

# AMERICAN LUTHERAN NEWS

December 2023

American Lutheran Church, 500 Church Drive, Rantoul, IL 61866  
Church Phone: (217) 893-4550 [www.alc-rantoul.org](http://www.alc-rantoul.org)

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## THERE IS A LIGHT THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING

(written by Trillia Newbell\*)

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,  
And the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

— Isaiah 9:6



The Christmas season is upon us! For many kids, this means the anticipation of gifts. They begin making their lists on December 26 for the following year. They look forward to and talk about their coming gifts for months and months.

When the gifts finally arrive, they are met with various reactions—some more excited than others. But the one thing that never fails is this: After about an hour, they are off doing something completely not related to the very gifts they'd been anticipating all year long. Earthly gifts, though wonderful, aren't ultimately satisfying. They leave us wanting. But there is one gift that is truly satisfying. One gift that keeps on giving. One gift that will never disappoint us, will sustain us, and is always available to us. That gift is Jesus, the Light of the World.

Isaiah prophesies of a baby who will save the world. This surprising announcement came to a rebellious people in a dark time. There was war and unrest. There was no peace to be found. The darkness was palpable, and it went beyond even the circumstances Israel found themselves in. The darkness they experienced was also spiritual; it's a darkness we all experience before we know the Savior.

Jesus fulfills the Old Testament promises of the coming light from Isaiah 9:2: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."

This was a promise of good news to Israel, as it is to us today. The Light of the World has come, and if we follow him, we will also walk in the light—we will have the light of life (1 John 1:7; John 8:12). We don't have to fear destruction because we have been given the light and truth and will no longer walk in darkness. We can be honest and vulnerable. There's no need to hide from Jesus—we couldn't if we tried—for he has come to bring us light and joy.

Isaiah's prophecy goes beyond light to victory. There will be glorious life, joy and victory for God's people (Isa. 9:3-5). And we receive all of this because "to us a child is born, to us a son is given" (v. 6).

The problems of ancient Israel are the same problems we have today; rebellion, war, anger and strife. The darkness is the same. And if we understand this, it makes the gift and beauty of the light so much brighter.

We all need the hope of Christmas—the hope of a baby born to bring great light. We all need Jesus as much as ancient Israel did, as much as all of humankind does. Equally. Every single one of us. You and I need Jesus—today, tomorrow and forevermore. Today we can enjoy him and live with him in the light.

*\*Author Trillia Newbell is the radio host of Living By Faith at Moody Radio.*

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## **DECEMBER PULPIT SCHEDULE:**

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Neal White

**December 10<sup>th</sup>** - Pastor Philip Sandi (Communion will be served.)

**December 17<sup>th</sup>** - Children's Christmas Program



**December 24<sup>th</sup>** - 9:00 a.m. Service - TBD\*

4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service (In Sanctuary) - TBD\*

11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service (In Chapel) - TBD\*

**December 25<sup>th</sup>** - 9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service - TBD\*

**December 31<sup>st</sup>** - TBD\*

\*As of the time of printing this newsletter, a Pastor or Lay Person had not yet been finalized. Updated information will be listed in the December bulletins once it is received.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



**THANK YOU ALC FAMILY** for your support and participation in this year's trunk or treat event! Congrats to Lloyd Schluter for winning best trunk for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row!

**NO REMNANT OR 50+ POTLUCK** Due to low attendance, both The Remnant and 50+ Potluck will not meet in the winter months. They will both try to restart sometime in the spring.



**ANNUAL HANGING OF THE GREENS** to decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas season will be held on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, immediately following the worship service, during the Sunday School hour. Please plan to help!

**WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER SERVICES** for the call of a pastor will begin at 5:45 p.m. on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>. A light fellowship meal of soup or sandwiches, and dessert will be held after the prayer service at approximately 6:15 p.m. There will not be a prayer service held on December 27<sup>th</sup>.

**WEDNESDAY EVENING ADVENT SERVICES** will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>.



**2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES** will be available to pick-up in the Narthex starting Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Please DO NOT start using these envelopes until January of 2024. If you would like envelopes and none have been provided, please contact Judy Peck in the church office.

**PORTALS OF PRAYER** The first quarter Portals of Prayer (January-March) will be available to pick up in the Narthex and outside of the church office on Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**CHURCH OFFICE** will be closed on Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, and Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

**YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS** If you wish to make a year-end contribution in the church office, it must be received no later than the end of the day on Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>. Any offerings received in the church office after this date will be credited to your 2024 Contributions. The Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>, offering will be credited towards your 2023 Contributions.



**QUILTERS** will not be meeting in the month of December. They will resume meeting in January.

**WE NEED YOU!!!** Looking for additional Lector and Prayer Leaders for 2024. If you are willing to help, please contact the church office.

**ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2023** will be due to the church office by no later than Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024.



**FROM: Joan Mathis...** To my dear church family, thank you for your many acts of caring and kindness. First for the birthday cards and Sunday School celebration of my 90<sup>th</sup> and then for the countless condolences and prayers for the loss of my son Carl. Don't know what I would do without you. Yes, hugs do help.

# AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH PRESCHOOL



The end of another year has come. December comes with many things like Christmas programs, family gatherings, card writing, shopping, baking, decorating, wrapping, and caroling. I pray that we don't forget that we don't have to have what the world is telling us we need. We only need Jesus! His birth and ultimately his death and resurrection are the only thing that we need. Without that we are just going through the motions. So spread some love on Jesus's birthday and celebrate HIM!



This month we are finishing up our second fundraiser for the fall. Thank you to all of those that have ordered either Christmas greens or the butter braids. As of this writing, we still have some wreaths and greens for sale. We appreciate all the support that we get.

*Thanks*  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT



We would also like to invite you to our Christmas program on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. The children have been working hard and we would love to show you all our hard work.

Merry Christmas everyone!

# CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS



## **2023 Council**

President...*Terri Kirby*

Vice President...*John Lux*

Secretary...*J.R. Sipes*

*Brad Albers-Mowing/*

*Snow Removal;*

*Ron Howe-Worship/Music;*

*Neal White-Chairman & Youth;*

*Devin Cox-Building; Marleen*

*Peavler-Preschool; Shirley*

*Friemel-Ushers/Worship*

*Stewards; Linda Kirk-HR;*

*Ann Price-Sunday School.*

## **CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES**

**OCTOBER 17, 2023**

Call to Order with Opening Prayer at 7:33 pm. Absent Marleen Peavler. Guest Requests/Public Comments - There were none. Additional Agenda Items and Approval of Agenda. Approved no additions. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes. Motion by Ron Howe, second by Neal White. Motion passed.

### Treasurer's Report/Financial Committee

Motion to accept Neal White, second Devin Cox. Motion passed.

### Pastoral Acts

Funerals: 9/30/23—Emma Beck; 10/29/23—Gloria Heimburger; 10/16/23—Erwin Osterbur. Transfer Out—Joe & Barb Manka.

### Ministry Team Reports

Reports available upon request.

### Building Team

Going to survey the parsonage for items that need updated or repaired.

### Benevolence Committee Report

\$2500 will be donated to the Carter Foundation.

### Elder's Report/ALC Foundation Report

Trent Wolken will be the farmer for the church farm ground.

### Old Business

- a. Facilities/Grounds - status of geothermal repair. Repair is completed. Kitchen - Kitchen is 90% completed. Sidewalks - Sidewalks are repaired. Parsonage In Work.
- b. Organ repair - Organ is repaired.
- c. Worship video quote - Awaiting reply.
- d. Convocation summary - Pastor Philip Sandi will preach Reformation Sunday.
- e. Supply pastor/Interim update. No one in sight.
- f. Emergency Response Plan - next steps. John Lux presented a handout and thoughts on a disaster prepared team. Further study needed.

### New Business

- a. Nominating Committee members for 2024 Council candidates. All council members thinking of nominees.
- b. Start thinking about Annual Reports.

Adjournment and Closing Motion by Neal White second by Brad Albers. Adjourned 8:25 pm with Lord's Prayer.

# MILITARY & PRAYERS

## SERVING IN THE MILITARY



Kelly Williamson (daughter/Joyce Williamson); Jon Stiebner (son/Synda Miller); Alex Short; Brandon Elrod (grandson/Elfrieda West); Kasey Fenimore (nephew/Schlueter's); Justice Long; Brian Griswold (son/Phillip Griswold); Levi Loschen (grandson/Luella Loschen); Ryan Falletti; Riley Falletti.

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## SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO:

...Joan Mathis & family for the loss of her son, Carl Mathis, on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

...Devin & Jessie Cox and family for the loss of Devin's father, David Cox, on November 20<sup>th</sup>.



*With Deepest Sympathy*

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## NURSING HOMES/ASSISTED LIVING:

**Bridle Brook:** Keith Dohleman. **Country Health:** Mildred Flessner. **Goldwater Care (Gibson City):** Ruth Lutz. **Holly Brook (Rantoul):** Genet Dixon; Janet Withers. **Piatt Co. Nursing Home (Monticello):** Rita Buenting. **Prairie Winds of Urbana:** Ilene Ackerman.

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**Please call the church office with updates on those currently listed in our prayer concerns.**



## REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

Callahan Kerns, Everett Kerns & Hattie Purvis (great-grandchildren/Chris Briggs); Shirley Friemel; Earl Smith; J.R. Sipes; Ray & Cindy Williams (sister & brother-in-law/Scott James); John Sherman; Rena Shebesta (great-granddaughter/Geri Remmers); Rosemary Bennett (friend/Ben & Allison Moser); Wayne Martin (cousin/Shirley Friemel); Ron Minch; Gabbi Reynolds (friend/Tome's); Ben Moser; Robert Flessner; Denny Doyle; Beth Tally (aunt/Allison Moser); Mary Jean (friend/Allison Moser); Shorty Baugher; Rich Friemel; LouAnn Baugher; Lynn Moser & Roy Huff (In-laws/Allison Moser); Joane Wilson (sister/Robert Flessner); William & Ruth Benton (parents/Phillip Benton); Kim Wyre; Marianna Wolters; Steve Ritchie (friend/J.R. & Sondra Sipes); Ella Osterbur (aunt/Earl Smith); Leon Rucker (cousin/Earl Smith); Paige Willard (friend/Nick Hanson); Paul Wolters; Kyrsten Valentine (daughter/Ted & Anita Valentine); Martha Stanfill; Sharon Loeh (friend/Paul & Linda Keith); Marla Osterbur (friend/Sue Coffin); Mary Mallicoat (mother-in-law/Earl Smith); Nick Shepherd (brother/Rhonda Keith); Joyce Keith; Bob & Jenny Hobby (cousins/Keith Family); Karen Derges; Debbie & Gordon Peterson (daughter & son-in-law/Irene Galindo); Gus Robertson (father/Pamela Bross); Kathy Anderson; Mary Ann Heiser (mother/Rod Heiser); Courtney Schoolcraft (niece/Paul & Linda Keith); Bob & Sue Selby (sister & brother-in-law/Mary Stocks); Merrill Wattjes; Fred Sommer (stepdad/Jennifer Smith); Sandra Ackerman; Bonnie Henderson; Velma Armstrong; Jessica Hawn (daughter/Rob & Kim Wyre); Kathleen Cooper (grandmother/Jennifer Smith & Brenna Schluter); Michael Markarian (brother/Joyce Williamson); Pat Gallahue; Joan Percival; Joyce Williamson; Irene Galindo.



Liam Hall	12/2	DeAnn McMorris	12/11	Juri Rasor	12/18
Kennedy Carico	12/3	Char Sons	12/11	Dennis Albers	12/19
Cheryl Freese	12/3	Ron Stonestreet	12/12	Jacob Dailey	12/19
Leon Freese	12/3	Caleb Riley	12/13	Steve Schluter	12/25
Rita Gates	12/6	Teresa Hethke	12/14	Ann Price	12/26
Kari Briggs	12/7	Sherry Johnson	12/15	Kevin Johnson	12/27
Jamie Hamby	12/8	Kerry Hanson	12/16	Kalvin Albers	12/28
Joe Debusky	12/10	Earl Smith	12/16	Marianna Wolters	12/29
Chris Douglas	12/10	Mary Edwards	12/17	Amy Cheek	12/31
Phyllis Colwell	12/11	Joyce Borchers	12/18	Lindalou Hauersperger	12/31



Travis & Nikky Flesner	12/20
Jim & Sherry Johnson	12/21
Brian & Debbi Dietz	12/24
Gene & Loretta Elliott	12/28

**AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
500 Church Drive  
Rantoul, IL 61866

**NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION**  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
Rantoul, IL 61866

**Return Service Requested**

**Permit No. 17**



**TO:**

**December**



Youtube Channel: Rantoul, IL - American  
Lutheran Church (ALC)

**Nikki Foss**

Office Manager - (217) 893-4550  
[amluthoffice@gmail.com](mailto:amluthoffice@gmail.com)

**Colleen Falletti**

Preschool Director  
[preschoolatalc@gmail.com](mailto:preschoolatalc@gmail.com)

Worship Service -  
Sunday Mornings at 9:00 a.m.  
followed by Sunday School  
and Women's Bible Study.

**ALC is Christ-centered by emphasizing teaching, worship and prayer  
as we strive toward spiritual growth.**



## DECEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SCHEDULE

	Worship Stewards	Offering Communion	Table Guild	Greeters	Bulletin Greeters	Lectors	Prayers	Acolytes
<b>12/3/23</b>	Steen Bjerre	Judy Peck Leon & Cheryl Freese	Sheila Sherman Lloyd Schluter Sue Coffin	Sheila Sherman DeAnn McMorris	Judy Quinlan Linda Kirk	Dennis Albers	Sally Bauer	Carson McClain Logan Suits
<b>12/10/23</b>	Richard Peavler	Marleen Peavler Patsy Franzen Pam Cheek		Tom & Mary Edwards	Steen Bjerre Cheryl Niccum	Stephen Feig	Monica Carico	Liam Kaiser Katie Holland
<b>12/17/23</b>	Terry Doyle	Emily Deal John Lux Bill Schlueter		Jack & Brenda Spitz	Jim & Pam Cheek	Leah Graves	Pam Cheek	Kyndall Cox Connor Suits
<b>12/24/23</b>	Lloyd Schluter	Sue Coffin Devin & Jessica Cox		Luella Loschen Joan Mathis	Scott & Tina James	Midge Seim	Terry Doyle	Joshua James Andrew Benton
<b>12/24/23 4:00 p.m.</b>	Ron Howe	Rod & Sandy Heiser Linda Kirk						
<b>12/25/23 9:00 a.m.</b>	DeAnn McMorris	Marvin Ideus Wendy Watkins						
<b>12/31/23</b>	Lloyd Schluter	Rob Wyre Sam & Joyce Holland		Wendy Watkins Donna Hustedt	TBA	Sheila Sherman	DeAnn McMorris	Ella Schluter Jack Flesner