



American Lutheran Church

January 2026

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

WORD OF LIFE

Sunday Lessons in January for your devotions



January 4

Second Sunday of Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalm 147:12-20

Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1:1-18

January 11

Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

January 18

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-11

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

January 25

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23





Congregational
COUNCIL

Congregation Council
meeting summary
December 9, 2025
at 7:00 pm

Present: **Pastor** Doug

Hjelmstad, **President** – Kara Kreis, **Vice President** – Amanda Rossell, **Secretary** – Connie L. Dalrymple, **Property** - Glen Finke, **Music & Worship** - Ernie Blecha, **Parish Ed** – Erica Johnson

The meeting was opened with devotions provided by Lori and presented by Pastor. They were based on reflections of a former ELCA Bishop regarding the church, Lutherans, the church together, and the church for the world. We're actually one holy Christian church, we're many for one.

There were no open comments.

Minutes – November minutes were approved as presented with the note that the down payment on the organ repairs was 30%, not 50%.

Treasurer's Report – November approved as presented.

Pastor's Report: He's looking forward to the Christmas Eve services which will be at 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. A service of lessons and carols will be December 28.

- Scout Bell has taken part in worship services the last couple weeks and has done very well. Hopefully her actions will encourage other students to participate. Scout also helps in the Food Pantry.
- Activity at the church recently includes Scouting, Bloodmobile, and an increase in

Food Pantry usage. We've also had an increase in pantry donations which has been helpful.

Memorial: There is \$42,000 including new donations. Money will be moved to other accounts to cover the new paraments and automatic door openers.

Parish Ed: There are 17 at Children's Church. Their lessons parallel the day's gospel.

- The Christmas program is coming along well and will be presented Dec. 21 during worship.

Music & Worship: Nancy Christensen made three new King's robes for the Children's Christmas program.

- It was suggested wearing ugly Christmas sweaters and keeping the children in worship during the lessons and carols service on the 28th.
- Christmas decorations were finalized today.

Property: There was no meeting and projects will be taken up again in January.

Discussion Items: The 2026 budget was reviewed, questions answered, and some changes made to align with what's actually happening. The intent is to maintain transparency and to be frugal and intentional with the funds we're given while still meeting obligations and maintaining our building and congregate needs. The quarterly budget review implemented this year has simplified the budget process.

The annual meeting will be January 25 and committees are asked to get their reports to Lisa as soon as possible.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:00 pm.

Connie L Dalrymple, Secretary

Note: Stewardship and Executive committees will serve Linger Longer in January.



Special Offering for January

North Central Diocese in Tanzania

The orphanage that ALC has supported in the past is located in the North Central Diocese. While the orphanage has secured funding from a foundation, there are still many struggling in the area. The diocese provides social services, especially health and education, economic activities for the sustainability of the diocese, engaging in cross cutting issues concerning women and youth empowerment, and environment and biodiversity conservation and protection.

BUDGET MEETING



The annual **budget meeting will be on Sunday, January 25th** during the regular service. Please plan to attend so that we can have a quorum. There aren't too many topics to go over. We will try to keep it short.

Prayer Requests

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

Family & Friends of Members: Kristy Connelly, Lori Edwards, Keith Fickenscher, Chad Fuller, Kristy Henn, Mairik Holbein, Brent Peterson, Jamie Reiter, Tip Ronnekamp, Jodi Sonneman, Shirley Stombaugh;

Service Members: Colton Beensee, 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.*



Mark your calendars!

Saturday, February 7th

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Nebraska Synod Staff will be here at American Lutheran Church

Be Encouraged, Inspired, and Connected.

Join us for an upcoming On the Road Again event.

Meet other congregational members from across your area, share meaningful stories of faith and ministry, and grow together in fellowship.

Plus, you will do Bible study with Bishop Johnson, connect personally with the entire Synod staff, and enjoy a day filled with good food, fun, learning, and genuine community.

This isn't just another meeting—it's a **Synod staff-led time of dreaming and listening to God's call**. Together, we'll explore:

- How the church is **already changing** and where the Holy Spirit is leading us next
-
- What **faithful innovation** looks like in Nebraska congregations
-
- How to **pack your ministry bag** with practical next steps
-
- Real stories from across our Synod—because you are not alone
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You'll have the opportunity to meet Nebraska Synod staff, Cluster Deans, and other local companions who are already walking this path.

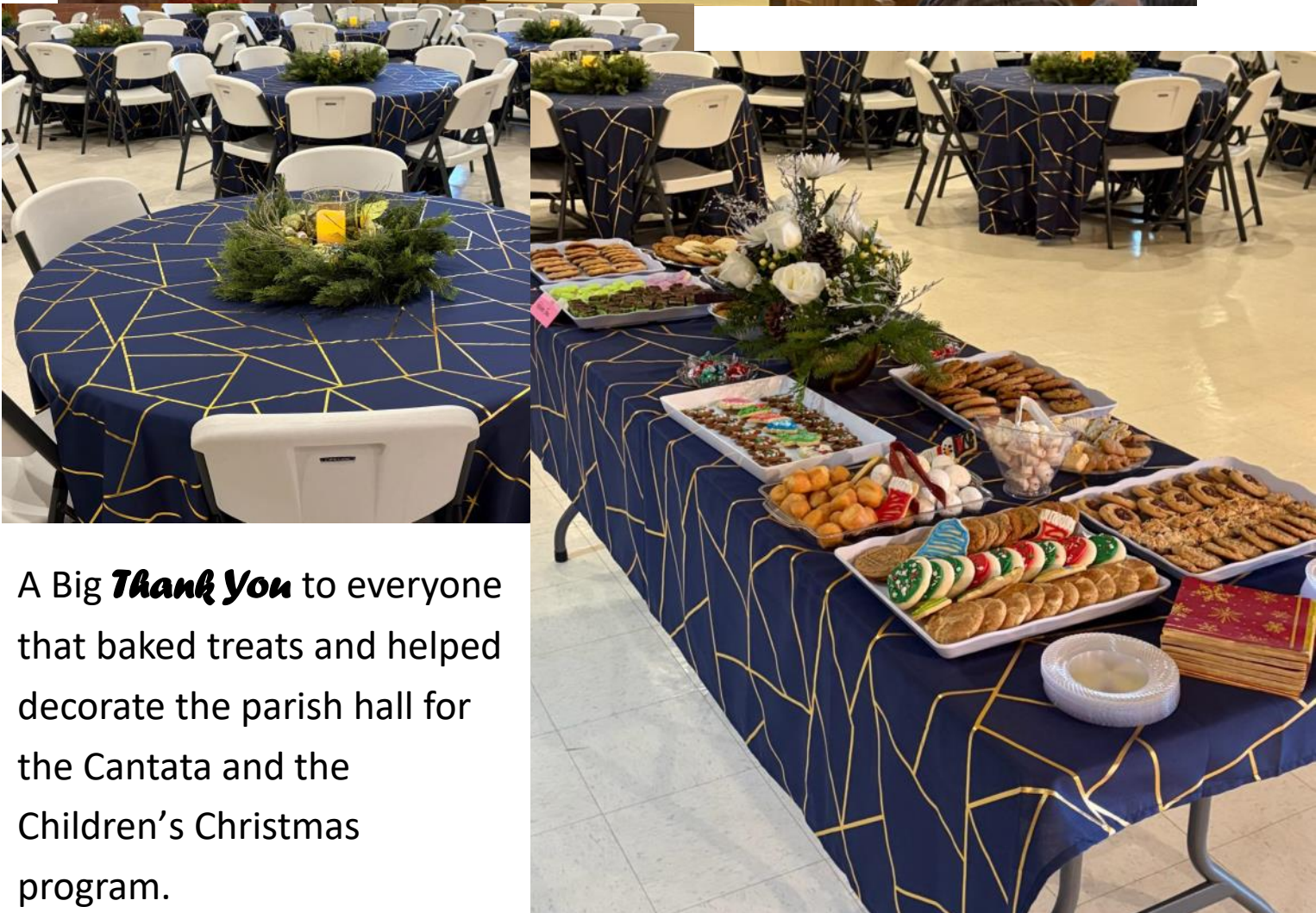
Why It Matters

This is more than just a meeting—it's an **invitation to be ONE Church Together**. We believe God is calling us to something new, and we want to walk this road with you.



Christmas Cantata





A Big ***Thank You*** to everyone that baked treats and helped decorate the parish hall for the Cantata and the Children's Christmas program.



*Children's Christmas
Program
December 21st*

Children's Moment

Christmas Eve 5 o'clock service





Christmas Eve 5 o'clock service



January Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday

- 1 Jerry Hudson
Betina Weidman
- 2 Andrew Block
- 3 Todd Block
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 Jason Block
Jacob Franzen
- 11 Shawn Boyd
- 13 Rick Zarek
- 14 Dave McKim
- 16 Devin Holbein
- 17 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
- 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 & Michele Warner



Sunday Volunteers

Acolytes -

January 4 - Alec Wagner
January 11 - Fletcher Grabenstein
January 18 - Cooper Roth
January 25 - Blake Brown
February 1 - Gretta McKim

Ushers -

January 4 - Glenn & Sue Finke
January 11 - Greg Feather, Logan Feather
January 18 - Scott & Jackie France
January 25 - Karl & Becky Randecker
February 1 - Randy & Cressy Rossell

Communion Assistants -

January 4 - Craig & Mary Finke, LaMonte
Schlake
January 11 - Rick Zarek, Jim & Lori Long
January 18 - Kendra Boyd, Macy Finke,
Aaron Lauer
January 25 - TJ & Ashleigh Brown,
Kim Kitzing
February 1 - Noel & Joni Jacobsen,
Bob Jorgenson

Reader -

January 4 - Kevin Boyd
January 11 - Darla Schlake
January 18 - Linda Rodine
January 25 - Melissa Bell
February 1 - Mary Finke

Welcome Center Host -

January 4 - Lori Long
January 11 - Elaine Keiser
January 18 - Marlene Fiese
January 25 - Lisa Bihlmaier
February 1 - Barb Hicken

Greeters -

January 4 - Greg & Erin Feather
January 11 - Erica Johnson & family
January 18 - Jonie Birnie, Marci Ostergard
January 25 - Lindly Anderson, Ruby Bell
February 1 - Joe & Carol Keiser

Sound -

January 4 - Eldon Rodine
January 11 - Lindly Anderson
January 18 - Kurt Stevens
January 25 - Scott Aden
February 1 - Eldon Rodine

Offering Counters -

January - Ernie & Jan Blecha
February - Eldon & Linda Rodine

Communion Bread -

January 4 - Lisa Wagner
January 11 - Carol Keiser
January 18 - Michele Warner
January 25 - Carolyn Hicken
February 1 - Carol Wahlgren

Communion Support Person-

January 4 - Natalie Hengen
January 11 - Macy Finke
January 18 - Kya Roth
January 25 - Scout Bell
February 1 - Emma Christensen

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