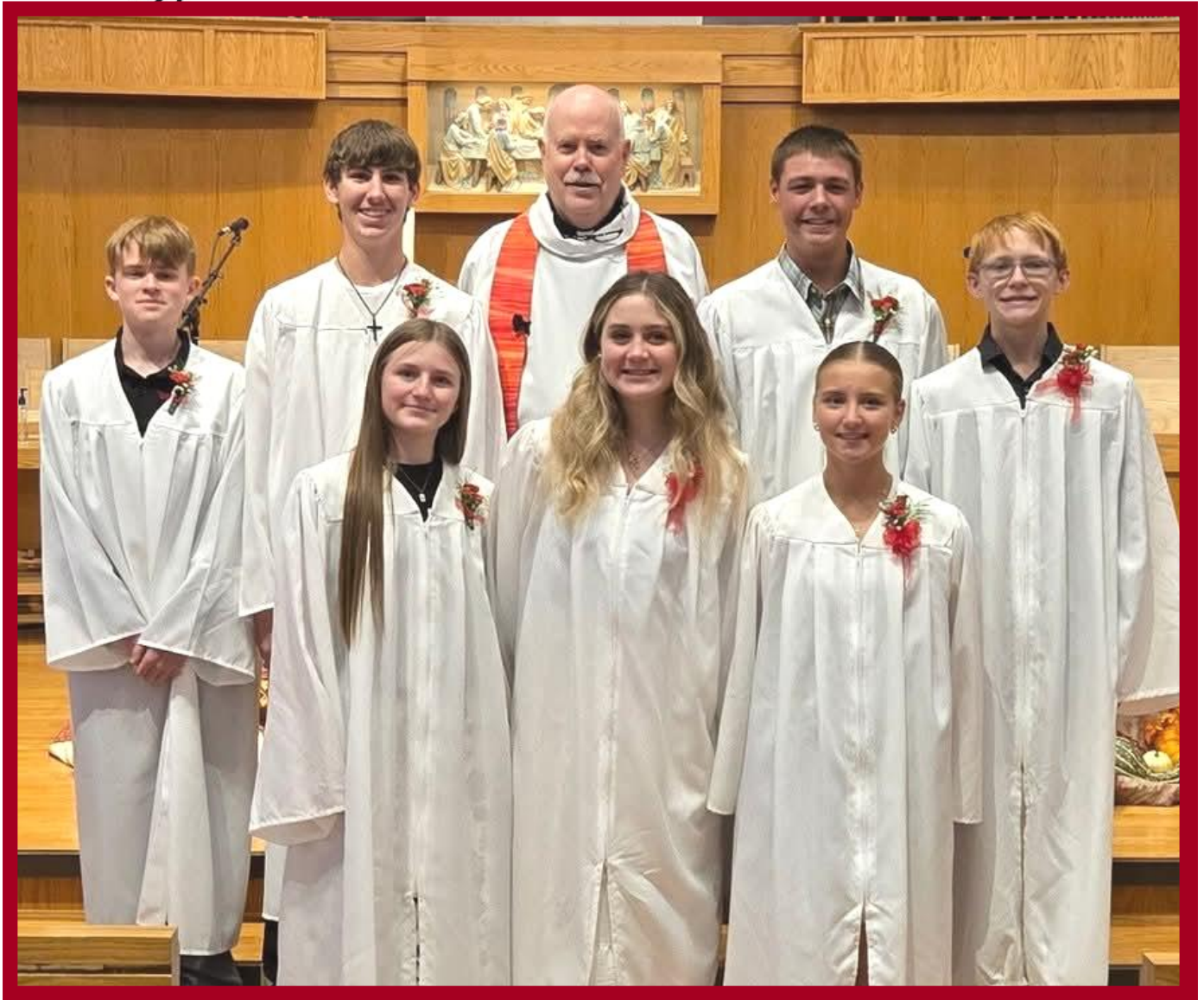
Women's Bible Study will be Monday, November 3rd at 7 p.m. The topic is different every month, so you can join at any time. They meet in the chapel/gathering place.



A Season of Preparation! Put Sunday, November 30th on your calendar. Following worship we will have an Advent Event.

Lunch, fellowship, and activities for all ages. Plan to come!

Youth Of American Lutheran Church



We celebrated Reformation Sunday at ALC with seven of our youth affirming their baptism.

Front row, left to right : Natalie Hengen, Kya Roth and Madilyn McNally.

Back row, left to right: Ryun Tonniges, Gunner Thompson, Pastor Doug Hjelmstad, Miles Christensen and Landon Feather. Congratulations to all!

Our Youterans got up some good again! They spent one of their Wednesday evenings out collecting donations for the food pantry.



This past Wednesday, the Youterans got ready for Halloween by showing their creativity decorating pumpkins.





Prayer Requests

Remember in Prayer: Members: Gail Block, Elsie Cyriacks, Pam Gage, Jim Gonzales, Judy Hicken, Molly Magana, Corey Stull, Lavonne Werkmeister;

Family & Friends of Members: Kristy Connelly, Lori Edwards, Keith Fickenscher, Chad Fuller, Shelly Goldfish, Mairik Holbein, Jamie Reiter, Tip Ronnekamp, Shirley Stombaugh;

Service Members: Colton Bebensee, Sam Erb, Johanna Keiser, Brandon Reinke, Maggie Trenkle.

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.

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|--|
| 1 | Tricia Sheets
Carter Hansen
Logan Hansen | 20 | Denise Brittenham
Craig Franzen
Justin Thorman |
| 3 | Blake Ristine | 21 | Tim Franzen |
| 4 | Tim Aden | 22 | Greg Feather
Jhett Ostergard |
| 5 | Isaac Christensen
Travis Ostergard | 23 | Don Kreis
Michael May |
| 6 | Logan Feather
Kash Koehn
Kingston Koehn
Casey Russman | 24 | Macy Finke
Tra Rossell |
| 8 | Sue Finke
Brooke Stevens | 25 | Annica Harm
Shane Terrell |
| 10 | Judy Hicken | 26 | Kay Anderson |
| 11 | Scott Aden
Roger Koehler
Ellarey Harm
Weston Geiken | 27 | Stella Grabenstein |
| 12 | Jo Fuller
Levi Schmeeckle | 29 | Ryan Brown |
| 13 | Troy B. Franzen
Colleen Geiken
Dustin Holbein | 30 | Alex Jorgenson
Connor Block
Mason Block |
| 15 | Patti Barkmeier
Kimberly Jorgenson
Brandon Schriener | | |
| 16 | McKenzie Lauer
Tiffany Svoboda | | |
| 17 | Kaitlyn Aden
Kara Kreis
Brett Terrell | | |
| 18 | Brian Aden | | |
| 19 | Landon Feather | | |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|----------------------------|
| 7 | John & Jill Schmeeckle |
| 13 | Terry & Nancy Jobman |
| 15 | Allen & Betina Weidman |
| 16 | Alex & Kim Jorgenson |
| 17 | Troy & Heather Franzen |
| 23 | Jim & Lichelle Aden |
| 24 | Steve & Lisa Bihlmaier |
| 25 | Sean & Ellie Franzen Seams |
| 28 | Casey & Kim Russman |
| 30 | Jim & Connie Dalrymple |



Acolytes -

November 2 - Eli Erb, Lathan Johnson

November 9 - Alec Wagner, Cooper Roth

November 16 - Hadley Ostergard, Gretta
McKim

November 23 - Blake Brown, Jay Bell

November 30 - Fletcher Grabenstein, Alec
Wagner

December 7 - Braelen Rossell

Ushers -

November 2 - Glenn & Sue Finke

November 9 - Ken Christensen, LaMonte
Schlake

November 16 - Pat Jobman, Connie Stevens

November 23 - Lloyd Hicken, Joyce Hudson

November 30 - TJ & Ashleigh Brown

December 7 - Roger Koehler, Bob Ronnekamp

Communion Assistants -

November 2 - Randy & Cressy Rossell,
Lisa Wagner

November 9 - Craig & Mary Finke, Kendra
Boyd

November 16 - Noel & Joni Jacobsen, Rick
Zarek

November 23 - Eldon & Linda Rodine, Bob
Jorgenson

November 30 - Scott & Jackie France, Carolyn
Hicken

December 7 - Jim & Lori Long, Kim Kitzing

Reader -

November 2 - Kara Kreis

November 9 - Kevin Boyd

November 16 - Darla Schlake

November 23 - Kathy Graff

November 30 - Tim Franzen

December 7 - Jo Fuller

Welcome Center Host -

November 2 - Elaine Keiser

November 9 - Kurt Stevens

November 16 - Jonie Birnie

November 23 - Marlene Fiese

November 30 - Barb Hicken

December 7 - Emma Christensen

Greeters -

November 2 - Erica Johnson & family

November 9 - Corey & Keri Roth

November 16 - Steve & Lisa Bihlmaier

November 23 - Colbie Brown, Logan Feather

November 30 - Jonie Birnie, Elaine Keiser

December 7 - Larry & Sue Schledewitz

Sound -

November 2 - Lindly Anderson

November 9 - Cressy Rossell

November 16 - Kurt Stevens

November 23 - Scott Aden

November 30 - Eldon Rodine

December 7 - Eldon Rodine

Offering Counters -

November - Karl & Becky Randecker

December - Marci Ostergard

Communion Bread -

November 2 - Karan Smith

November 9 - Joni Jacobsen

November 16 - Jan Blecha

November 23 - Lisa Wagner

November 30 - Carol Keiser

December 7 - Michele Warner

Communion Support Person-

November 2 - Della Hengen

November 9 - Kya Roth

November 16 - Marci Ostergard

November 23 - Macy Finke

November 30 - Natalie Hengen

December 7 - Scout Bell

November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>2 9a Choir 9a Property 10a Service of Holy Communion/ Children's Church 11a Linger Longer</p>	<p>3 7p Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>4 Pony Express Cluster Text Study</p>	<p>5 2:30-3:30p JAM 6p Worship 6:30 Meal 7p Confirmation Cantata Practice</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9 9a Choir 10a Service of Holy Communion/ Children's Church 11a Linger Longer</p>	<p>10 7a Men's Breakfast 1:30p Communion at Stone Hearth</p>	<p>11 Pony Express Cluster Text Study 7p Congregational Council</p>	<p>12 2:30-3:30p JAM 6p Worship 6:30 Meal 7p Confirmation Cantata Practice</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 9a Choir 10a Service of Holy Communion/ Children's Church 11a Linger Longer</p>	<p>17 1:30p Communion at Stone Hearth</p>	<p>18 Pony Express Cluster Text Study</p>	<p>19 2:30-3:30p JAM 6p Worship 6:30 Meal 7p Confirmation Cantata Practice</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 9a Choir 10a Service 11a Linger Longer</p>	<p>24 1:30p Communion at Stone Hearth</p>	<p>25 Pony Express Cluster Text Study</p>	<p>26 No activities</p>	<p>27 </p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 10a Service 11a Linger Longer Advent Event</p>						