

American Lutheran Church

April 2026

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

WORD OF LIFE

Sunday Lessons in April for your devotions



April 5

*Resurrection of Our Lord/
Easter Day*

Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4

Matthew 28:1-10

April 12

Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalm 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

April 19

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

April 26

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10





Congregation Council Meeting

March 10, 2026 at 7:00 pm

Present: **President:** Amanda Rossell, **Vice-President:** Kevin Boyd, **Secretary:** Tammy McMichael,

Hospitality & Outreach: Macy Finke, **Youth & Family:** Stacy Anderson, **Property:** Glenn Finke, **Stewardship:** Kara Kreis, **Memorial:** Kevin Boyd. **Congregation:** Rhonda Putnam, Corey Rossell.

Glenn opened the meeting with devotions entitled “Leaders Organize So They Don’t Have To Agonize”. Leadership in the church can be a challenging responsibility. Prayer and devotion guides us when making decisions that may impact the lives of our church and congregation.

Open Comments:

Amanda Rossell met with Rhonda Putnam to discuss the job description and wages.

Rhonda agreed with the information presented but had a follow-up question. Kara Kreis, and Amanda Rossell reviewed the 2025–2026 janitorial budgets with the council, noting an increase. Adjustments to the budget will be made as necessary.

Minutes:

The February 10, 2026 minutes were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes as published in the March newsletter was made by Kara Kreis and seconded by Glenn Finke. The motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report:

Monthly expenses remained consistent. Lenten and Sunday offerings have been strong, for which we are grateful. All bills have been paid.

Pastor’s Report: presented by Amanda Rossell. The Wednesday evening Holden Lenten services continue to have strong attendance. Further discussion will take place regarding how the Lenten service offerings will be designated.

- Palm Sunday will be observed on March 29, 2026. The service will begin at 9:45 a.m. and will include a palm branch and donkey processional.

- Good Friday services will be held on April 3, 2026, in conjunction with the Methodist Church at their location.

- The Synod Assembly is scheduled for May 29–31, 2026. ALC will be represented by one female delegate; a male delegate is still needed.

- As part of the retirement transition, the north parsonage kitchen and bathroom require updates and renovation. These improvements will help make the property more suitable when seeking a future minister.

Hospitality & Outreach:

Discussion was held regarding the best way to keep a church key with a committee member residing in Gothenburg.

- A cookie social will be held on Palm Sunday during Linger Longer. Cookies will be provided by both committee members and congregation members. Those interested in buying cookies can select and purchase their own. Proceeds will benefit the food pantry or other American Lutheran Church committee needs. A sign-up sheet is available on the hospitality desk for those wishing to bring cookies.

Thank you to those who assist with delivering home communion.

Discussions included entering a float in this year’s Harvest Festival parade. Many factors must be considered, and further discussion

will be held.

Planning for a progressive supper to celebrate American Lutheran Church's anniversary was also discussed.

Youth & Family:

The committee is finalizing plans for the Easter breakfast, which will be held on Easter Sunday between the two church services. They are also preparing a special celebration for high school seniors on Senior Sunday to honor their achievements and contributions to our church community.

Music & Worship

The new organ pipes for the front of the church have been completed. We are currently planning for their installation, which may take place in May.

Property:

Planning to install one-way blinds in the nursery windows so you can look out without being seen inside.

Restroom renovations continue to progress smoothly.

All rooftops will be replaced this spring.

With spring and summer approaching, lawn mowing sign-up sheets will be posted.

Seven new balcony pews are scheduled for installation around May 20, 2026.

Reviewing and upgrading the church streaming system to improve reliability and quality.

Memorial:

As discussed last month, funds from the **Memorial Money Account** and the **Noel Cover Account** were transferred to **CDs earning 3.9% interest**. These accounts will be re-evaluated after **three months**.

Discussion Items/Continued Business:

Security protocols and trainings-There are churches in town that do have security

protocols in place. Glenn will continue to work with these processes and needs.

Preschool through church-Amanda notified Lori of the decision to not continue with preschool at ALC.

Council minutes

Signature Card Changes:

General Accounts:

Motion by Glenn Finke, seconded by Stacy Anderson: Change any accounts requiring **Kara Kreis's** signature to require **Amanda Rossell's** signature.

Result: Motion carried.

Foundation Accounts:

Motion by Glenn Finke, seconded by Stacy Anderson: Change any foundation accounts requiring **Karl Randecker** and **Brooke Stevens'** signatures to require **Wenda Keiser's** signature.

Result: Motion carried.

Youth & Family Account:

Amanda Rossell will be added to the signature card.

South Parsonage: Corey Rossell presented information regarding the cost of placing a "Wardcraft" home. The estimated cost of building a modular home is \$160 per square foot. An 1800 square foot modular home estimate would be \$288,000.

Glenn Finke presented information regarding demolition of the south parsonage. The estimated cost of demolition would be \$16,000.

Other costs to consider when building a new house/garage would include HVAC, plumbing, electrical needs. What size of house would need to be built for a pastor and a family.

What would insurance costs be for a new building?

The council will meet with the congregation at **Linger Longer on Sunday, March 22, 2026**. They will answer questions from the congregation and share their recommendations. A congregational vote will be held on **Sunday, April 12, 2026**.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer at 8:32 pm.

Next meeting is Tuesday, April 14, 2026.

Tammy McMichael, Secretary

Everyone says
it's hard to find
good help
these days, but
we caught
Pastor Doug
helping peel
clementines
for JAM when
someone had
to be gone.



The grass is starting to green up and you know what that means. It will be time to start mowing the church lawn again. You can **sign-up in April to mow** the church lawn for a month this summer at the Welcome Center stand.



We will be getting **new pews in the balcony** in the middle of May. If you would be interested in having one of the old pews, please contact a property committee member: Glenn Finke, Lloyd Hicken, Bob Ronnekamp, Corey Rossell, or Ken Christensen.



Prayer Requests

Remember in Prayer: Members: Gail Block, Elsie Cyriacks, Pam Gage, Jim Gonzales, Kathy Graff, Judy Hicken, Dennis McCain, Corey Stull, Lavonne Werkmeister;

Family & Friends of Members: Kristy Connelly, Lori Edwards, Keith Fickenscher, Chad Fuller, Kristy Henn, Rich Hillan, Mairik Holbein, Darcy Lenz, Arlan Ronnekamp, Tip Ronnekamp, Shirley Stombaugh, Chuck Taylor, Reese Tucker;

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.*



We celebrated Palm Sunday with a real live donkey and palms for a procession around the block. Thank you to Scott and Rhonda Russman for sharing Chrissy the donkey with us.







We took our palms indoors for the singing of “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” and raised our palm leaf crosses for “Lift High the Cross” at the end.



“Did You Know?”

A couple of months ago, we started this series of articles to share some of the history and symbolism of the American Lutheran Church sanctuary, which was dedicated in 1954, but which has been updated several times, especially over the past twenty-five years. We began by looking at the art glass windows on the east aisle. Today, because we are nearing the time of Holy Week and Easter, we turn to a different aspect of the building. (We will continue with the series on the windows in future months.)

In 2002, in honor of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the congregation, the nave (the central gathering space of a church, named in analogy to a ship) was remodeled and the original flooring was replaced. Our architect, Victor Aufderberg of Grand Island, suggested a design element that was somewhat unique in our area, as far as I know. He proposed that the three aisles of the church consist largely of purple tiles (with some lighter diamond accents), giving us a “purple” pathway to the front of the worship space.

I was reminded of this when Pastor Doug Hjelmstad shared a children’s message a few weeks ago and told us about purple as a traditional color of royalty. Purple was a difficult, rare color to produce in the ancient world, and so it was usually reserved for people of power or wealth. For example, in the gospel of John (19:1-5), Jesus was mocked by being given a crown of thorns and a purple robe by the soldiers who arrested and beat him. They ridiculed Jesus as “King of the Jews” as he was condemned and executed.

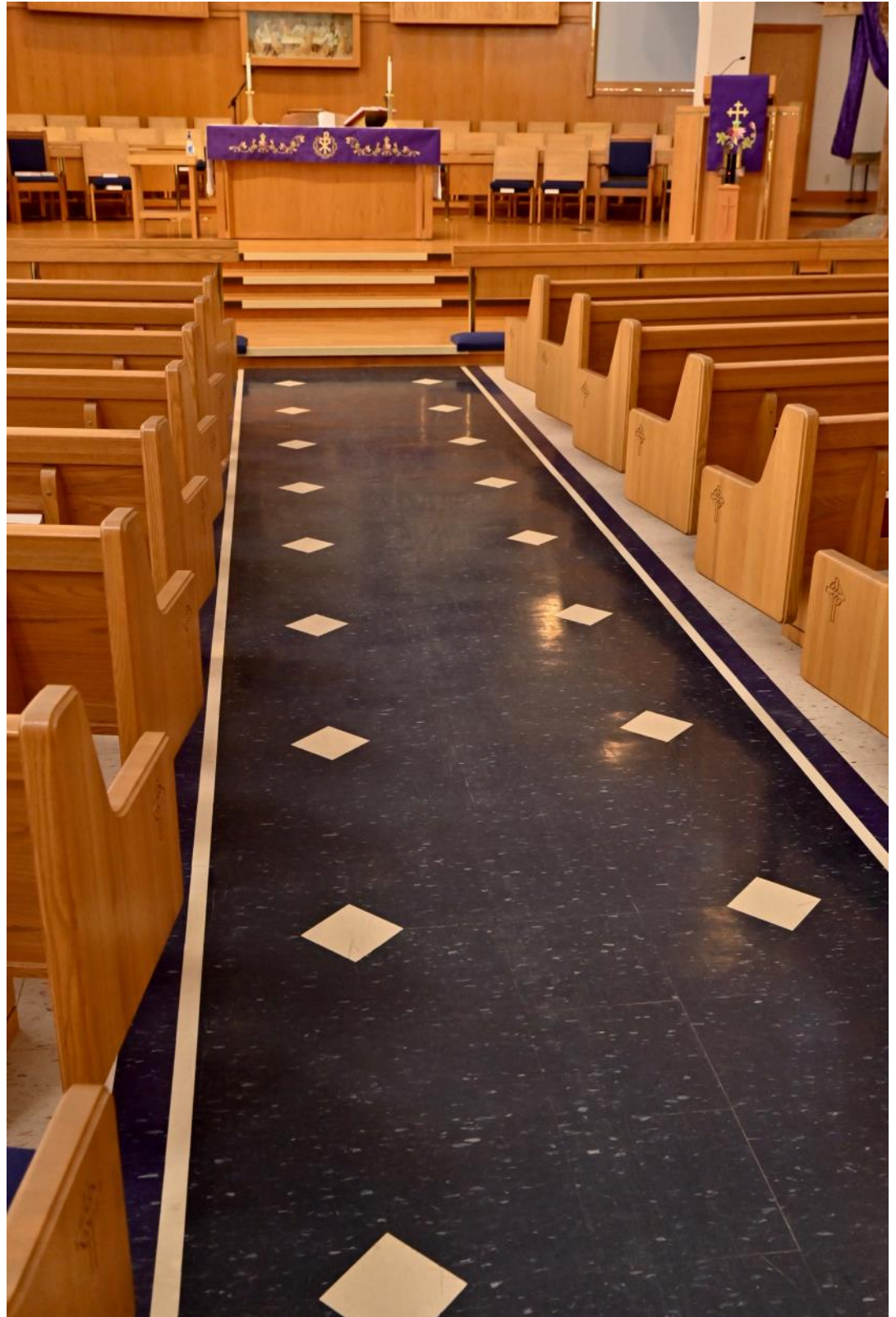
The irony of the gospel story is that Jesus is called “king” and dressed in purple as an act of mockery, and yet the hurtful words are actually bearers of the truth. We trust Jesus is the Christ and the Son of God, both titles that reveal his royal identity.

So when Jesus comes into Jerusalem on a donkey he is acclaimed as King (Palm Sunday), and when he is crucified (Good Friday), Pilate has the cross marked with the inscription, “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.” When we gather at American Lutheran Church, the purple-hued aisle leads us symbolically to the cross (wrapped in purple during Lent), and we are reminded that the true king’s identity is not derived from “this world” where royalty is defined by pomp and circumstance. The true king is the one whose reign is marked by self-giving love, as Jesus lays down his life for all.

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Thus, you see that even as we walk down our purple aisle, we are on God's road of royalty. But it is not the road of domination and empire; it is the humble pathway of the one who truly deserved to wear a purple robe in anticipation of the hour when he cried "It is finished!" from the cross.

Steve Berke



April Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday

- 1 Elizabeth Bihlmaier
Hank Neujahr
- 2 Colleen May
Kaitlyn Mannel
Helene Keiser
Deb Weidman
- 4 Wenda Keiser
Jackson Aden
- 6 Tyler Steuben
- 7 Delores Gronewold
Emily Keiser
- 9 Rebecca Jacobsen
- 10 Annie 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 (Ron) Jobman
- 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 LaDonna Brock
Bennett McNulty
- 28 Jay Bell
Della Hengen
Wayne Janssen
Brad Warner
- 29 Jacob Sherard

Anniversaries

- 2 Ron & Angie Mannel
- 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

Sunday Volunteers



Acolytes - April 5 - 8a - Alec Wagner
10a - Blake Brown, Fletcher Grabenstein
April 12 - Gretta McKim
April 19 - Blake Brown, Lathan Johnson
April 26 - Hadley Ostergard
May 3 - Cooper Roth

Ushers -

April 5- 8a - Glenn Finke, Craig Finke
10a - Connie Stevens, Ken Christensen
April 12 - Dave Keiser, Bob Ronnekamp
April 19 - Lloyd Hicken, Roger Koehler
April 26 - Lisa Wagner, Alec Wagner
May 3 - Kurt Stevens, Connie Stevens

Communion Assistants -

April 5 - 8a - Mary Finke, Kim Kitzing,
Lisa Wagner
10a - Cressy & Randy Rossell, TJ & Ashleigh
Brown, Tammy McMichael
April 12 - Scott & Jackie France, Kendra
Boyd
April 19 - Macy Finke, LaMonte Schlake,
Rick Zarek
April 26 - Jim & Lori Long, Carolyn Hicken
May 3 - Noel & Joni Jacobsen, Kim Kitzing

Reader - April 5 - 8a - Kevin Boyd
10a - Lexi Johnson
April 12 - Will Rahjes
April 19 - Darla Schlake

April 26 - Linda Rodine
May 3 - Mary Finke

Welcome Center Host -

April 5 - 10a - Barb Hicken
April 12 - Eldon Rodine
April 19 - Jonie Birnie
April 26 - Elaine Keiser
May 3 - Marlene Fiese

Greeters -

April 5 - 8a - Karan Smith, Jonie Birnie
10a - Larry & Sue Schledewitz
April 12 - Karl & Becky Randecker
April 19 - Joe & Carol Keiser
April 26 - Barb & Bob Hicken
May 3 - Steve & Lisa Bihlmaier

Sound - April 5 -8a - Eldon Rodine

10a - Kurt Stevens
April 12- Cressy Rossell
April 19- Lindly Anderson
April 26 - Scott Aden
May 3 - Eldon Rodine

Offering Counters -

April - Ernie & Jan Blecha

Communion Bread -

April 5 - Karan Smith, Joni Jacobsen,
Lisa Wagner, Jan Blecha
April 12 - Carol Keiser
April 19 - Michele Warner
April 26 - Carolyn Hicken
May 3 - Lori Johnson-Berke

Communion Support Person-

April 5 -8a - Macy Finke
10a - Marci Ostergard
April 12 - Della Hengen
April 19 - Kya Roth
April 26 - Emma Christensen
May 3 - Natalie Hengen

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>April 2026</i>						
5 8a Service of Holy Communion 9a Breakfast 10a Service of Holy Communion/ Children's Church	6 Bloodmobile	7	1 2:30-3:30p JAM	2 Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm	3 Good Friday Service at Methodist Church 7 pm	4
12 10a Service of Holy Communion/ Children's Church 11a Linger Longer	13 7a Men's Breakfast 1:30p Communion at Stone Hearth	14 Pony Express Cluster Text Study 7p Congregational Council	15 2:30-3:30p JAM 6p Worship 6:30p Meal 7p Confirmation/ Youtherans	16	17	18
19 10a Service of Holy Communion/ Children's Church 11a Linger Longer	20	21 Pony Express Cluster Text Study	22 2:30-3:30p JAM 6p Worship 6:30p Meal 7p Confirmation/ Youtherans	23	24	25
26 10a Service of Holy Communion/ Children's Church 11a Linger Longer	27 1:30p Communion at Stone Hearth	28	29 2:30-3:30p JAM 5:30p JAM Program 6p Worship 6:30p Meal 7p Confirmation/ Youtherans	30		