

*American Lutheran Church*

*June 2026*



1512 Avenue G    Gothenburg, NC 27938    308-537-3433    office@aleg.org

## WORD OF LIFE

*Sunday Lessons in June for your devotions*



**June 7**

*2nd Sunday after Pentecost*

**Hosea 5:15--6:6**

**Psalm 50:7-15**

**Romans 4:13-25**

**Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26**

**June 21**

*4th Sunday after Pentecost*

**Jeremiah 20:7-13**

**Psalm 69:7-18**

**Romans 6:1b-11**

**Matthew 10:24-39**

**June 14**

*3rd Sunday after Pentecost*

**Exodus 19:2-8a**

**Psalm 100**

**Romans 5:1-8**

**Matthew 9:35-10:8-23**

**June 28**

*5th Sunday after Pentecost*

**Jeremiah 28:5-9**

**Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18**

**Romans 6:12-23**

**Matthew 10:40-**

**42**





Congregational  
**COUNCIL**

Congregation Council  
Meeting  
May 12, 2026 7:00 pm

Present: **Pastor:** Doug  
Hjelmstad, **Vice-President/**

**Memorial:** Kevin Boyd, **Secretary:** Tammy  
McMichael, **Treasurer:** Maddie Rosse, **Hospi-  
tality & Outreach:** Macy Finke, **Youth & Fam-  
ily:** Stacy Anderson, **Music & Worship:** Ernie  
Blecha, **Property:** Glenn Finke, **Stewardship:**  
Kara Kreis

Kevin opened the meeting with devotions  
from James Chapter 5, reflecting on the  
farmer who waits patiently for crops to  
mature, trusting in God's timing. He  
reminded us of the importance of loving,  
supporting, and praying for one another, and  
that steadfast patience is a vital part of faith.

#### **Minutes:**

The April 14, 2026 minutes were reviewed.  
A motion to approve the minutes was made  
by Kara Kreis and seconded by Macy Finke.  
The motion carried.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

The April monthly report was reviewed.  
All expenses remain consistent and all rou-  
tine bills have been paid.  
Special Offering funds will go to Lutheran  
World Hunger.  
Funds from the Old Property Special account  
were transferred to the General account to  
pay for bathroom remodel expenses.  
A motion to approve the treasurer's report  
was made by Glenn Finke and seconded by  
Ernie Blecha. The motion carried.

#### **Pastor's Report:**

Wednesday evening services have concluded  
for the summer. The final Wednesday  
worship service was held on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

The new sanctuary piano will be dedicated  
on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at the 10:00 worship  
service. Special music is planned to celebrate  
this addition to our worship.

Pastor attended and spoke at the  
baccalaureate service celebrating Gothen-  
burg High School seniors. We congratulate  
these graduates and pray for God's blessings  
as they begin this exciting new chapter.

Pastor Berke held three communion classes  
for youth interested in participating in  
communion.

Pastor Doug, Lisa Wagner, Kara Kreis, and  
Stacy Anderson will be attending Synod  
Assembly May 29-31, 2026.

The office laptop is outdated and is no longer  
functioning properly. A replacement laptop  
has been purchased.

#### **Hospitality & Outreach:**

A Progressive Supper is planned for October  
17, 2026. More information to come.

A church service will be held at the Park  
Pavilion on Sunday, August 30, 2026,  
followed by a potluck dinner. Everyone is  
welcome to attend and bring a dish to share.

A cookie social will be held during Linger  
Longer after church services on Sunday,  
December 20, 2026.

Congregation members have expressed interest in forming a singles group to connect with and support single individuals in our community. Activities may include day trips, dining out, and theatre outings. If you would like to learn more or get involved, please contact a member of the Hospitality & Outreach Group.

### **Youth & Family:**

All youth and family activities are done for the school year.

ALC senior students were recognized on Sunday, May 3, 2026, in a celebration honoring their hard work, growth, and achievements.

We're considering a congregational swimming party at the Gothenburg pool this summer. More details coming soon.

### **Music & Worship:**

The new sanctuary piano will be dedicated on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at the 10:00 worship service. Special music is planned to celebrate this addition to our worship.

The new organ pipes will be replaced the week of May 10th.

A community concert will be held at ALC on July 3, 2026, celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of the United States. All community members who are interested in participating are welcome.

Music & Worship committee is scheduled to serve coffee in June.

### **Property:**

The new upstairs pews will be installed the week of May 17<sup>th</sup>. All old pews have been spoken for.

The panic button purchased from Ben Moler Security and Fire for office personnel safety has been installed and successfully tested.

Aaron Boyd is working with Yanda's Music to schedule a visit to review the church's streaming and sound system.

The roofing project on the south parsonage has been completed. Work will next begin on the north parsonage, followed by the church.

Preparations will begin for the sale of the south parsonage. This includes preparing the parsonage for showings. A surveyor will be needed to assist in planning parking stall placement along the east side of the property.

### **Stewardship:**

The church has applied for a grant to help fund the food pantry. We'll know more in June.

### **Parish Ed:**

No report

### **Memorial:**

The Cover Fund CD has reached maturity and has been reviewed following the initial three-month period. It will continue in its current position and will be reviewed again after an additional three months.

The Memorial Money CD has reached maturity and has been reviewed following the initial three-month period. It was decided to put \$15,000.00 from the CD back into the Memorial Money fund and will be reviewed again after three months.

### **Continued Business:**

A letter was delivered to Lori Kitzing informing

her of the council's decision to discontinue the preschool program and requesting that all preschool materials be removed from the room by July 1, 2026.

A letter was delivered to the renters of the south parsonage informing them of the congregation's decision to sell the south parsonage.

The meeting closed at 8:19 pm with the Lord's Prayer.


The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 7:00 pm.

Tammy McMichael, Secretary

### Special Offering for June is the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry

During the month of June we will be collecting funds for the pantry. You can mark special fund on your offering envelopes for monetary donations or you can note on your check that it is for the food pantry.

Patrons of the food pantry receive a box of food and a voucher for items at the grocery store. Vouchers may be used for anything, but alcohol or tobacco.



“Faith has to do with things that are not seen and hope with things that are not at hand.”

—Thomas Aquinas

RD

### Prayer Requests

**Remember in Prayer: Members:** Gail Block, Elsie Cyriacks, Kim Dewey, Pam Gage, Elaine Finke, Jim Gonzales, Kathy Graff, Bob Hicken, Judy Hicken, Pat Jobman, Dennis McCain, Lavonne Werkmeister;

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

**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.*

Dear People of ALC,

As we step into the calendar month of June we are also entering, for the next six months, the Time after Pentecost on our church calendar. The Time after Pentecost is one of the blocks of “ordinary time” (the other is the Time after Epiphany) that holds no designated seasons or festival days. “Ordinary” as it is used in this way does not diminish the quality of the Sundays, but simply means the days and Sundays are *ordered* – as in counted or numbered – instead of designated with festival or seasonal names.

Another way the Sundays of ordinary time are designated is the “green Sundays.” The seasonal color of the paraments and the stole I wear is green, symbolizing the life of the church in the Spirit and recalling the tree of life or the vine and branches, that is Christ among us. Thanks to a generous gift in memory of LeRoy Cyriacks, we will be breaking out some new green paraments to adorn the altar and pulpit.

Our Gospel readings for the months ahead will come from Matthew’s gospel and for the months of June and July will focus on the spiritual and practical meaning of discipleship. We will hear Jesus tell his disciples that he is sending them out like sheep in the midst of wolves; that true discipleship demands taking up our cross and losing one’s life in order to save it. In Matthew’s telling, authentic discipleship is nothing less than losing our lives for the sake of the kingdom.

And yet, for all of the cautions and warnings about the costs of discipleship, Jesus also calls us, paradoxically, into an abundant life that cannot be realized by any worldly ways or rewards. Jesus calls, claims, and sends us, and that sending is an ongoing process of trials and blessings, risks and imagination. Even as we follow Jesus in the way of the cross and give ourselves away in love, we are being transformed and brought into new life.

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One of the ways we express our call to discipleship at ALC is through the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry and the Good Samaritan Fund. Both of these ministries have become an essential source of support for many of our neighbors who are feeling the full effects of higher food and gas prices.

In April I took a three-session course on food insecurity through the Nebraska Synod Emmaus Lifelong Learning program. One of the things we discussed was the impact of reliable transportation on food accessibility. Along with the quickly-rising price of gas, I learned that the inventory of reliable used cars has declined and repair costs have risen 15% in the past year. For anyone on a tight budget or a fixed income, an aging car can be a serious financial trap. The Good Samaritan Fund is one way we are able to help relieve some of the pressure that gas prices or car repairs can have on a struggling household. The matter of affordability is hitting across all segments of our economy – food, housing, transportation, health care – and, as usual, those at the bottom of the economic scale are being hit the hardest, which we see in the requests for assistance every week.

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While we have been able to secure some grant funding for the food pantry, the Good Samaritan Fund relies much more on individual donations. At this writing, we have had to stop issuing gas vouchers due to a lack of funds.

As with many grass roots type of ministries, small donations are the oil that keeps the wheels turning and one of the things that continues to impress me is the level of what I might call ‘quiet support’ at ALC, meaning the donations that appear without fanfare or expectation. One of the most profound and disruptive statements Jesus makes in the Gospel of Matthew is, ‘Truly, just as we do for the least of the members of the kingdom, we do it for the One who went to the cross for us’ (Mt 25: 40). To serve others, as we are called and as we are able, is to serve Christ himself. One thing I have learned in my time with you is, ALC is a church that knows how to show up, with generosity, compassion, and care.

In service with all of you,  
Pastor Doug Hjelmstad

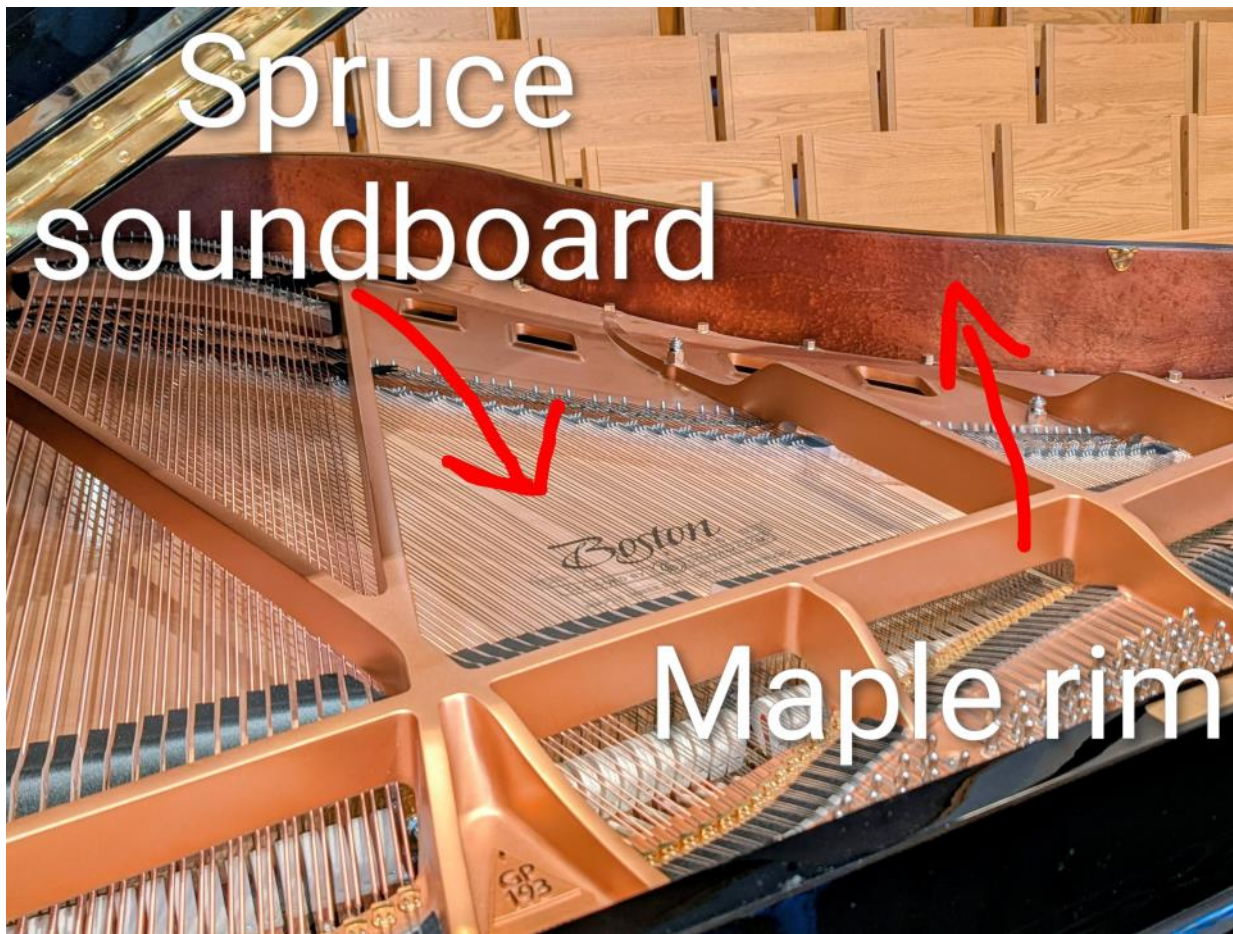
### *New Piano*

We are so excited about our new piano, the third piano to grace the sanctuary at American Lutheran. When Jan & I arrived in 1982, the piano being used was a Wurlitzer console most likely purchased when the building was new in 1954. It is still used for JAM and Sunday School music. In 2013, Trent & Misty Schlake had a 1935 Cable & Sons baby grand that was purchased with Norris Ecklund’s memorial funds. This 90-year-old piano was getting a bit “tired” for church use, and the idea of purchasing a new piano began formulating. With a request made to the ALC Foundation, the decision was made to purchase a Boston grand piano.

The Boston GP193PE, designed by Steinway & Sons, offers a more affordable option for a grand piano, while still maintaining their highest quality. This piano delivers a rich, full tone, vibrant sound with significant depth and quality, and an expansive dynamic range that makes it an excellent choice for our worship space. It is considered the best “medium-priced” piano available on the market. The rim of the piano is made of hard rock maple wood and the soundboard from Alaskan Sitka spruce, both based on the Steinway design, and it incorporates as many of their aspects as possible. This Boston grand blends Steinway heritage, meticulous craftsmanship, and exceptional value into one remarkable instrument.

The Music & Worship Committee of American Lutheran would like to thank both the members of ALC and also the ALC Foundation for not only financing the maintenance of the instruments we currently have, but also in the purchase of the new Boston grand piano. We are blessed to have so many musicians in our congregation that serve and dedicate so many hours of their time in rehearsing and providing inspirational music for our worship services. We are indeed a congregation that is gifted with musical abilities that are freely shared by all those involved. Thanks for enriching our services with your talents!

~ Ernie Blecha



The "wide-tail" design, which offers substantially more surface area on the soundboard to create a richer sound and the impression of playing on a larger instrument. This design gives a 5' 10" piano a soundboard area of a traditional 6' 2" piano. - Steinway.com



## Organ Repairs

The bottom octave of the organ facade pipes were collapsing upon themselves and needed to be replaced. They have been removed and replaced with new aluminum pipes that literally weigh less than half the amount of the originals. We trust they will last for many years. While they were here, they stabilized some of the larger Dolcan pipes in the pipe chamber as well, and upgraded the recording capabilities on the memory portion of the console. There's a bit of work yet to be done to the memory of the organ to use it as we intend, but the major portion of the work was done on both maintaining the organ and upgrading the console.

We are so thankful for all those individuals and families that supported this endeavor. As of now, all the work they've accomplished is paid for. We do have a bit of a balance to carry over for future needed repairs and maintenance of our organ. We're blessed to have an organ tuner that is capable of doing this type of extra work on our instrument.



To: American Lutheran Church congregation

May 20, 2026

A couple weeks before Corey passed, he said he'd like to thank the church for all they'd done for him.

Corey only got to attend worship twice after coming back here late December. He was so happy that many greeted him personally on Ash Wednesday and remembered him after being away 35 years.

We talked multiple times about the blessings we saw and felt daily that we know are the result of prayers offered up for him and our family. He was humbled that people asked about him and cared how treatments were going.

He loved the cards Youtherans made for him while at UNMC. He loved being asked to judge the Youtheran Christmas trees from UNMC via his phone, and he loved the cookie social on Palm Sunday. He had hoped to help with Youtheran activities this fall.

Thank you also for the great meals we enjoyed that were delivered to us and the visits that came with them, some renewing old acquaintances for him. (Great cooks at ALC!)

As a family we're all more than grateful for Pastor Doug's time – hospital and home visits, communion delivered, scripture shared, and prayers offered, especially the Sunday morning Corey left.

Our hearts overflow with the blessings of American Lutheran during a journey we never imagined taking. Thanks to you, Corey found a renewed sense of belonging in ALC and his home town. You brightened his last months and for that, we thank you. Keep praying ALC!! You're the best--our church home.

For Corey Stull and all of us,

*Jim & Connie Dalrymple*

*Chad M Stull & family*

*Cressy & Randy Rossell & family*

*JD & Kristine Dalrymple & family*



Cookie Monster!!

## Happy Birthday

2 Nancy Christensen  
Doug Keiser  
3 Tabitha Carlson  
4 Elaine Finke  
Amanda McMichael  
Darin Werkmeister  
5 Norma Folkers  
Heather Franzen  
6 Cooper Roth  
7 Sophie Wagner  
8 Cordelia Aden  
Lyle Grabenstein  
9 Emily McMichael  
10 Coleen Clark  
Arie Miller  
Jasmine Wagner  
13 Kim Dewey  
Carlin Discigil  
Ben Headley  
Ethan Kreis  
Hayden Russman  
Levi Walker  
14 Dale Brittenham  
Holden Randecker  
15 Ellie Newbrey  
16 Scott France  
Norv Kolbo  
Ryan Ostendorf  
Emaleigh Rosse  
17 Neligh Andersen  
Taya Franzen  
Tyic Miller  
18 Dwaine Aden  
Stacy Anderson  
Audree Miller  
21 Kevin Boyd

Pastor Doug Hjelmstad  
Kelly Schmeeckle  
22 Briana Mahrt  
Taylor Schmiett  
Blayr McMichael  
23 Dale Franzen  
Ron Jobman  
Ross Ostendorf  
25 Rod Brooks  
Bronson Long  
26 Braeden Anderson  
Courtnee Magnuson  
27 Georgina Dishman  
Charlee Lindholm  
28 Corey Rossell  
Kelly Terrell  
29 Scout Bell  
Dustin Ehlers  
Misty Schlake  
Trent Schlake  
30 Mason May

## Anniversaries

**7 Katie & Ean Bailey**  
**Matt & Donna Schnackenberg**  
**Jamie & Tonya Steuben**  
**9 Roger & Julie Koehler**  
**10 Lloyd & Judy Hicken**  
**11 Rodney & Theresa Brooks**  
**14 Roger & Carol Wahlgren**  
**16 Rick & Rhonda Putnam**  
**19 Rick & Pat Zarek**  
**20 Mike & Jennifer Bartlett**  
**21 Ken & Adelle Williams**  
**24 Al & Jennifer Ballmer**  
**25 Will & Jena Rahjes**  
**26 Levi & Renee Hansen**  
**30 James & Amy Headley**



# Sunday Volunteers

## **Acolytes -**

June 7 - Blake Brown  
June 14 - Cooper Roth  
June 21 - Jay Bell  
June 28 - Gretta McKim  
July 5 - Fletcher Grabenstein

## **Ushers -**

June 7 - Joyce Hudson, Roger Koehler  
June 14 - Dave Keiser, LaMonte Schlake  
June 21 - Corey & Keri Roth  
June 28 - Randy & Cressy Rossell  
July 5 - Kevin Boyd, Kurt Stevens

## **Communion Assistants -**

June 7 - TJ & Ashleigh Brown, Aaron Lauer  
June 14 - Craig & Mary Finke, Kim Kitzing  
June 21 - Noel Jacobsen, Rebecca Jacobsen,  
Rick Zarek  
June 28 - Macy Finke, Jim & Lori Long  
July 5 - Kendra Boyd, Carolyn Hicken,  
Tammy McMichael

## **Reader -**

June 7 - Will Rahjes  
June 14 - Kendra Boyd  
June 21 - Melissa Bell  
June 28 - Carol Keiser  
July 5 - Linda Rodine

## **Welcome Center Host -**

June 7 - Lori Long  
June 14 - Jena Rahjes  
June 21 - Barb Hicken  
June 28 - Jonie Birnie  
July 5 - Marlene Fiese

## **Greeters -**

June 7 - Marci Ostergard, Kara Kreis  
June 14 - Larry & Sue Schledewitz  
June 21 - Dave & Wenda Keiser  
June 28 - Erica Johnson & family  
July 5 - Jonie Birnie, Larry Franzen

## **Sound -**

June 7 - Eldon Rodine  
June 14 - Cressy Rossell  
June 21 - Kurt Stevens  
June 28 - Scott Aden  
July 5 - Eldon Rodine

## **Offering Counters -**

June - Linda Rodine

## **Communion Bread -**

June 7 - Lisa Wagner  
June 14 - Jan Blecha  
June 21 - Carol Keiser  
June 28 - Michele Warner  
July 5 - Carolyn Hicken

## **Communion Support Person-**

June 7 - Della Hengen  
June 14 - Kya Roth  
June 21 - Emma Christensen  
June 28 - Natalie Hengen  
July 5 - Marci Ostergard

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue   | Wed              | Thu                  | Fri              | Sat |
|---|---|---|------------------|----------------------|------------------|-----|
|   | 1<br>Bloodmobile  | 2   | 3                | 4                    | 5                | 6   |
| 7<br>9a Property<br>10a Service of<br>Holy Communion/<br>Children's Church<br>11a Linger Longer | 8<br>1:30p<br>Communion at<br>Stone Hearth<br>7p Women's Bible<br>Study | 9<br>5p Music & worship<br>7p Congregational<br>Council | 10               | 11                   | 12               | 13  |
| 14<br>10a Service of<br>Holy Communion/<br>Children's Church<br>11a Linger Longer               | 15  | 16  | 17               | 18                   | 19<br>Juneteenth | 20  |
| 21<br>10a Service of<br>Holy Communion/<br>Children's Church<br>11a Linger Longer               | 22<br>1:30p<br>Communion at<br>Stone Hearth                             | 23  | 24               | 25<br>8:45a Quilters | 26               | 27  |
| 28<br>10a Service of<br>Holy Communion/<br>Children's Church<br>11a Linger Longer               | 29  | 30  | <i>June 2026</i> |                      |                  |     |